

Higher Education Assessment / Coursework Submission Policy

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Version and Date		Actions/Notes
1.0	August 2025	Update on awarding body assessment arrangements & authenticity.

Approved by SMT: September 2025

Approved by Corporation: n/a

Date of Next Review: August 2025

Related policies or procedures or parent policy if applicable: Part B of this policy is not applicable to students following any Foundation Degree/PGCE/CertEd programmes, who should refer to the relevant University policy.

HE Sickness Certification Procedure for Students
 HE Exceptional Factors Policy
 HE Assessment Board Operational Procedure
 Assessment Malpractice and Maladministration Policy
 HE Fees Payments Policy
 Refund and Compensation Policy
 HE Assessment Board Operational Procedure
 Assessment Malpractice and Maladministration Policy
 Higher Education Student Protection Plan
 Higher Education Student Contract Terms and Conditions
 Compliments and Complaints Policy
 Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure
 Student Behaviour Policy

Groups/bodies consulted in the development of the policy: Pearson BTEC
 City and Guilds
 University

To be published on College Website: Yes

To be published on Student Hub: Yes

SUBMISSION OF COURSEWORK

The terms 'assessed coursework' and 'other assessments' are to be interpreted to include all those forms of summative assessments (other than written examinations for which separate regulations exist) which contribute to a student's Unit assessments, including but not limited to: written assignments, studio work, performance, dissertations, presentations, practicals and projects. 'Submission' in this context is intended to mean more than just 'handing in'; it is to be understood as referring to the completion of and making available for assessment of coursework.

The nature, frequency and form of assessed coursework varies between programmes and awarding bodies. The time taken for it to be assessed, returned to students and feedback provided will also vary.

This policy outlines the regulations and procedures for the submission of coursework and assessments for all higher education programmes. It ensures compliance with Pearson's Higher National Policy and aligns with the Quality Assurance (QAA) standards

A EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PROGRAMMES:

1 Provision of an Assessment Schedule

Students must be informed of all deadlines for the submission of each element of formative and summative assessed coursework at the start of their programme by being provided with an **Assessment Schedule (Appendix 4 could be used for this purpose)**. This will be communicated during the induction process and made accessible to students.

2 Procedure for the submission and receipt of assessed coursework

Students must be informed via the induction process and their Course Handbook:

- from whom they should seek authoritative advice and guidance on the submission of course assessments;
- of the form and format in which and the means by which the assessment is to be submitted and of their responsibility to ensure they have and retain a backup and 'hard' copy of any assessment submitted electronically;
- to where/whom assessed coursework is to be submitted;
- of any particular submission instructions e.g. electronically or hard-copy (which involves obtaining a receipt for work submitted). *The LRC being the central point where paper assignments can be submitted, logged and receipted using Form HE Assessment Submission and Receipt Form (Appendix 2). Students should retain evidence of submission;*
- of the date on or before which assessed course work is to be submitted ('the submission date') as outline in point 1 above;
- of the procedure through which authorised extensions to the submission date may be sought (**Appendix 1**);
- from whom authorised extensions to the submission date may be sought;
- of any deadline by which requests for authorised extensions to the submission date must be submitted;
- that requests for extensions will only be agreed if the student produces reasons acceptable to the member of staff authorised to do so;
- that authorised extensions will be appropriately evidenced;

- that work submitted late without an authorised extension (or later than the authorised extension) may be subject to a penalty.

3 Marking spelling, punctuation and grammar

Assessors should assess spelling, punctuation and grammar where this is relevant to the course, subject to compliance with their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and other legislation. It is an Office for Students (OfS) expectation that the students should be assessed on their subject technical proficiency in written English.

Assessors should "mark" spelling, punctuation and grammar, i.e. correct mistakes on student work and expect the student to correct them (at the formative feedback stage).

If student work has consistently poor spelling, punctuation grammar or poor subject technical proficiency it should not be accepted for marking, but should be returned to the student to be corrected. The student must be given a deadline by which to correct the work.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation, grammar and subject technical proficiency should not influence assessment decisions unless:

- the mistakes are so problematic that they undermine the evidence of student understanding of the subject, or
- specific assessment criteria require good communication, spelling and grammar and/or correct use of technical language.

4 Returning marked work to students

It is expected that written or verbal feedback will normally be given to students within **10 working days** of the submission deadline. Feedback should be constructive and supportive and encourage progression with learning.

B. ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL PEARSON HNC/ HND and Higher Technical Qualification PROGRAMMES

All assessment activities should follow the internal assessment process (**Appendix 3**) using the appropriate awarding body paperwork

1 Formative Assessment for HNC and HND Programmes

Students working at higher levels should be capable of undertaking independent study and research, developing strategies to improve their own performance, supported by teaching staff.

Formative assessment is an integral part of the BTEC HN and Higher Technical Qualification assessment process, involving both the Assessor and the student in a two-way conversation about their progress.

Formative assessment should take place prior to summative assessment (**not to confirm achievement of grades**) but to focus on helping the student to reflect on their learning and improve their performance.

Assessor should provide feedback on spelling, punctuation, grammar and subject technical proficiency in written English.

The main function of formative assessment is to provide feedback to enable the student to make improvements to consolidate a Pass, or attain a higher grade.

Students should be provided with formative feedback during the process of assessment and be empowered to act to improve their performance. Feedback on formative assessment must be prompt, constructive and provide clear guidance and actions for improvement.

The role of formative feedback in motivating students must not be underestimated and it should be recognised that informal verbal feedback is an ongoing process and is an important part of the Assessor/student relationship.

There should be one formal opportunity to provide written formative assessment feedback on each assessment, at a point when students will have had the opportunity to provide evidence towards all the assessment criteria targeted.

This should be built into the Assessment Plan and be formally recorded on assignment brief (*formative assessment date*). This will help Assessors to manage their assessment workload by avoiding multiple assessments, and also reduces the risk of malpractice.

Usually, further formal opportunities for formative feedback should not be necessary. However, if it is clear at the formative assessment stage that students have misinterpreted or have been misdirected by the assignment brief, there may be the need for another formative assessment once issues have been addressed.

Professional judgement should be used to determine when this is appropriate; care being taken not to create an advantageous situation for one student.

Following formative assessment and feedback, students are able to:

- revisit work to add to the original evidence produced to consolidate a Pass grade or to enhance their work to achieve a higher grade
- submit evidence for summative assessment and final unit grade.

All records of formative assessment should be available for auditing purposes.

2 Authenticity and authentication

Only evidence for assessment that is authentic will be accepted, i.e. that is the student's own and that can be judged fully to see whether it meets the assessment criteria.

Only authentic evidence will be accepted for assessment. Submissions through Turnitin within Itslearning, which includes plagiarism and AI detection software, will be used to ensure compliance.

Plagiarism is an academic offence and may lead to disciplinary procedures

3 Summative Assessments for HNC and HND and Higher Technical Qualification Programmes

Summative assessment is the final consideration by an Assessor of a student's assignment, agreeing which assessment criteria the student has met in the assignment and recording those decisions.

However, students should be aware that summative assessment is subject to confirmation by the Assessment Board, and thus is provisional and can be overridden by the Assessment Board.

Assessors should annotate on the student's work where the evidence supports their grading decisions against the unit grading criteria. It is not expected that students are offered opportunities to revisit assignments at this stage of the assessment process unless approved by the designated Course Leader or authorised by the Assessment Board.

Students will need to be familiar with the assessment criteria so that they can understand the quality of what is required. They should be informed of the differences between grading criteria so that higher skills can be achieved.

Grading Higher National and Higher Technical Qualification units

The grading of BTEC Higher National qualifications is at the unit and the qualification level.

Each successfully completed unit will be graded as a **Pass (P)**, **Merit (M)**, **Distinction (D)** or **Unclassified (U)**

A Pass is awarded for the achievement of all outcomes against the specified assessment criteria.

Merit and Distinction grades are awarded for higher level achievement.

To achieve a Pass, a student must have satisfied all the Pass criteria for the learning outcomes/assignment, showing coverage of the unit content and therefore attainment at Level 4 or 5 of the national framework.

To achieve a Merit, a student must have satisfied all the Merit criteria (and the Pass criteria) through high performance in each learning outcome/assignment.

To achieve a Distinction, a student must have satisfied all the Distinction criteria (and the Pass and Merit criteria) for each unit learning outcome / assignment, and these define outstanding performance across the unit as a whole.

The award of a Pass is a defined level of performance and cannot be given solely on the basis of a student completing assignments. Students who do not satisfy the Pass criteria should be reported as **Unclassified (U)**.

Compensation rules apply for RQF qualifications and HTQs therefore the HNC, HND and HTQ award conditions as stated in Pearson programme specifications and enhanced quality assurance and assessment handbook must be followed.

4 Penalties for Late Submission of Coursework

Students who fail to meet submission deadlines may be penalised for so doing by having their marks reduced in accordance with the assessment regulations of some awarding bodies. **This is with the exception of HNC/HND Pearson programmes**, where separate rules apply as outlined below:

Deadlines for assessment are an important part of HNC and HND. Students are encouraged to develop good time management that will stand them in good stead in the workplace. It is

important that students are assessed fairly and consistently and that some students are not advantaged by having additional time to complete assignments.

Where an authorised extension (see Regulation 5 – Extensions to deadlines) has not been approved at least 24 hours in advance, work submitted late by up to **7 calendar days** of the published deadline may be marked but will be capped at “**Pass**”.

Work submitted after **7 days** of the published deadline and without an authorised extension will not be marked and will be recorded as “Not Submitted”. Students will be offered a **single reassessment** for the Pass criteria’s only at the next available opportunity. Merit and Distinction criteria will not be included in the reassessment brief.

Students must be made aware of the consequences of failing to meet deadlines.

5 Extensions to deadlines for HNC, HND and Higher Technical Qualification Programmes

Students should only be given authorised extensions for legitimate reasons and extenuating circumstances, such as illness at the time of submission. So, a student must formally apply for an extension if they have genuine reasons for not meeting a deadline. If an extension is granted, the new deadline must be recorded and adhered to. (**Appendix 1**).

Extension requests should be made prior to the assessment deadline and should be formally approved by the Course Leader. The duration of extensions should be consistent across all students and should not be after summative feedback has been issued to the other students on the programme.

All extensions granted by the Course Leader must be recorded and made available at the Assessment Board and to the External Examiner (EE).

Recording details of extensions enables the Assessment Board and the EE to confirm that the programme is operating consistently in accordance with the centre’s and Pearson’s policies and guidance.

6 Resubmissions/Resits for HNC, HND and Higher Technical Qualification Programmes

Every assignment contributes to the final qualification grade, therefore it may be appropriate for the Course Leader or Assessment Board to authorise an opportunity for a student to resubmit evidence to meet the assessment criteria targeted by an assignment. The Course Leader can only authorise resubmissions if this responsibility has been delegated to them by the Assessment Board beforehand.

If Tutor have accepted student work that has been submitted late, a resubmission can **only** be authorised if the work has not met the Pass criteria and can only provide an opportunity for the student to achieve the Pass criteria. It is strongly recommended that tutor do not accept work that has been submitted later than 7 days of the published deadline, and for which an extension was not requested and approved, under any circumstances.

Pearson RQF Higher Nationals resubmission rules are summarised in the table below.

RQF
One resubmission is allowed if a student does not achieve a pass on first submission (same assignment).
The reassessment opportunity will be capped at Pass for that unit.
A student will not be entitled to be reassessed in any component for which a Pass or higher has already been awarded.

Resubmissions can be authorised by the Course Leader or the Assessment Board and should **only be authorised if all of the following submission conditions are met:**

- The student has met the initial deadlines set in the assignment, has met an agreed deadline extension, or has submitted work within 7 days of the published deadline
- The assessor judges that the student has fully attempted to achieve all targeted learning outcomes in their original submission.
- The assessor judges that the student will be able to provide improved evidence without further guidance.
- The assessor has authenticated the evidence submitted for assessment.
- Only one opportunity for reassessment of the unit will be permitted
- Reassessment for course work, project or portfolio-based assessments shall normally involve the reworking of the original activity
- For examinations, reassessment shall involve completion of a new activity
- A student who undertakes a reassessment will have their grade capped at a Pass for that unit
- A student will not be entitled to be reassessed in any component of assessment for which a Pass grade or higher has already been awarded.

If a student **has not** met the conditions listed above, the Course Leader or Assessment Board must **not** authorise a resubmission. In these instances, the student will be required to repeat the unit.

A list of all resubmissions authorised by the Course Leader must be submitted to the Assessment Board and made available to the External Examiner (EE) for review and discussion to ensure that the Assessment Board and EE have oversight of all authorised resubmissions.

7 Procedure for resubmission for HNC, HND and Higher Technical Qualification Programmes

If the Course Leader or Assessment Board does authorise a resubmission, the following conditions apply:

- The resubmission must be recorded in the relevant assessment documentation
- The student must be given a clear and realistic deadline for resubmission that is consistent across all students granted a resubmission. It is recommended that students be required to resubmit work within **15 working days** of the student being notified that a resubmission has been authorised
- The resubmission must be undertaken by the student with no further guidance
- For RQF one opportunity for reassessment of each pass assessment criterion will be permitted.
- The original evidence submitted for the assessment can remain valid and be extended, or may need to be replaced partially or in full.

- The arrangements for resubmitting the assessment should be made in such a way that does not adversely affect other assessments and does not give the student an unfair advantage over others.

A resubmission of the assignment may be conducted under supervised conditions, even if this was not necessary for the original assessment. For example, this may be necessary to ensure that plagiarism cannot take place.

The External Examiner (EE) is likely to want to include assessments that have been resubmitted as part of the sample they will review.

So as not to over burden the student with assessments at any one time the usual resubmission/resit window will be a period set during January/February and July/August for courses running in an academic year from September to June in semesters. Resubmission/resit periods for academic years other than this will be agreed with the Deputy Principal at the start of their academic year.

8 Repeat Units for HNC and HND Programmes

Conditions for repeating a unit:

The key points regarding the repeat units rules for Pearson RQF Higher Nationals are summarised in the below table:

RQF
A unit can be repeated if the centre and the Assessment Board decide it is an appropriate course of action.
The unit must be studied again.
The unit must be capped at a Pass grade
The unit can only be repeated once.

If a student has met all of the submission conditions, but still not achieved the targeted Pass criteria following resubmission, the Assessment Board may authorise a repeat unit opportunity to meet the required Pass criteria.

Alternatively, the Assessment Board, having reviewed and discussed a student's assessment profile, can offer one **final** resubmission of Pass criteria if it is agreed that it is necessary, appropriate and fair to do so.

If the Assessment Board does not authorise a final resubmission opportunity, the student would be required to repeat the unit.

If the Assessment Board does authorise a final resubmission opportunity, a new assignment must be issued to the student. If, after this final resubmission opportunity, the student has still not met the Pass criteria in the unit, they would be required to repeat the unit.

The Assessment Board must only authorise a repeat unit in circumstances where they believe it is necessary, appropriate and fair to do so. When repeating a unit:

- The student must study the unit again
- The overall grade for a successfully completed repeat unit is capped at a Pass for that unit
- Maximum one opportunity a student can have to repeat a given unit or the maximum number of repeat units that would be allowed within a programme
- The standard rules regarding assessment, including those stipulated in this policy, apply to students who are repeating units, although the assessments that they submit will be treated as first submissions
- The External Examiner (EE) is likely to want to include assessments for students that have repeated a unit as part of the sample they will review.

Any evidence previously produced by the student for the unit being repeated that did meet the Pass criteria remains valid and may be used for assignments within the repeat unit. Students who are repeating a unit only need to generate evidence for any Pass criteria that they did not achieve in their previous submissions.

If a student repeats an RQF unit and still does not achieve a Pass in neither their first submission nor resubmission, they will be required to either complete a different unit in full or take the unit as compensation. In either instance, relevant rules of combination and requirements have to be met.

The External Examiner is likely to want to include assessments that have been re-submitted as part of the sample they will review.

When a student repeats a unit, they should not be treated any differently to those students completing the unit for the first time, in terms of the deadlines given and the assessments provided.

Repeat of unit with attendance will incur a fee, as specified in the HE Fees Payment Policy.

9 Non-completion of Year 1 for HNC and HND Programmes

Where a student does not submit all assessments and/or fails to achieve a 'pass' level in an assignment and/or unit they will not be allowed to progress into the following year of the programme.

Recommendations from the Assessment Board will specify if a student is allowed to re-sit unit(s) without attendance or is provided with an opportunity to retake Year 1 of the programme.

Resubmission of assessment without attendance will incur a re-sit fee, as specified in the HE Fees Payment Policy.

C Assessment arrangements for other awarding bodies

Assessment arrangements will be undertaken in line with the relevant awarding body.

APPENDIX 1

This form must be submitted **before** the assignment deadline

Please date stamp:

Assignment Submission: Short Extension Request

A **Short Extension** is for up to and including 10 working days and is usually for **one assignment only** (working days must be during term time and within the same academic year)

Surname:		Forename(s):	
Programme/Course Name:			
Mode of Study: <i>(circle as appropriate)</i>	Year of Study: <i>(circle as appropriate)</i>	Semester: <i>(circle as appropriate)</i> 1 2	
FT PT	1 2 3	Term: <i>(circle as appropriate)</i> 1 2 3	
Student No:		Academic Year:	
Reason requested for Extension:			
If you cannot meet an assessment deadline, you are strongly advised to seek advice from a member of your teaching staff as soon as possible. Please give the name and role of the member of staff who advised you: Staff Name: _____ Role: _____ Date: _____			
Type of Assessment <i>(eg Assignment, Presentation)</i>	Unit Title	Original Assessment Deadline Date	Agreed Extension Date
Student's Signature:	This form must be approved by the Curriculum Business Leader.		
Date:	Evidence supplied? Yes No <i>(circle as appropriate)</i>		
	Approved Do Not Approve <i>(circle as appropriate)</i>		
	Name:		
	Signed:		
	Date:		

This form must be submitted **before** the assignment deadline.

General Guidance on Applying for an Assessment Extension

If you cannot meet an assessment deadline, you are strongly advised to seek advice from a member of your teaching staff as soon as possible.

- a **Short Extension** is up to and including 10 working days (during term time and within the same academic year) and is usually for one assignment only. It must be approved by the Course Leader.

When filling in the form, please give details of **each assessment** for which you are seeking an extension, not just the overall module.

APPENDIX 2

Assessment Submission Form

Student Name	
Student Number	
Assessment Title	
Module Title/Number	
Programme Name	
Tutor	
LRC use only	
Date Submitted	
Date Received	
Grade/Mark	

A SIGNED COPY OF THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR ASSESSMENT.

STUDENTS SHOULD KEEP A COPY OF ALL WORK SUBMITTED.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged inclusion of another person's writings or ideas or works, in any formally presented work (including essays, examinations, projects, laboratory reports or presentations). The penalties associated with plagiarism are designed to impose sanctions that reflect the seriousness of the College's commitment to academic integrity.

Declaration of Authorship

I declare that all material in this assessment is my own work except where there is clear acknowledgement and appropriate reference to the work of others.

Signed..... **Date**.....

Please complete both sections and hand in with assignment to the Learning Resource Centre

Candidate Name:

Course:

Module Title/ Number:

Assignment Title:

To be completed by the LRC

Date Received:.....

Signed:.....

Please print name:

This part to be handed back to the student

Candidate Name:

Course:

Module Title/ Number:.....

Assignment Title:

To be completed by the LRC

Date Received:

Signed:

Please print name:

Keep this document to confirm submission of your work

Appendix 3: Internal Assessment Process



