

## Higher Education: Examination Board news updates

<p>24<sup>th</sup> April 2020</p>	<p><b>Welcome back after the Easter break. Please ensure you are keeping in contact with tutors and Course Leaders.</b></p> <p><b>Message from Pearson for HNC and HND students:</b></p> <p>Please continue working on your assignments and course work under the remote guidance of your tutors. The College will continue to update you as further information becomes available from Pearson the awarding body.</p>
<p>6<sup>th</sup> April 2020</p>	<p><b>Message from the University of Central Lancashire</b></p> <p>The university has re-affirmed the approaches that they and partner providers including Wigan &amp; Leigh College University Centre are implementing during this period of remote learning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. All teaching and assessment will be now be facilitated online or remotely for the remainder of the academic year, with appropriate learning materials being made available through Blackboard and other IT platforms where you do not already have these.</i></li> <li><i>2. Opportunities for online interaction between lecturers and students will continue to be provided and departments will notify students of how they should access this</i></li> <li><i>3. To ensure we maintain the quality and standards of your degree, all planned assessments such as coursework and online examinations will take place as expected, where possible. Some other assessments, such as practicals and face to face exams, may need to be modified so they can be completed remotely</i></li> <li><i>4. On-campus examinations will now normally be replaced by online alternative assessment (unless you have been advised otherwise by your department)</i></li> <li><i>5. Scheduling of submission deadlines will be staggered as far as possible. Some deadlines may now be extended in order to give you more time to complete the work. Feedback will be provided as usual, but online.</i></li> <li><i>6. Assessment Boards will use the guidance in relation to the operation of Extraordinary Circumstances concerning students' progression and degree classification, giving particular emphasis to those assessments where COVID-19 has impacted teaching and learning and assessment. Assessment Boards have a great deal of experience in dealing with extenuating circumstances and ensuring that all students are treated fairly. In addition, for all students we already have a set of marks that we can use to make well-informed judgements on classification or progression. The provisions within the Academic Regulations and the Extraordinary Circumstances Regulations enable Assessment Board Chairs to ensure there is no detriment to students as a result of the COVID-19. These rules will continue to apply to the affected assessments where classification decisions are reached in future years of your course.</i></li> <li><i>7. If you are a non-final year student who, due to the current situation, will not have the opportunity to demonstrate that you fully meet all learning</i></li> </ol>

	<p><i>outcomes intended for your current year of study, we will revise our delivery of the learning outcomes and their assessment to ensure that you are able to show how you meet these learning outcomes during the remainder of your course. You will be able to progress by successfully meeting the remaining agreed learning outcomes for this year of your course.</i></p> <p>8. <i>Given we are now operating within Extraordinary Circumstances, Extenuating Circumstances applications relating directly to COVID-19 will be automatically approved, as will applications relating to child and caring responsibilities resulting from school closures, and the requirement for evidence will be waived</i></p> <p>9. <i>We know that it is likely that some students will fall ill over the coming period, and some students will be trying to study whilst dealing with difficult family circumstances; we will deal with these circumstances and others flexibly and sensitively. We will do everything we can to support you to complete this academic year successfully.</i></p> <p>Wigan &amp; Leigh College is confident that staff are operating within these guidelines and supporting students to successfully complete their programmes of study. Please contact your tutor if you have specific course related queries</p>
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	<p><b>Message from University of Central Lancashire for FdA, FdSc, BSc, BA and BEng (Hons) students:</b></p> <p>In response to student feedback, and to help you to adjust to the new ways of studying and completing assignments, the University has decided <b>to extend all coursework deadlines from 26 March, by five working days</b>. This extension will be applied automatically, and you do not need to apply for the extension.</p>
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	<p><b>Message from Pearson for HNC and HND students:</b> Update on Pearson's work with Ofqual and DfE:</p> <p><i>We continue to work closely with Ofqual, the DfE and also other Awarding Organisations to ensure approaches to quality assurance activity are applied consistently. For our BTEC vocational qualifications, <b>we will do our utmost to award grades to students finishing this academic year</b> - supporting students to progress, recognising their learning and hard work - that is our priority and commitment to students and centre staff.</i></p> <p>The College will continue to update you as further information becomes available. In the meantime please continue working on your assignments and course work under the remote guidance of your tutors</p>
24 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	<p><b>Message from the Student Loan Company</b></p> <p>The following notification has been received from the Student Loan Company: <i>We have been working hard to continue providing our core student finance services for those applying for academic year 2020/21, for current students expecting summer term payments, for customers in repayment and for the universities and colleges we work closely with.</i></p> <p><i>Following the most recent Government guidance on COVID-19 we are having to change the way we deliver our services. To enable us to do this as quickly as</i></p>

	<p><i>possible, we are now closing our customer contact centres temporarily for new and existing students, and for any customer in repayment.</i></p> <p><i>The closure of our customer contact centres, which includes our Partners Support Desk, will not impact summer term maintenance payments to students or tuition fee payments to education providers. These payments will be made as normal. New and existing students can continue to apply for student finance as normal and we will continue to process any applications that have been received as quickly as we can.</i></p> <p><i>We are working to restore service at our contact centres as soon as we can and we will provide further information on this over the coming days.</i></p> <p><i>We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but trust you will understand the importance of the measures we have taken given the current circumstances</i></p> <p>The notification does say that payments will be made as normal and that they will restore Contact Centre services as soon as possible so we hope this will be a temporary inconvenience</p>
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020	<p><b>HE Students taking Pearson HNC / HND qualifications</b></p> <p>A reminder has been issued by Pearson that Digital Support for HN's during the COVID-19 Situation is available via HN Global which has free to access for all Higher National students. Pearson has added the following to provide additional support during the current situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A banner on the home page directing students to the main <a href="#">Pearson guidance on working and learning online during a pandemic</a></li> <li>• Tips for studying online thread on the student forum with a post directing students to the online resources for learning online and encouraging you to share tips and strategies.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Working and Learning from home</a> document added to Student Resources</li> <li>• Study skills modules, including <a href="#">Getting Organised for Study</a> to help with effective time management</li> <li>• <a href="#">Being productive when working from home</a> course in the Careers Centre</li> <li>• <a href="#">Core textbooks</a> and reading lists, via the relevant subject page or in the Learning Zone. More textbooks can be rented as e-books via the <a href="#">e-library</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Videos</a> in the Student Channel to support with assignment writing and developing workplace skills.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Career Centre</a> has a wealth of resources to help prepare students for their future in the workplace.</li> </ul>
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	<p>The University of Central Lancashire, UCLan, who are the awarding body for a number of the Wigan &amp; Leigh University Centre courses have issued some further information relating to examinations and awards.</p> <p><i>(the University) ....invoked the Extraordinary Circumstances provisions within our Academic Regulations and this has been approved by Academic Board, which met yesterday. No examinations and assessments will take place face to face for the May 2020 assessment period. Our course leaders are working with external examiners and, where necessary Professional and Regulatory Bodies (PRBs), to agree alternative assessments or methods of delivery (e.g. online). Our Head of Examinations and Awards will be in touch to confirm any formal arrangements that</i></p>

	<i>change the assessments and examinations once these are agreed</i>
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	<p>In light of the above Wigan &amp; Leigh College staff are coordinating with the Head of School for the provision at UCLan to ensure students at College can demonstrate that they meet their learning outcomes and complete their courses of study this academic year. As soon as we hear from the Head of Examinations and Awards we shall communicate further with students</p>
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