

Allowances & rearranging coursework: Faculty Board guidelines

Table of contents

- [Rearranging coursework & allowances: general rules](#)
- [Part I allowances](#)
- [Allowances](#)
- [Part IIB allowances](#)
- [MET Part II allowances](#)

Rearranging coursework & allowances: general rules

Introduction

Although we expect students to attend all lab sessions and respect coursework deadlines, there may be a number of reasons why such commitment may not be honoured. Students experiencing difficulties should seek [appropriate support](#) as soon as possible. Their Tutor will have to approve any allowance request and should be kept in the loop.

The Faculty Board of Engineering has issued the following guidelines about the circumstances under which coursework activities may be rearranged or allowances granted. The Head of Department delegates all the responsibilities mentioned in this document to the Director of Undergraduate Education. All forms are processed via the [Teaching Office](#).

Points to consider

1. Students should make **all reasonable efforts** to complete any missed exercises at a later date and so must first try and make rearrangements with the lab leader.
2. Applications should be made at the time rearrangement proves not to be possible, and at latest by the end of the relevant term.
3. Any application for an allowance must be made on the [standard form](#). This form must be completed in full by both student and Tutor. The Tutor may be required to submit supporting medical evidence (e.g. if the period affected is over 7 days).
4. Forms should be submitted as soon as it is clear that an allowance may be required.
5. A total allowance of more than four weeks coursework will not normally be given, in any year.

Types of allowance

The granting of an allowance implies either:

1. an **extension** of the scheduled period for completion and submission of an activity (applicable to both standard credit and positive credit activities); or
2. the **allocation of a number of marks** for the activity missed, if it proves impossible to rearrange or catch up the activity. For standard credit activities, the mark allocated will normally be the qualifying mark for the activity. For positive credit exercises, any mark allocated will depend upon the student's performance in related assessed activities.

In all cases, the Director of Undergraduate Education will consider the allowance form submitted by the student and Tutor, and decide upon the type and extent of any allowance to be made. These are incorporated in the final coursework marks sent to the Chairmen of Examiners. The Teaching Office will notify the Tutor and the student of the outcome of any application.

Allowances for individual activities are described in more detail for each Part:

- [Parts IA and IB](#)
- [Part IIA](#)
- [Part IIB](#)
- [MET Parts IIA and IIB](#)

Reasons for arranging coursework

Reasons for seeking to rearrange course work fall into one of the following five categories:

Illness

Educationally it is always preferable to rearrange coursework missed through illness, and this should be attempted wherever practicable. If rearrangement is not possible, then students should apply for the appropriate allowance.

'Illness' is broadly defined as any illness, mental health problem, physical injury or other grave cause which, in the opinion of both the student's tutor and the Director of Undergraduate Education, prevents the student from completing their scheduled coursework activities on time, or in some cases at all.

Compassionate or religious grounds

Students will, wherever practicable, be allowed to rearrange coursework on compassionate or religious grounds (for instance, to enable them to attend a funeral, or because the coursework is scheduled on the day of a religious festival). The student concerned should try to rearrange the coursework in advance. If rearrangement proves impossible, then an application for an allowance may be made with the support of the student's tutor.

Interviews

When applying for jobs, work placements or sponsorship, students may be invited for interview on days that conflict with coursework activities. Students should in the first instance seek to rearrange the interview rather than the coursework. If this proves impossible, then the student should try to rearrange the coursework. Allowances are not normally given for coursework missed through interviews.

Sporting commitments

Coursework may **not** be rearranged to accommodate **College** sporting commitments. Students will, wherever practicable, be allowed to rearrange coursework that conflicts with **University** sporting competitions (i.e. representing the University of Cambridge in a competitive event) but not for training sessions.

NB. Allowances are not normally available if such rearrangement is possible.

Other reasons

If a student wishes to seek to rearrange coursework for any reason not covered by the four categories above, they should discuss the matter with the [Director of Undergraduate Education](#).

How to rearrange coursework

Part I coursework

For Part I coursework (including sign-up sessions) students should identify an appropriate replacement slot in the timetable, in discussion with the appropriate chief technician, and then clear this with the lab leader in charge of the activity.

Contact details of lab technicians are available online: [IA](#), [IB](#).

Part II coursework

For Part II coursework, students should contact the staff member in charge of the coursework activity (e.g. lab/EAA leader or module leader). Wherever possible, arrangements should be made in advance – failure to do so when the need for rearrangement was foreseeable may result in the request being refused. In some cases, it may be necessary to apply for an extension to a deadline to allow coursework to be completed.

Part I allowances

For lab experiments and projects, drawing and computing, students should make every attempt to complete the missed activity at a later date. Allowances of marks will **not** normally be granted for the Engineer in Society report or the Product Design project (in IA), or the Sustainable Engineering poster (in IB), unless illness is continuous from the date the task is set to the date on which submission is due. The credit available for IA activities can be found [here](#) and for IB activities [here](#).

Part IA summary

Application deadlines: One week after the end of Michaelmas and Lent Full Terms for activities missed in those terms. All other applications must be received by one week after the last Part IA lecture in Easter Term.

Activity	Deadline extension	Marks
Dimensional analysis Microprocessors	Not applicable	Yes, if lab cannot be rearranged
Drawing and computing	Yes	Not normally, and only if activity cannot be rearranged
Statics experiment, exposition	Yes	Yes, if activity cannot be rearranged
Lab experiments	Short labs - N/A Long labs - Yes	Yes, if lab cannot be rearranged
Structural design project Integrated electrical project	Yes	Yes, but not if the student can join another project group
Engineer in society report Product design	Yes	Yes, but only if illness is continuous from date when task was set to handing in date

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Activity	Deadline extension	Marks
project		

Part IB summary

Application deadlines: One week after the end of Michaelmas and Lent Full Terms for activities missed in those terms. All other applications must be received by one week after the last Part IB lecture in Easter Term.

Activity	Deadline Extension	Marks
Lab experiments	Short labs - N/A Long labs - Yes	Yes, if lab cannot be rearranged
Computing	Yes	Not normally, and only if activity cannot be rearranged
Integrated design project	Yes	Yes, but not if the student can join another project group
Sustainable engineering poster	Yes	Yes, but only if illness is continuous from date when task was set to handing in date

Allowances

Overview

During the Michaelmas and Lent terms, Part IIA undergraduates submit a minimum of 8 reports/essays associated with modules, and 2 full technical reports (FTR), and complete an Extension Activity (ExA). During the Easter term, students undertake 2 projects. Students are expected to make all reasonable efforts to complete missed experiments, FTRs and ExAs at a later date, and should contact the member of staff in charge of the activity concerned as soon as possible.

An allowance of marks will not normally be made for more than the coursework for 4 modules and an ExA. Applications should be made at the time rearrangement proves not to be possible, and at latest by the end of the relevant term. Allowance forms can be downloaded [here](#).

Part IIA projects

Students are expected to complete as much as possible of the work associated with their two projects, but the four week timetable imposes tight constraints. If there is any significant disruption to your project work (whether or not a report deadline is missed), you must notify your Tutor, project leader(s) and the [Director of Undergraduate Education](#) by email immediately, and the Tutor should submit a [IIA project allowance form](#) (NB: this is not the standard form used for all other allowances). **If the deadline for any report is missed, a form must be submitted by the student's Tutor within three working days of the report deadline.**

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Following first notification of disruption of a project due to illness, weekly consultations involving the Director of Undergraduate Education, project leader(s) and Director of Studies will be required until the project is back on track. This is in order to determine reasonable extensions to deadlines, or to agree a reduced or alternative submission of project work if appropriate.

Extensions for interim reports may be made until the final project deadline. Extensions for final reports are limited to a maximum of four days, and only in exceptional circumstances, since the Examiners must publish the final class lists two weeks after the submission date. An allowance of marks may be made only if a substantial part of the project work has been submitted, with the total mark being extrapolated in suitable proportion. Note that allowances are considered separately for each project, i.e. marks awarded for one project will not be used as a basis for awarding marks on the other project. Failure to submit any reports on a project will be treated in the same way as a missed examination: zero marks awarded and the case referred to the University's Applications Committee. The **final deadline** for receipt of allowance forms is **4pm on Wednesday 13 June**.

Summary

Application deadline: Applications for coursework in Michaelmas and Lent Terms must be made on an [Allowance form](#) and received by one week after the end of the relevant Full Term. All other applications must be received by the Wednesday of the last week of Easter Full Term.

Activity	Deadline extension	Marks
Lab experiments and management exercises	Yes	Yes, but not if it is possible to reschedule. Allowance will not normally be made for more than four experiments/exercises
Full technical reports	Yes	Not normally
Extension Activity	Yes	Yes, but not if student can join another group
Easter term projects: - Interim reports - Final reports	Yes No (or up to 4 days in exceptional circumstances)	Not normally, and only if a substantial part of the project work is submitted

Part IIB allowances

Module coursework

Coursework extensions

Students are expected to make all reasonable efforts to complete any missed coursework, normally during the term in which the module is taught or the following vacation.

Extensions to deadlines are expected to cater for most circumstances in Part IIB. Students should notify the relevant [group administrator](#) if they need to submit work late, because of illness, but the extension must be authorised by the Director of Undergraduate Education using the [allowances form](#): extensions cannot be negotiated ad-hoc with the group administrator or module leader. Module leaders will apply lateness penalties, which will be removed if the extension is approved.

Treatment of missing coursework

An allowance of marks may be made for missing coursework, provided that both the following conditions are satisfied:

1. the Director of Undergraduate Education agrees that there is good reason for non-submission (e.g. illness);
2. it is possible to base a fair mark on a partial submission by extrapolating marks in suitable proportion from exams (for 25% coursework modules), or from other coursework activities on the same module, or via an alternative exercise arranged with the module leader.

In all other cases zero marks will be awarded for missing coursework components. If there are mitigating circumstances Tutors may refer the case to the University Applications Committee.

Projects

Also see the information on [Part IIB project deadline problems](#).

Extensions to deadlines are expected to cater for most circumstances. Students unable to give their presentations at the scheduled times should notify their project supervisor as soon as possible. Students will be asked to join another group, or a one-off presentation may be arranged. Similarly, progress reviews may be rearranged due to illness. In either case, an extension must be applied for through the Teaching Office. If rescheduling proves impossible, an application may be made for an allowance of marks.

Extensions to deadlines will be permitted for good cause for the technical milestone report and the final report (limited to ten days inclusive of weekends for the final report). Allowances of marks will not normally be awarded, and only for cases in which a substantial partial submission has been made. Failure to submit any project reports for assessment will be treated in the same way as a missed examination: zero marks awarded and referral by Tutors to the University Applications Committee.

Given the overall importance of project work in part IIB, students are encouraged to ask their tutors to document any significant disruption due to illness during the year as soon as it occurs, without specific claim for an extension. For these purposes, notification may be by email to the project supervisor, director of studies and Director of Undergraduate Education.

Summary

Application deadline: Applications for coursework in Michaelmas and Lent Terms must be received by one week after the end of the relevant Full Term. All other applications must be received by the Wednesday of the last week of Easter Full Term.

Activity	Deadline extension	Marks
Coursework associated with modules	Yes	25% coursework modules: yes if exam also taken 100% coursework modules: no
Project reports	Yes.	Not normally, and only if substantial part of the project work is submitted

Allowances & rearranging coursework: Faculty Board guidelines

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Activity	Deadline extension	Marks
	For the final report it is limited to ten days (inclusive of weekends).	
Project presentation s/progress reviews	Yes. Consult supervisor to rearrange.	Yes, but only if rearrangement proves impossible

MET Part II allowances

Part IIA

In MET Part IIA, the major project is a group activity which runs throughout the year. A candidate may receive an allowance for absences totalling over two weeks, but an allowance will not normally be made for more than four weeks absence or where more than one submission is involved. For other coursework assignments, which may include reports, essays and exercises, an extension of up to two weeks may be allowed.

Applications for credit for missed industrial visits or debrief sessions must be made using the MET Application form.

Application deadline: Applications for other coursework in Michaelmas and Lent Terms must be received by one week after the end of the relevant Full Term. All other applications must be received by the Wednesday of the last week of Easter Full Term.

Activity	Report deadline extension	Marks
Michaelmas and Easter term project	Yes	Yes, for absences totalling over two weeks but not for more than four weeks absence or more than one submission
Other coursework assignments	Yes, up to 2 weeks	Not normally

Part IIB

MET Part IIB is organised on a modular basis and thus even a comparatively short absence through illness or injury may make it unreasonable to expect a candidate to complete a particular module assessment exercise or industrial assignment. Hence allowances may be made.

Application deadline: Applications for coursework in Michaelmas and Lent Terms must be received by one week after the end of the relevant Full Term. All other applications must be received by the Wednesday of the last week of Easter Full Term.

Allowances & rearranging coursework: Faculty Board guidelines

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Activity	Deadline extension	Marks
Module assessment exercises and industrial assignments.	Yes	Yes, for absences which make it unreasonable to expect candidates to complete a particular exercise or assignment

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