

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

University education is currently embedded within a contextual environment dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and accompanying health, economic and social consequences. Since March 2020, UCC have employed a **No Academic Disadvantage** (NAD hereafter) policy in recognition of the exceptional circumstances impacting the student population.

There are three key dimensions to the NAD policy with regards to examinations and assessment:

- i) *Students could apply to **defer** examinations/assessment.*
- ii) *Students who complete examinations/assessment for the Spring or Summer Examination Boards, who are judged to have **failed a module(s)**, can take the **supplemental examinations/assessment without** academic penalty (that is the capping of marks rule (maximum award of 40%) **will not** apply).*
- iii) *Students who complete examinations/assessment, who are judged to have **passed a module(s)** by the relevant Spring/Summer Examination Board, can, if they are **unhappy** with the overall module grade awarded, apply to **re-sit** the module examinations/assessment in an attempt to improve their grade.*

So, what do the above dimensions of the NAD policy mean in practice for a student?

Let us take four fictitious students (John, Daniel, Siobhán and Tracy) who all study a Semester 2 module [Ec3137: The Economics of Creativity](#) (important hint – if you want to know what the assessment is; the pass standard is; the special requirements (if any) for passing a module are and what the supplemental assessment requirements are – **always** go to the official [Book of Modules](#) entry for your modules).

The examination/assessment elements for Ec3137 (5 credits) consist of:

<b>1 x Conference Paper</b>	<b>70 marks</b>
<b>1 x Poster Presentation</b>	<b>20 marks</b>
<b>1 x In-Class Exam</b>	<b>10 marks</b>

Let us examine a different scenario for each of our (fictitious) students:

[Scenario 1: John the 'Deferral' Candidate](#)

[Scenario 2: Daniel the 'Fail' and 'Supplemental Assessment' Candidate](#)

[Scenario 3: Siobhán the 'Pass' and 'Resit' Candidate](#)

[Scenario 4: Tracy the 'Confirmed Plagiarism' Candidate](#)

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

### Scenario 1: John the 'Deferral' Candidate

John has been seriously impacted by Covid 19. He cannot complete the examinations/assessment for Ec3137 for the Summer Examination Board. He has successfully applied to defer the module.

#### Implications for John:

John will complete **ALL** of the specified examinations/assessment for Ec3137 for the Autumn Examination Board. This examinations/assessment will be **comparable** to the examinations/assessment for the Summer Examination Board. The examinations/assessment will be designed to test the learning outcomes of the module. However, they will not necessarily be the same **content** and **format** as that completed by students for the Summer Examination Board. For instance, John will have to sit an In-Class Examination (worth 10 marks) for the Autumn Examination Board but it will not consist of the same content as the In-Class Examination his peers sat for the Summer Examination Board. It will, however, assess the equivalent learning outcomes.

#### Some questions John might have:

*Who decides what is the appropriate suitable content and format of examinations/assessment for a deferral candidate?*

It is the relevant Head of Department in consultation with the module co-ordinator (normally the module lecturer).

*Who should John seek advice from with regards to the examinations/assessment?*

John should always contact the module lecturer/ relevant Department Administrative Office as soon as the official results have been released following the Spring/Summer Examination Board for his programme.

*Will John's marks be 'capped' at the Autumn Examination Board?*

No, deferral candidates marks **are not** capped at the Autumn Examination Board. This means that if John is judged to have achieved 70/100 in Ec3137 – this is the mark used in the calculation of his overall programme grade and judgement.

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

### Scenario 2: Daniel the 'Fail' and 'Supplemental Assessment' Candidate

Daniel completed all the examinations/assessment for Ec3137 for the Summer Examination Board. His overall mark and judgement for Ec3137 has been confirmed by the College Summer Examination Board as:

**26/100 Fail**

His confirmed mark profile is as follows:

	<i>Mark Achieved out of 100%</i>	<i>Weighted Mark</i>
<i>Conference Paper</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>10.5/70</i>
<i>Poster Presentation</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>10/20</i>
<i>In-class exam</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>5/10</i>

#### Implications for Daniel:

Daniel has not achieved the minimum compensation mark for his programme (30/100). He therefore will be required to sit supplemental examinations/assessment for the Autumn Examination Board. When he examines the BOM for the module he sees the following:

*Requirements for Supplemental Examination: Marks in passed element(s) of Continuous Assessment are carried forward, Failed element(s) of Continuous Assessment must be repeated (as prescribed by the Department).*

For Daniel this means that he **DOES NOT** have to complete supplemental assessment for **either** the Poster Presentation or the In-Class Examination because both elements have been passed at the Summer Examination Board. These marks will be carried forward to the Autumn Examination Board in the calculation of his overall grade.

Daniel **must** complete supplemental assessment for the Conference Paper because he was judged to have failed this element of the assessment.

#### Some questions Daniel might have:

*Will Daniel need to resubmit his Conference Paper for the Autumn Examination Board?*

No, the supplemental assessment for the Conference Paper will be **prescribed by the Department** – the Head of the Department of Economics in consultation with the module co-ordinator.

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

*Who should Daniel seek advice from with regards to the examinations/assessment?*

Daniel should always contact the module lecturer/ the relevant Department Administrative Office as soon as the official results have been released following the Summer Examination Board for his programme.

*Will Daniel's marks be 'capped' at the Autumn Examination Board?*

Under normal circumstances, Autumn supplemental marks are capped (unless a student has successfully applied for mitigation). However, under the NAD policy for 2020/21 candidates' marks are **not capped** at the Autumn Examination Board for 2020/21. This means that if Daniel is judged to have achieved 70/100 in the supplemental assessment for the Conference Paper – this is the mark used in the calculation of his overall mark for ec3137 and the overall programme grade and judgement.

His confirmed mark profile for the Autumn Examination Board is now as follows:

	<i>Mark Achieved out of 100%</i>	<i>Weighted Mark</i>
<i>Conference Paper</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>49/70</i>
<i>Poster Presentation</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>10/20</i>
<i>In-Class Exam</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>5/10</i>
Overall		64/100

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

### Scenario 3: Siobhán the ‘Pass’ and ‘Resit’ Candidate

Siobhán completed all the examinations/assessment for Ec3137 for the Summer Examination Board. Her overall mark and judgement for Ec3137 has been confirmed by the College Summer Examination Board as:

	<i>Mark Achieved out of 100%</i>	<i>Weighted Mark</i>
<i>Conference Paper</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>49/70</i>
<i>Poster Presentation</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>10/20</i>
<i>In-Class Exam</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>5/10</i>
Overall		64/100

Siobhán is not happy with her mark in Ec3137. She really feels that Covid-19 detrimentally impacted her academic performance. After the release of the confirmed marks following the Summer Examination Board, Siobhán successfully applied to ‘resit’ Ec3137 for the Autumn Examination Board to try to **improve her overall mark**.

#### Implications for Siobhan:

Siobhán will need to complete **ALL** of the designated ‘resit’ examinations/assessment for Ec3137. The ‘resit’ examinations/assessment **will not** be the same content (and may not be in the same format) as the Summer examinations/assessment. For instance, there is a ‘resit’ In-Class Examination in Ec3137 – this will assess the same learning outcomes as the In-Class Examination she completed for the Summer Examination Board but it **will not** be the same content and may not be in the same format. In keeping with University Policy, the Head of the Department of Economics will, in consultation with the module co-ordinator) decide as to what the appropriate ‘resit’ assessment will be.

#### Some questions Siobhán might have:

*Siobhán is happy with the mark she achieved in the Conference Paper – she doesn’t want to have to complete the resit for this part of the resits in Ec3137 – can she request this?*

No, if Siobhán is **resitting** the examinations/assessment for Ec3137 she is resitting **ALL** resit examinations/assessment for the module.

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

*Who should Siobhán seek advice from with regards to the instructions for resit examinations/assessment?*

Siobhán should always contact the module lecturer/ the relevant Department Administrative Office as soon as the official results have been released following the Summer Examination Board for her programme.

Let us say Siobhán has a very difficult time in the Autumn and she is judged as having achieved the following at the Autumn Examination Board:

	<i>Mark Achieved out of 100%</i>	<i>Weighted Mark</i>
<i>Resit Conference Paper</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>10.5/70</i>
<i>Resit Poster Presentation</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>10/20</i>
<i>Resit In-Class Exam</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>5/10</i>
Overall		26/100

*Is this mark of 26/100 the mark that will be used in calculating Siobhán overall grade for Ec3137?*

No, in the case where, like with Siobhán here, her mark in the resit module **disimproves**, the original Summer Examination Board **overall module mark** (in Siobhan's case 64/100) will be used in the calculation of her overall mark in Ec3137 and for her overall programme grade and judgement. It is **only** if the **overall module mark improves** in the resit (say she achieved 74/100 in the Ec3137 resit) that this mark will be used.

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

### Scenario 4: Tracy the Confirmed 'Plagiarism' Candidate

Tracy completed all the examinations/assessment for Ec3137 for the Summer Examination Board. She was processed under the [University's Plagiarism Policy](#) for the work she submitted for her Conference Paper. It was determined that she had breached the policy and given the severity of the matter, the sanction was imposed on all parts of the work she submitted. The decision was that she receive 0% for the Conference Paper. This meant that her overall mark and judgement for Ec3137 has been confirmed by the College Summer Examination Board as:

	<i>Mark Achieved out of 100%</i>	<i>Weighted Mark</i>
<i>Conference Paper</i>	<i>0%*</i>	<i>0/70*</i>
<i>Poster Presentation</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>10/20</i>
<i>In-class exam</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>5/10</i>
Overall		15/100

#### Implications for Tracy:

Tracy has not achieved the minimum compensation mark for her programme (30/100). She therefore will be required to sit supplemental assessment for the Autumn Examination Board. Tracy **DOES NOT** have to complete supplemental assessment for either the Poster Presentation or the In-Class Examination because both elements have been passed at the Summer Examination Board. These marks will be carried forward to the Autumn Examination Board.

Tracy **must** complete supplemental assessment for the Conference Paper.

#### Some questions Tracy might have:

*Will Tracy need to resubmit her Conference Paper for the Autumn Examination Board?*

No, the supplemental assessment for the Conference Paper will be prescribed by the Department – the Head of the Department of Economics in consultation with the module co-ordinator.

*Who should Tracy seek advice from with regards to the examination/assessment?*

Tracy should always contact the module lecturer/ the relevant Department Administrative Office as soon as the official results have been released following the Summer Examination Board for her programme.

# THE NO ACADEMIC DISADVANTAGE (NAD) POLICY IN UCC

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE

*Will Tracy's marks be 'capped' at the Autumn Examination Board?*

Yes, as per the University's Examinations/Assessment Policy and under the NAD policy for 2020/21 candidates' marks achieved in the supplemental assessment **will be capped** if they have been found to have been in breach of the University's Plagiarism Policy at the Summer Examination Board. This means that if Tracy is judged to have achieved 70/100 by the module examiner in the supplemental assessment for the Conference Paper **a maximum mark of 40/100** will be used in calculating the overall mark achieved in Ec3137 and used to calculate her overall programme grade and judgement at the Autumn Examination Board.

In Tracy's case:

	<i>Mark Achieved out of 100%</i>	<i>Weighted Mark</i>
<i>Conference Paper</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>28/70</i>
<i>Poster Presentation</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>10/20</i>
<i><u>In-Class Exam</u></i>	<i><u>50%</u></i>	<i><u>5/10</u></i>
Overall		43/100