



Durham
University

Mitigating Circumstances and Predicting Grades

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Mitigating Circumstances



- Applicants should report these to the exam board
- Some institutions do have a separate form
- Only submit if they're different to all other students on the whole
- Please do mention it in the reference – in agreement with the applicant
- What did you do during lockdown?



Predicted Grades



- This year will likely be more challenging
- We rely on you as the expert
- Take anything in to account that you can from before and during lockdown
- It can be helpful for us if you explain your methodology
- Remember you are not alone!

Top 10

UK university

Ranked 6th in The Times and
The Sunday Time Good
University Guide 2021 and
4th in The Guardian

University Guide 2021

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As an adviser you may experience a number of challenges:

- Ongoing changes to qualifications
- Pressures influencing predictions
- Disruption of teaching
- Fewer internal assessments
- Less face-to-face contacts
- Adaptions to practical assessments
- Uncertainly on how disruption has affected students



Predicted grades should:

- Be in the best interests of the applicant
- Aspirational but achievable
- Determined by professional judgment
- Data-driven – as much as possible

And should not be:

- Affected by parents/guardians and/or applicants
- Influenced by entry requirements
- Affected by student behavior or background



<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/managing-applications/predicted-grades-what-you-need-know-2021-entry>



**Now over the Huw
from
Manchester....**



Missed extracurricular activities, individual circumstances and work experience

Huw Peters, Student Recruitment and Widening Participation Officer

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Individual Circumstances

- **Best mentioned in the reference to give context**
- **Similar to mitigating circumstances – helps us give context to applications**
- **Access to technology and resources**

Extracurricular activities

- All applicants affected
- Reflection on lockdown
- Virtual opportunities

Work Experience

- **Is it necessary?**
- **Work experience for Medicine/Dentistry**
- **What can students do?**

Resitting and Autumn Exam Series

- **How will it be considered?**
- **Need to check individual university and course requirements**

Future guidance:

- **www.ucas.com/advisers/references**
- **www.manchester.ac.uk/coronavirus**
- **www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2636/guidance-on-gaining-relevant-experience-for-studying-medicine-in-the-time-of-covid-19.pdf**