

No Detriment support measures this year

The Islamic College and our validating partner, Middlesex University are aware that this continues to be a very challenging time for many of you, and as such, we have been listening to concerns and feedback that you have about completing assessments during the pandemic. The support package that is detailed below is designed to help you to achieve. We have been guided on these by Middlesex University who have given much valued feedback and ideas on what support is most needed.

To ensure that you are supported to submit your best work in the upcoming assessments, we have put in place a safety net as agreed by our academic board to protect you from academic disadvantage. These are based on measures put in place at Middlesex University to make sure that the pandemic does not affect you unfairly, and that you're still able to demonstrate your full academic potential.

Ensuring all teaching and assessments are designed within the context of COVID-19

Throughout the year, your teaching has been planned to take account of the impact of the pandemic using our Bright Space platform. We have developed adapted assessment to recognise the difficult circumstances in which many of you have been studying. These allow you to demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have developed over the course of the year. These assessments have flexibility and inclusivity built into their design, as we know that this was a key concern for you. We have compiled a number of resources to ensure you've got everything you need to successfully complete any assessments, and indeed any online learning, from home. We are also available to give guidance on IT support to students who have problem in accessing to the right equipment at home, or who have not used our platform before. These can be obtained by directly contacting the college registry.

Providing a 14 day extension for all written coursework deadlines

The students have requested an extension period in the latest Student Voice Group meeting. You told us this was important for you, so we have agreed that you can have a 14 day extension on written coursework and examinations this term. However please note that since we have already moved back the coursework date for all students, you will not be able to request an additional extension.

Easing Deferral Requests

We strongly encourage you to utilise the above supportive measures and submit your best work in the upcoming assessment period. However, we understand that some students will be going through additional challenges and that completing assessments within the academic year may just not be possible. As such, we have also removed the need for you to provide any supporting evidence for deferments, to make this as easy as possible for you in case of further complications. We are introducing a simple process so that you can notify us of your extenuating circumstances by directly contacting the college registry. Our expanded Extenuating Circumstances provision will allow all students to defer assessments due between March and May 2021 and to submit in August 2021. This may be of particular relevance to students who have children or caring responsibilities who have

additional childcare challenges. Any student who successfully passes any deferred assessments in July/August 2021 will then be able to start the next academic year in September 2021 as normal. Please note that leaving your submissions or examinations until January 2022 could affect your progress into the higher level of studies.

Giving higher degree classifications to borderline students

Extenuating Circumstances will be also taken into account for all students in relation to any assessment taken since March 2020. This means that we will consider your results in the context of the pandemic. If you are a final year student on the borderline between classifications, we will move you to the higher class. If you are a continuing student, you will receive the maximum amount of compensation allowed (for some modules this is limited by professional body requirements) and you may also be able to progress into the next year of your studies even if you have not achieved the normal amount of credit.

Providing free re-sit opportunities that will be uncapped

Normally, if you fail an assessment and have to re-sit it, the marks you can achieve are capped, so you cannot achieve top grades for your work. This year, we are allowing an uncapped resit for all failed assessments. Furthermore, unlike many other universities, and as always we do not charge you to re-sit an assessment.

Maintaining the quality of your degrees

In line with Middlesex University's decision there will not be a new degree algorithm for finalists this year. This would have meant that only some of your module results would contribute towards your degree classification and that we felt is unfair. It is critically important that we safeguard the quality and value of your degree for your future employers and your future career prospects, and a new algorithm was likely to undermine that confidence. As throughout the pandemic period, we have adapted the assessments to take account of the impact of COVID-19. This will ensure that you remain assessed fairly given the difficult circumstances in which you have had to work this year. We know that many of you will have endured particular hardship this year and if this applies to you, we strongly encourage you to utilise the additional support measures outlined above. Please do contact your Programme Leader or the registry if you have any questions about how these supportive measures will be implemented on your programme of study.