



ACCULEARN TRAINING

# Special Consideration and Reasonable Adjustment POLICY

ACCULEARN

**Reviewed:** 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

**To be reviewed:** 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

## Reasonable Adjustments

Students who feel unable to study or enter for an examination due to the presence of a barrier, such as a permanent or temporary disability or condition, may wish to request for special arrangements or aids to be put in place to enable them to study. In these cases, Acculearn (hereby referred to as “The Centre”) will make adjustments to administrative and/or examination procedures if such adjustments are judged to be reasonable, necessary and practicable. In order to safeguard the integrity of the award, all students will be assessed against the same criteria and no concessions will be made in this respect.

Examples of barriers to entry are as follows:

*Disability.* Specifically: lack of physical mobility, visual impairment, and hearing impairment, all of which may prevent students from studying.

*Religious.* Students may, for religious reasons, be unable to take part in an activity in the class, or may wish to wear special items of clothing or artefacts.

*Special Circumstances:* Students might have extenuating circumstances due to which they could not attend the Class or write an exam.

At the current time, the Centre mitigates against these barriers in the following ways:

*Disability.* The Centre invites applications from students requesting reasonable adjustments on the grounds of disability. The term „disabled“, for the purposes of the Centre’s examinations, encompasses any physical, mental, learning or behavioural impairment (permanent or temporary) which is likely to affect the student’s ability to perform well in the examination. A „condition“ which is normally temporary may still be such that it is appropriate for the Centre to be made aware of it in advance of the examination.

*Religious.* The Centre Administrators, whose remit includes the planning of examination or tours or trips, are instructed via this policy to avoid religious holidays. Examination specifications indicate that regulation uniform for examinations is recommended rather than required, and where a student requests permission to adapt their dress for religious reasons, every effort will be made to accommodate such a request, while keeping the health and safety of the student, the safeguarding of the examination or class environment, and the integrity of the unit and/or qualification, paramount.



*Special Circumstances:* The student is supposed to talk to his/her Head of Department in order to get his leave sanctioned or what so ever.

*Application procedure.* The students should notify the Centre at the time of admission about their disability. For other reasons, they can write an application to the Relevant Authority.

Applications should be made by the closing date for examination entry or assignment submission, to enable the Centre to make any special arrangements that may be necessary to ensure that the student's particular requirements are met. In instances where a disability or condition is not known until after the closing date for entry, Head of Department must be informed immediately and no later than two (2) working days prior to the examination/assignment submission. Under no circumstances should any forms be given directly to the examiner or Internal Verifier on the day of the examination.

### **Special Consideration**

Special consideration is an adjustment to the mark of an assessment for a student who was prepared for and present at an internal examination or assignment but who may have been disadvantaged by adverse circumstances that arose immediately prior to or at the time of the examination.

Special consideration cannot give the student an unfair advantage. Additionally, the application of special consideration must not cause the user of a certificate to be misled regarding a student's achievements. Examinations and assessments are a measure of what a student can do at one moment in time. Only minor adjustments can, therefore, be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardise the integrity of the award.

A decision to award special consideration will be based on a number of factors, which may vary from student to student and from one examination to another. These factors may include the nature and severity of the circumstances and the date of the examination in relation to the circumstances. Each case is assessed and the outcome determined on an individual basis.

Special consideration may be given at the Centre Manager's discretion to students when:

- Performance in an internal examination or assignment examination is considered to have been affected by circumstances beyond the control of the student or examiner;
- Reasonable Adjustments to the examination which were agreed in proved to be either inadequate or inappropriate.

- The following are examples of circumstances which may lead to an application for special consideration, provided they are substantiated by medical or other appropriate evidence:
- Serious disturbance or disruption during the examination such as a fire alarm or power failure;
- Temporary illness, injury or indisposition either immediately prior to or during the examination (but assuming that the student attempted to, or did, complete the examination, and did not elect to withdraw);
- Illness during the examination of the examiner or pianist;
- Very recent bereavement of a member of the student's immediate family;
- Life-threatening illness of a member of the student's immediate family;
- Serious domestic crisis leading to acute anxiety

The following are examples of circumstances where special consideration would NOT apply:

- *Permanent disability (unless the Reasonable Adjustments agreed in advance proved to be either inadequate or inappropriate);*
- *Minor disturbance in the examination room caused by another student, such as bad behaviour or feeling unwell;*
- *Failing to attend the examination at the correct time*

Students who become ill or suffer an injury in advance of the examination are not eligible for Special Consideration and are advised to withdraw from the examination.

Application for Special Consideration will not be accepted after results have been received except when evidence comes to light which demonstrates that the student must have been affected at the time of the examination, even though the problem did not reveal itself until after the results were known.

If an application for Special Consideration is successful, it may, dependent on the circumstances, result in one of the following:

- A slight adjustment to the marks. The amount of any adjustment to marks as a result of Special Consideration will be shown on the student's Result Form.
- A re-examination free of charge, if possible.