

Significant Changes to your Contract with the University: September 2023

As outlined within the terms and conditions of entry to Queen's University Belfast which were issued to applicants after they were made an offer, the University committed to informing students directly of any significant changes to the regulations and policies that form part of their contract with the University.

The changes also apply to students continuing on their programmes of study.

Summary of Revisions to the University Calendar: General Regulations for 2023-24

The most significant changes to the University Calendar: General Regulations for 2023-24 are summarised in each section below.

Study Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes / Study Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes	
3.1.5	Addition to clarify the University's position on 'fit to sit' in that by submitting an assessment a student confirms that there is no reason why their performance would be adversely affected.
Academic Appeal Regulations (Taught Programmes)	
1.8.2	Addition to stipulate that students who are unable to engage with the appeals procedure will also be deemed unfit to study and will be required to undertake a period of temporary withdrawal.
Conduct Regulations	
9.1.2 (vi)	Amendment to allow Accommodation to apply a penalty of up to £500 in line with Conduct Regulation 6.2, Offences 1-4 for uncontested offences.
Procedures for Dealing with Academic Offences	
1.6/4.3.2	Addition to stipulate that a student may be suspended from placement, where a case is sufficiently serious.

Exceptional Circumstances Procedure	
4	Addition of the stipulation that the Exceptional Circumstances Procedure should not be used if a student has attempted the assessment, unless they experienced significant disruption in an examination.
5.1	Addition to allow students to self-verify their application up to a maximum period of seven calendar days (with the exception of disruption during an examination).
6.2	Consistent deadline for all exceptional circumstances applications of three working days after the deadline or date of assessment.
8.1	Change to grant specific authority for School Exceptional Circumstances Committees to permit extensions to the original deadline for continuous assessment/coursework, up to a maximum period of 14 calendar days for standard continuous assessment/coursework and 28 calendar days for dissertations/larger projects.
10	Addition of set thresholds to enable Schools to consistently monitor repeated exceptional circumstances applications, and consider students for an Assessment Support Check-in.
Guidance on Acceptable Exceptional Circumstances and Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the description of bereavement to allow discretion depending on impact. • Inclusion of 'IT and/or computer failure during an online examination' as normally acceptable and provision of guidance on acceptable evidence. • Inclusion of 'exam stress' as not normally acceptable as this is a common experience for students. • Inclusion of 'transport issues' as not normally acceptable as it is the student's responsibility to ensure that appropriate travel arrangements are in place.
Guidelines on Support for Short-term Impairments	
	Clarity on what constitutes a short-term impairment,

	expanding this from physical injuries to encompass any short-term impairment which is likely to impact the student for more than one month and less than 12 months.
--	---