

Adaptation Addendum

Academic Year 2021-2022

Introduction

The government's intention is that work placements, exams and assessments will take place in the academic year 2021 to 2022, therefore moving away from results being based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) used in 2020 to 2021, where this was permitted. This is because assessments and exams continue to be the fairest way for students to evidence what they know, all other things being equal.

The government recognises, however, that students who will be taking exams and assessments have experienced significant disruption to their education and that these students may also need continued support in the face of any further disruption.

We recognise that students who will be taking exams and assessments in 2021 to 2022 have had significant disruption to their education since March 2020, and we remain committed in continuing to support students in the face of any further disruption.

In the academic year of 2021 to 2022 under the 'Vocational and Technical Qualifications Contingency Regulatory Framework' (VCRF) all qualifications will move into Category A. This means all assessments are expected to continue but we are permitted to continue to make adaptations to assessments and qualifications to take account of the ongoing impact of the pandemic, where we can do so without undermining the validity and reliability of our qualifications.

Students must only access permitted adaptations where they are needed to mitigate the impact of learning loss, continued disruption and / or ongoing public health restrictions. This will be monitored through our external quality assurance process to support the validation of any adaptations adopted, ensuring they are not applied where not needed. Where adaptations are applied unnecessarily, centres may be given an action or downgraded in their EQA reviews, therefore be sure to check with your allocated EQA on the application of any adaptations.

This addendum contains further information on what specific adaptations are permitted for this qualification in the academic year of 2021 to 2022, please see further details below.

Assessment adaptation

No.	Assessment	2021/2022 Academic Year Adaptations
1	Internal assessment: knowledge	<p>All content must be delivered, and all assessment criteria assessed.</p> <p>Internal assessment can be undertaken remotely for Students, where required and where possible. We will also continue to offer remote EQA reviews. Further guidance on how to prepare for this can be found here.</p> <p>We believe that the flexibilities that centres already have with respect to the types of evidence they may use to meet knowledge-based assessment criteria, are sufficient to enable most Students to continue to mitigate the ongoing Covid-related risks. This includes the continuation of the use of alternative assessment methods or evidence where needed or required. You can find further advice and guidance on the preparation of portfolios of evidence here.</p> <p>To support with learning loss, remote learning where required or where centres may experience continued or localised disruption to learning, we've created guidance to support a more streamlined approach to assessment and to increase flexibility. We have updated our guidance here and continue to permit the use of 'centre devised assessments'.</p> <p>We would also encourage centres to consider how they might use alternative and/or digital solutions to gather and store evidence including, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • centre-set short response or multiple-choice tests • professional discussion recordings • annotated learning plans <p>To support with learning loss, we have developed free virtual reality online resources in the subject areas of pregnancy and nursery care, which can be accessed from the following links:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NurseryVue is a free, virtual reality immersive experience for all Early Years Students and trainee Childcare and Nursery Assistants. It helps to understand the health and safety factors involved in working with children in a nursery, with our NurseryVue app (currently available for desktop viewing for both PC and Mac). NurseryVue provides an accurate, true-to-life picture of what it's like to work in a nursery setting. • PregnancyVue is a free, virtual reality fully immersive 3D learning experience of its kind. It helps to develop understanding of child development from conception to birth with our PregnancyVue app. A virtual reality (VR) experience designed in consultation with Students, tutors and subject specialists that gives the clearest picture of the pregnancy journey for both mother and child. <p>Where applicable, adaptations should also be applied in line with the 'HSC, Early Years and Childcare - Joint AO Adaptation Guidance' which can be found in the adaptation section of the qualification webpage when available.</p>
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Information in this qualification adaptation addendum is correct at the time of publishing but may be subject to change.

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