



BPSA Covid-19 Statement:

No-detriment Policies for MPharm Students

We are aware that in the last few days many universities have announced a no-detriment policy surrounding this semester's summative assessments. A no-detriment policy ensures a student's degree class cannot be negatively affected by their performance in assessments completed during the current period of disruption. Instead students are simply required to pass any 'core' assessment items. This means that students can still improve upon their degree class, but should they perform worse than their average performance across the course, their degree class cannot be lowered. Currently, some universities have stated that their policy does not cover students that are on courses regulated by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body, such as the MPharm degree.

During these unprecedented times, Pharmacy students are being asked to work under new, challenging conditions. Whilst we appreciate that universities are doing all that they can to adapt to remote teaching, and are changing their assessments accordingly, we have received reports of students facing less than optimal study conditions. These include, but are not limited to; additional caring responsibilities, reduced access to resources, and increased stress and anxiety. It is hoped that adapted assessments will appropriately measure a student's academic ability, however it is our belief that when students are sitting these assessments in different home environments, the outcome may not be completely fair, or representative of their ability.

This is why the BPSA feels that Pharmacy students deserve to have a safety net put in place to protect the degree classification that they have worked so hard towards achieving. This is particularly true for 4th year students who are already missing out on the final moments of their time at University. Some Pharmacy Schools have already announced that their students are protected by their university's policy, therefore, it is our understanding that applying such a policy is not a regulatory issue. We urge all Schools of Pharmacy to relieve their students' stress and anxieties by ensuring that they are covered by an equivalent policy.

Kind Regards,

Regan McCahill
President 2019 - 2020