



Statement: Covid-19: Non-Detriment Policies – BPS Accredited Undergraduate Degrees

There have been some concerns raised by providers of BPS accredited programmes over the application of *non-detriment* policies where they cannot be confident that the BPS minimum standards of accreditation nor the GBC learning outcomes will be achieved, especially if students are allowed to condone one or more units with a mark of less than 40%. The application of such a policy in this way might actually disadvantage students when going on to further study or training in psychology domains/related fields.

Concerns have also been raised where condoning any core *Research Methods* units at Level 5 could impact the student's ability to successfully complete their Empirical Project (Dissertation unit) at Level 6 which of course students are required to pass to meet the minimum standards of accreditation required for the award of a BPS accredited degree and eligibility for GBC.

In response to this, the UEC are requesting that all providers take into consideration the following:

Where the student has achieved their degree/or are on target to achieve their degree at 2:2 (or above – basically 40% pass for their units) and passed their Empirical project (if completed) before any *non-detriment* policy has been applied then condoning the lower grade units should not be an issue (basically counting the best 80% to determine the overall grade).

If a *non-detriment* policy is being applied and 40 credits are permitted to be condoned, where a 40% pass rate has not been achieved in certain GBC units, then this could be problematic and here are two examples:

Example One:

If 40 credits are permitted to be condoned and the undergraduate programme has a *Research Methods* Unit at Level 5 which is 30 credits. If this unit is condoned then progression onto level 6 and the necessary underpinning for their research project may not have been sufficient. If the student then fails their research project at Level 6 this cannot be condoned and the student would not then be eligible to receive their 'accredited' degree.

Example Two:

Where the undergraduate programme has a GBC *Bio Psychology* Module at Levels 5/6 which is 20 credits. If this module is condoned across levels and the student is awarded an 'accredited' degree; should the student then be accepted onto a Stage One accredited Health psychology programme, the necessary underpinning for their progression into Health psychology may not have been established and they may struggle to undertake and achieve their qualification.

In both examples, the *non-detriment* policy has been detrimental to the student's progression.

Therefore, it is strongly advised that *non-detriment* policies are applied carefully and sensibly, with student learning experience and their progression in mind. It is vitally important that GBC is covered and that students are not being set up to fail at any later stage in their progression.