BIMM INSTITUTE

INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

PERFORMERS COLLEGE

Covid-19 No Detriment Policy

Approved: April 2020

Approved by: Academic Board (Chair's Action)

Next review due: April 2021

Introduction

In order to manage the extraordinary circumstances that have followed from the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Institute has taken steps to provide the best opportunity for students to enable them to complete the 2019/20 academic year, submit their best possible work and either progress to the next level of their course or graduate.

Government advice to close colleges and facilities to staff and students has meant that the physical learning and teaching resources we would normally provide students to complete their practical assessments are no longer accessible, and we do not know how long these closures will last.

The key principle established in considering how to provide students with opportunities to continue with their studies is that of ensuring that the alternative assessments will meet the intended learning outcomes for modules and courses. However, in some cases the assessments themselves may differ significantly from those originally published in course handbooks and module guides.

Overarching Principles

- The maintenance of academic standards and the fairness, rigour and transparency of assessment, whilst also ensuring that students and staff stay healthy and safe.
- The provision of online delivery and support to guide students through the module content and support them to understand revised assessments where these are necessary.
- The provision of software resources and support to enable students to complete assessment for all modules.
- The revision of specific assessment briefs and marking criteria to enable students to complete assessments with the resources available to them and in a format that can be delivered and assessed online.
- The provision of clear guidance to students and staff on the way that revised assessments will be marked.
- The publication of revised guidance to students and staff on how mitigation claims will be dealt with in a manner streamlined to be most accessible and effective during the current situation.

Revised Mitigation Guidance

The Institute has taken the decision to relax processes on mitigation in light of how much more difficult it has become to get medical evidence to support claims to Mitigating Evidence Committees.

Student Support Teams remain the main point of contact for all student queries relating to mitigating circumstances. They will work with students to ensure they are not disadvantaged if they are unable to complete assessments due to sudden or unforeseen circumstances and are unable to get evidence at this extraordinary time.

To help minimise a build-up of assessment deadlines for students, the Institute will aim to communicate the outcome of mitigation claims within one week of receipt and (in the majority of cases) will set a new submission deadline two weeks from that communication.

Option to Defer Final Year Modules

In order to provide students with the opportunity to present their best work for their final year assessments, students will have the opportunity to *either* complete all of their Level 6 modules through the alternative forms of assessment in accordance with the principles set out above, *or* to defer submission until January 2021 of the remaining assessments from a prescribed set of 6 modules in order to complete the original assessment task.

- *Either,* students can defer their original assessment (A2 or final) until January 2021 for the following 40-credit final project modules:
    - Professional Project
    - Production Project
    - Performance Project

  Students will be required to provide evidence (either through their A1 proposal or having completed work to this point) to support their request to defer the module. The evidence will need to demonstrate that a student is unable to complete their 40-credit final project module due to the limitations for collaboration or access to technology resulting from our colleges being closed and the restrictions to movement.

- *Or*, students can defer their assessment (A2 or final) in *one or both* of the following 20-credit modules for Professional Musicianship & Songwriting students, due to the ensemble or live performance elements required in the assessment:
    - Ensemble Performance
    - Solo Performance

N.B.: Students can only defer ***a maximum of 40 credits*** *so, for example, a Professional Musicianship student who elects to defer the Professional Project module may not also defer Ensemble Performance.*

In all six modules listed above, online delivery of teaching and learning will continue during Term 3, and learning will be completed by the end of that Term. Students who opt to defer a module or modules will engage in independent study between the end of Term 3 and their deferred assessment. This is to ensure parity with students who do not defer assessment and submit in May or June 2020.

If colleges remain closed from November 2020 or countries/territories continue to be under lockdown, the Institute will decide by 9th November 2020 if students who took up the module deferral option will need to complete their assessment online (as per the alternative assessment mode taken by students during Term 3) in January 2021.

Students who opt to defer up to 40 credits will still be considered a student of the Institute until they complete their studies and will be permitted to use Institute facilities in order to complete assessments.

Degree Calculation for Current Level 6 Students

In order that current Level 6 students do not experience detriment in the classification of their degree, their classification will be determined as follows:

- The current 40:60 weighting between Level 5 and Level 6, as set out in our regulations, with the caveat that, if required, a student's Grand Mean will be adjusted so it is no lower than their Level 5 Stage Mean.
  This revised Grand Mean will be used for determining award classification, but module and assessment marks will remain unaltered. The student transcript will clearly state how and why the Grand Mean has been adjusted.

Degree Calculation for Current Level 5 Students

In order that current Level 5 students do not experience detriment in the classification of their degree in 2020/21, their classification will be determined on the highest of the following two calculations:

- The current 40:60 weighting between Level 5 marks and Level 6 marks.
- The Level 6 Stage Mean.