



Guide to Students on the Undergraduate Framework 2023/24

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Term Dates

The undergraduate academic year runs across two semesters. Each semester includes an examination period and Semester One includes a Special Projects and Activities week (SPA week).

Semester One

Description	Dates
Moving in Weekend	23 September 2023 – 24 September 2023
Welcome Week	25 September 2023 – 29 September 2023
Semester One	2 October 2023 – 9 February 2024
Reading Week	6 November 2023 – 10 November 2023
Winter Vacation	16 December 2023 – 7 January 2024
Resumption of Semester One	8 January 2024

Semester Two

Description	Dates
Semester Two Teaching and Induction	19 February 2024 – 14 June 2024
Spring Vacation	29 March 2024 – 14 April 2024
Resumption of Semester Two	15 April 2024

Full term dates for the academic year can be found [online](#).

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Levels, Credits and Modules

Levels

Undergraduate teaching at Bath Spa University is delivered at the following levels. These levels reflect the year of study that you are taking.

Integrated Foundation year

Level	Year
Level F	Year 0

BA/BSc (Hons) degree

Level	Year
Level 4	Year 1
Level 5	Year 2
Level 6	Year 3

Foundation degree

Level	Year
Level 4	Year 1
Level 5	Year 2

Credits

You are required to successfully complete and pass 120 credits at each level in order to complete that level.

Credits are achieved by passing modules. **All assessment items within a module must achieve the minimum pass mark of 40 in order for the module to be passed.** If any assessment items within a module are failed (with no further attempts for reassessment

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available), the module will be failed. An opportunity will usually be given to retake the module (or an equivalent) with teaching in order to redeem the failed credits. Please review the [Progression rules](#).

Modules will usually be worth 20 credits (or multiples thereof). The number of credits that a module is worth is indicated by the last digits of the module code e.g., for BMA4005-**20**, the module is worth 20 credits.

Your award, degree and route (i.e., single, joint) determines the combination of modules available to you.

Modules are classed in the following ways:

Module Type	Description
Core	Must be taken and passed by all students on a programme. A minimum of 40 credits at each of level 4 and 5 must be identified as core. Core modules will normally be delivered as one 20 credit module in each semester of the academic year
Required	Must be taken and passed by all students on a particular route or pathway
Required*	Modules within a defined list, from which a selection must be taken and passed by students on a particular route or pathway
Optional	Subject-specific and count towards the credit you must pass in order to be awarded a particular degree
Open	Options from a defined list of modules available across the University

Full-time and Part-time students

If you are a **full-time student**, you should study a total of 120 credits per year, which would normally comprise studying 60 credits in each semester. (Please note that you may be required to study 120 credits as a full-time student, alongside referred or deferred assessments. Please refer to the [Progression rules](#) for further details).

If you are a **part-time student**, you should study a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits per academic year. These modules can be taken in either

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semester. (Please note that you may be required to study 20 credits as a part-time student, alongside referred or deferred assessments. Please refer to the [Progression rules](#) for further details).

Length of Study / Registration Period

Courses have a minimum and maximum period of registration. Courses should be completed within the maximum time scale specified below:

BA/BSc (Hons):

Mode of Study	Minimum	Maximum
Full-time	3 years	6 years
Part-time	5 years	8 years

BA/BSc (Hons) with Professional Placement Year:

Mode of Study	Minimum	Maximum
Full-time	4 years	7 years
Part-time	6 years	9 years

Foundation Degrees:

Mode of Study	Minimum	Maximum
Full-time	2 years	4 years
Part-time	3 years	6 years

Types of Awards

Single Honours BA/BSc (Hons)

You are required to successfully complete 360 credits, of which a minimum of 200 credits across levels 5 and 6 must be in your degree subject.

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A minimum of 40 credits in your degree subject is required at Level 4, although some programmes may require up to 120 credits to be taken within the degree subject.

Combined Awards BA/BSc (Hons)

Some subjects are available as Combined Awards. You are required to successfully complete 360 credits as per the tables below:

Joint (Subject A and Subject B)

Level	Credits
Level 4	Normally a minimum of 40 credits in each subject
Level 5	Normally 60 credits in both subjects
Level 6	Normally 60 credits in both subjects

BA or BSc

If you are studying a combination which comprises one subject designated as Science (normally indicated as BSc) and the other designated as Arts (normally indicated as BA), the degree awarded (BA or BSc) will be determined by the designation in which the greater proportion of credit has been achieved. Where the balance is exactly half of each subject, you will be offered the option of **either** a BSc **or** a BA award for the designation of your award.

Pathways

Named pathways, e.g., Business and Management (Accounting), are only available on single honours awards.

A minimum of 40 credits at each of levels 5 and 6 must be pathway specific.

Honours Degree with Professional Placement Year

A Professional Placement Year will comprise a single 120-credit module and will take place between Levels 5 and 6. This module will be assessed at Level 5 and will be Pass/Fail only.

Foundation Degrees

You should successfully complete 240 credits, of which a minimum of 100 credits at Level 5 must be in your degree subject.

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A minimum of 40 credits in your degree subject is required at Level 4, although some programmes may require up to 120 credits to be taken within the degree subject.

Integrated Foundation Year (Level F)

You should successfully complete **120 credits** in order to be eligible to progress onto Level 4 (Year 1) of a BA/BSc (Hons) degree. No Level F credit can be trailed alongside Level 4 (Year 1).

Top-up Year for Honours Degree/Level 6 Direct Entry

For students eligible to enter directly into Level 6. The top-up year will comprise 120 credits, of which a minimum of 100 credits must be at Level 6 and in the degree subject.

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Progression and Award Classifications

Progression rules

In order to progress onto the next level of your course, you are required to have passed a minimum of 80 credits (Level 4 to Level 5) or 200 credits (Level 5 to Level 6). *Please note that if you have any Level 4 credits outstanding by the end of Level 5, you will not be able to progress into Level 6 until the outstanding Level 4 credits has been successfully passed.*

Number of failed credits	Progression rule
20-40 credits	Progress onto the next level of your course and retake failed credits with attendance
60 credits	You will not be able to progress, instead you will need to return to the University as a part-time student and retake failed credits with attendance
80 or more credits at one level	You will not be permitted to progress onto the next level of your course and will be excluded from your course

Number of referred or deferred credits	Progression rule
20-40 credits	You will be able to progress onto the next level of your course and you will be asked to complete and submit any outstanding assessments alongside the next level of your course
60 credits or more	You will be required to take a Progression Break from your studies in order to complete and submit your outstanding assessments

Please access the following link for further details regarding [Progression rules](#).

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How we calculate your final award classification

BA or BSc Honours

If you are studying for either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree, the final degree mark for all Honours degrees will be calculated from the **best 100 credits at both Level 5 (Year 2) and Level 6 (Year 3)**. These marks will be weighted at **30% from level 5 (Year 2)** and **70% from Level 6 (Year 3)**.

Only your grades at Levels 5 and 6 contribute to your final award classification (120 credits of Level 4 modules must be successfully completed and passed, but Level 4 grades are not included when calculating your final award).

Classification	Percentage ranges
First Class (1st)	70.00% and above
Upper Second Class (2:1)	60.00 - 69.99%
Lower Second Class (2:2)	50.00 - 59.99%
Third Class (3rd)	40.00 - 49.99%
Fail	39.99% and below

Foundation Degree

The final degree mark for a Foundation Degree will be calculated from the best 100 credits at Level 5 (Year 2).

Classification	Percentage ranges
Distinction	70.00% and above
Merit	60.00 - 69.99%
Pass	40.00 - 59.99%
Fail	39.99% and below

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Top-up Year

If you are completing a Top-up Year to obtain a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree with honours, your final award will be calculated from the best 100 credits at Level 6 (Year 3). Any credits achieved prior to the Top-up Year will not be included in the calculation of your degree mark.

How we calculate final awards using credits from prior learning/overseas study

Credit for prior learning at other institutions is regarded solely on a pass/fail basis and you will not be awarded a grade for prior learning.

What happens if you take a Level 5 (Year 2) overseas placement for half the year?

Your overall mark for Level 5 (Year 2) is the mean percentage of all 60 credits taken during the semester at Bath Spa University. Level 5 (Year 2) grades contribute to 30% of your final degree.

What happens if you take a Level 5 (Year 2) overseas placement for the full year?

You will gain credit for the modules passed, but no marks. Your degree will be classified using the best 100 credits successfully completed at Level 6 (Year 3).

What happens if you take a Level 6 (Year 3) overseas placement for half the year?

Your overall mark for year 3 is the mean percentage of all 60 credits taken during the semester at Bath Spa University. Level 6 (Year 3) grades contribute to 70% of your final degree.

What happens if you take a Level 6 (Year 3) overseas placement for the full year?

You will gain credit for the modules passed, but no marks. Your degree will be classified using the best 100 credits taken at Level 5 (Year 2).

Exit Awards

If you withdraw from the University before completing your registered award, or you fail to pass with sufficient credit for your registered award, you may be eligible for an Exit Award. Please note that, if you are awarded a CertHE or DipHE, you will not be eligible to attend graduation.

You may be eligible for one of the following Exit Awards, provided you have met the requirements outlined below*:

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Exit Award (please refer to the Qualifications Credit Framework)	Number of successfully completed credits
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	Minimum of 120 credits at Level 4
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	Minimum of 240 credits, of which a minimum of 100 credits must be at Level 5
Ordinary Degree	Minimum of 300 credits, of which a minimum of 60 credits must be at Level 6

*Direct-entry Level 6 students are not eligible for exit awards

Exit Awards for Foundation Degree candidates

If you choose to withdraw from the University before completing your full award or if you fail to successfully complete your studies, you may be eligible for a **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)**, provided you have met the award requirements.

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Timetabling

Teaching Times

Teaching will normally be scheduled within the following times:

Days	Time
Monday - Thursday	09.00 to 19.00 hours
Friday	09.00 to 18.00 hours

Module Choices

You should be enrolled on a total of 120 credits-worth of modules across each academic year. You should have a total of 60 credits in Semester 1 and a total of 60 credits in Semester 2.

Core modules are compulsory and automatically selected for you. You are required to choose the remainder of your modules online.

Year of study	When to choose your modules
Year 1 (Level 4)	Normally prior to or during the first week of Semester 1
Years 2 and 3 (Levels 5 and 6)	Normally before the end of your current academic year

Incorrect module selection

If you think you have incorrectly selected a module choice online, please seek advice from your Subject Leaders and contact us via [MyServices](#).

Changing modules

It is normally only possible to change modules **within the first two weeks** of each semester.

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Changing timetables

Where a module only offers one session of delivery in a week, e.g., a Lecture, the Timetabling Team will be unable to change this timeslot on your timetable.

Where a module offers more than one session of delivery in a week, for example, multiple Seminar groups to accommodate a large cohort, you may request to change sessions, provided you have a valid reason.

Valid reasons include:

- Students with responsibilities as a carer or parent;
- Students with recurring medical appointments;
- Students with certain religious beliefs;
- Students with a commitment to an employer already entered into before timetables are published and which cannot be easily altered (evidence must be provided).

Upon providing a valid reason, the Timetabling Team will only move you if there is room in the timetabled activity that you wish to move to and in the case that any move does not then cause a clash with other activities on your timetable.

Transfer of Award

If you are considering changing your award, please be aware that this can only be requested during the **first two weeks of the academic year** and may not be possible if you have not completed the 'core/required/required*' modules from the new course you wish to transfer to.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible to transfer course, please contact us via [MyServices](#) and complete the 'Transfer of Award' form.

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Assessments

Completing assessments ensures that students are attaining the learning outcomes of their modules and the overall aims of their award.

Details of module assessments are published in the Guides to Modules (please visit [MyServices – Module Selection](#)) and in individual module documentation (the module descriptor, the module handbook and Ultra).

Types of Assessment

Types of assessments may include:

- Coursework (such as an essay), composition, seminar presentation or seminar folder and practical work.
- A performance or an exhibition.

Assessment may be 'formative' or 'summative'. Feedback from formative assessment will help you prepare for summative assessment, but will not count towards the credits for your module. Marks for summative assessments will count towards the credits for your module. Summative assessment weightings will add up to 100% (e.g., 001 Essay - 2,000 words: 60%, Group presentation - 15 minutes: 40%).

Where practical, all work submitted for assessment is anonymous unless the nature of the work makes this impossible; for example, a performance piece.

Coursework and examinations may be subject to internal and external moderation.

Assessment Submission Guidelines:

You must:

- Meet all coursework deadlines
- Hand in coursework according to the instructions that you have received
- Submit an electronic version of your coursework via Ultra using the TurnitinUK process for text-based submissions (if you are having difficulties submitting your coursework via Ultra, please send an electronic version by email to your module tutor prior to the submission deadline and report the issue to IT Services)
- Keep an electronic copy or photocopy of all submitted work. Work is sometimes sent to external examiners for scrutiny, with the result that you may not receive the original versions back in time for revision purposes
- Back up your work on a hard drive.

If you miss a deadline

If you miss a coursework deadline (unless you have arranged an approved extension), the following penalties will apply:

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- Work handed in after the deadline, but before the cut-off date (usually one week later), will be given a maximum score of 40 (pass mark)
- Work handed in after the cut-off date will be marked zero (fail).

How to arrange an extension

Contact your module leader to request an extension in advance of the coursework deadline. You should provide a valid reason for requesting an extension e.g., illness, and you may be required to support your claim with evidence.

Complete the Extension Request Form available from the [Extensions and Exceptional Circumstances](#) webpages and send the completed form directly to your module tutor.

The normal extension period is a week, however, this period can be extended at a module leader's discretion.

If an extension is agreed, your module leader will agree a new submission date with you and you should submit the outstanding work by this new deadline.

Module pass mark

The pass mark for all modules is 40.

All assessment items within a module must achieve a minimum mark of 40 before the module can be successfully completed.

If you fail an assessment

If you fail an assessment item, this cannot be compensated by achieving a higher mark on another assessment item within the module. Successfully passing one module cannot compensate for failure in another module.

If you fail an assessment item, the mark for any assessment item that you pass following reassessment will be capped at 40 (referred).

If you fail the reassessment attempt, the module will then be deemed failed. You will usually be given the opportunity to retake the module (or an equivalent) with attendance to redeem the failed credit.

PLEASE NOTE: reassessment is not available to improve upon a mark or grading above the pass level required for an award and you cannot repeat a successfully passed module nor study additional modules in an attempt to improve your results.

Publication of results

All marks are provisional until confirmed following the completion of the University's Central Assessment Board processes. Results will be available on the scheduled publication dates as listed on the Central Assessment Board Schedules available on the [Policies](#) page of the University's website. Your results will be emailed to your Bath Spa

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University email address and your personal email address on the scheduled publication date and will include a link to your transcript and to the ResultsHub, showing all confirmed marks to date.

Academic Judgement

Academic judgement is defined as a judgement that is made about a matter where only the opinion of an academic expert will suffice.

If you are uncertain why you have received a particular outcome or mark, you should contact your module tutor for further feedback and clarification.

The marking, assessing, and grading of a piece of work is an academic judgement, and as such it is not possible for you to make an appeal against this judgement on the grounds that you simply disagree with it. This is because robust mechanisms exist within the University to ensure that standards are fair and appropriate. Further details of what constitutes a valid Appeal are available on the [Appeals Procedure](#) pages.

Marking is conducted carefully and is subject to internal moderation and samples are checked by External Examiners, who oversee the assessment process. Further information about the assessment of students at Bath Spa University can be found in the [Assessment and Feedback Policy](#).

Attendance and Engagement

Engagement is key to your success in your studies. Attendance is closely monitored to help identify and support students who are at risk of academic failure.

For further details regarding Student Engagement and Attendance, please visit [MyServices – Attendance and Engagement](#) and [Student Engagement](#).

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Exceptional Circumstances

Exceptional Circumstances are unforeseen or unpreventable circumstances that significantly affect your performance in an assessment. Exceptional Circumstances are based on a 'Fit to Sit/Submit' principle. When you submit an assessment or take part in an assessed performance or presentation, then you are declaring that you are fit to do so. If you submit coursework or take part in an assessment performance or presentation, you cannot later claim that your performance was affected by exceptional circumstances.

If you are unwell or have personal problems that are affecting your academic performance, you should consider whether a short extension will help you to complete the assessment and you should submit an Extensions Request Form to your module tutor to request an extension to the submission deadline. If, however, you feel that you are eligible to submit Exceptional Circumstances to defer your coursework to the next assessment point in the academic year, you should complete the Exceptional Circumstances form, which is available on the [My Services – Exceptional Circumstances](#) page.

Exceptional Circumstances claims should be submitted as close as possible to the date of the affected assessment. Claims should not be submitted so far in advance that the impact of the Exceptional Circumstances cannot be assessed.

You may apply for Exceptional Circumstances for more than one module if the same circumstances have affected more than one assessment. The claim form must clearly explain the details of the circumstances, which assessments or modules have been affected, and how these circumstances have affected your performance.

Exceptional Circumstances do not excuse you from completing assessments. You are still required to demonstrate that you can achieve the required learning outcomes to pass each module and can meet the programme requirements for progression or award.

For guidance on examples of eligible Exceptional Circumstances and the Exceptional Circumstances policy, please visit the [Exceptional Circumstances Policy](#) page.

Please note that Exceptional Circumstances claims usually only defer your assessment deadline(s) to the next reassessment submission point and do not “blanket” cover the remainder of the academic year. If you feel that you have valid grounds for an Exceptional Circumstances claim to defer your assessment deadline(s) further than the next reassessment submission point, you will be required to submit a new Exceptional Circumstances claim by the deadline for the next reassessment submission date. The Reassessment Submission dates are available in the Central Assessment Board schedules on the University's [Policies](#) pages.

All claims for Exceptional Circumstances are treated as confidential.

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Claims for Exceptional Circumstances will initially be considered by Student and Registry Services. Incomplete claims (e.g., those without a completed claim form) will not be considered.

Where the claim is accepted and forwarded for approval, a decision will be made and may, in certain cases, be escalated to the Assistant Registrar or nominee. You will be notified of the outcome of this initial consideration by email to your University email address. The outcome of this initial consideration will be either to approve your claim or to notify you that your claim has been escalated to the Exceptional Circumstances Panel.

The Exceptional Circumstances Panel will meet regularly during the academic year to consider and discuss more complex claims which are escalated to the full Panel meeting. Membership of the Exceptional Circumstances Panel will be appropriately representative, qualified and experienced, and gender balanced as far as possible.

The Panel may recommend that you are referred to [Student Wellbeing Services](#) or to the Progress team. You may also be advised to consider taking a Study Break if a substantial amount of teaching and assessment has been or is likely to be missed.

Decisions of the Exceptional Circumstances Panel will be notified to you by email to your University email address.

Retrospective Exceptional Circumstances

If you wish to submit a retrospective or late Exceptional Circumstances claim, please submit via MyServices **within 10 working days** of the date of the receipt of your official University results email, along with a clear explanation as to why you were unable to submit a claim by the original deadline.

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Study Support

There are many ways of accessing support and advice at Bath Spa University.

Student Information Team

The Student Information Team can help with any type of queries or questions including:

- Course regulations
- Timetabling queries
- Exceptional Circumstances
- Assessment and progression queries
- Signposting to other services within the University.

Contact the Student Information Team via [MyServices](#), by phone on 01225 876 115 or by visiting the Student Information Team in Twiverton, Newton Park.

Academic Advisor

You will be assigned an Academic Advisor, who is normally affiliated to your course of study. Academic Advisors will meet with you throughout the academic year and will offer pastoral support. Further details regarding Academic Advisors are available on the [Academic Advisors](#) pages.

Course Director, Subject Leader or Module Tutor

Your course director, subject leader or module tutor may be able to answer questions about your academic study and the options available to you.

Progress Team

You may be referred to the Progress Team, who can help you plan your assessments, create an assessment action plan and meet with you on a regular basis to support you with your studies.

Student Engagement

You may be contacted by the Student Engagement team, who can help to support you if your attendance and engagement at the University starts to decline.

Student Wellbeing Services

[Student Wellbeing Services](#) provides a wide range of information, advice and guidance, allowing you to fulfil your potential whilst at Bath Spa University.

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Student Wellbeing covers 3 key areas:

- Accessibility & Disability;
- Mental Health & Wellbeing;
- Money Advice & Engagement.
- Website: <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/students/student-wellbeing-services/>
- [MyWellbeing log-in](#)

Academic Skills Service (ASk)

The ASk team operates online services and offers appointments with advisors.

The ASk team provides the following support services:

- All types of academic writing
- Referencing
- Digital literacy
- Academic reading
- Critical thinking
- Making the transition to university study
- Returning to study after a break
- Maths and Statistics

The ASk team's contact details are:

- Email: academicskills@bathspa.ac.uk
- Website: <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/students/ask/?platform=hootsuite>

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Academic Misconduct

Bath Spa University is clear that all students will be judged on their own ability and that all assessment work submitted must be original. Academic Misconduct is defined as any activity used by a student which provides them with an unfair academic advantage over others. Academic Misconduct is sometimes called 'unfair practice', 'plagiarism' or 'cheating'. Any academic work submitted which suggests that there is an intention to deceive in any way may be regarded as Academic Misconduct.

Academic Misconduct is different from Poor Academic Practice, which the University defines as a minor breach of standard academic conventions, such as poorly attributed or incorrect referencing, or limited over-reliance on reference material, usually resulting from a misunderstanding or lack of confidence in conventions and where there is clearly no intention to deceive. Poor academic practice will be dealt with as part of the marking and feedback process as it represents a failure to follow assessment and marking criteria.

You are expected to present your own words, your own analysis and your own argument. It is acceptable to use the work of others to support arguments and analysis, and tutors will be able to inform you as to what constitutes good practice and to give help with subjects such as referencing and the provision of footnotes. If you are in any doubt about what constitutes good practice rather than plagiarism, you should consult your tutors for advice.

For details of Bath Spa University's Academic Misconduct policy, examples of Academic Misconduct and confirmation of the range of penalties for Academic Misconduct, please consult the [Academic Misconduct](#) pages.

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Appeals and Complaints

Every student registered at Bath Spa University and at our partner institutions has the right to appeal or make a formal complaint.

What's the difference between an appeal and a complaint?

The Appeals procedure concerns assessments and results and students are eligible to submit a Stage One: Formal Appeals claim up to **15 working days** after the receipt of the official results email detailing the decision against which the student wishes to appeal. The Complaints procedure is broader, covering any aspect of the student experience at Bath Spa University and our partner institutions.

Can I get help to make an appeal or complaint?

You can approach a [Students' Union](#) representative or your Academic Advisor for support with an Appeal claim or a Complaint.

Appeals

What are accepted grounds for appeal?

Every student has the right to appeal, but you may only appeal if you feel you meet one or more of these accepted grounds:

- That there is evidence of an administrative error in the assessment process, to the extent that the assessment outcome would likely have been different had the error not occurred;
- That there is evidence that the assessment of the programme of study was not carried out in accordance with the relevant regulations or published programme material;
- That there is evidence of demonstrable prejudice or bias against the student by one or more examiners.

No other grounds for appeal (other than those listed above) are accepted, including:

- Academic judgement - this refers to judgement that is made about a matter where only the opinion of an academic expert will suffice. For example, a judgment about assessment, assessment criteria, a degree classification, fitness to practise, research methodology or course content/outcomes. (This means that a mark or outcome cannot be challenged on the grounds that, in the opinion of the student, it is not what the work deserved)
- Marginal failure to attain a higher class of degree
- Admissions decisions - please refer to the [Admissions Appeals Policy](#)
- The delivery of teaching or other services provided by the University - please refer to the [Complaints Procedure](#);
- A failure on the student's part to submit work or Exceptional Circumstances- please refer to the Fit to Sit/Submit Principle and [Exceptional Circumstances](#)

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[Policy](#) for Taught Programmes and the [Research Degrees](#) Handbook for Research Programmes

Stage One (Formal Appeal)

If you believe that you have acceptable grounds for appeal, please submit a completed [Appeals Claim Form](#) within **15 working days** from the date of being notified of the decision against which you wish to appeal by email to: appeals@bathspa.ac.uk

Stage Two (Review)

If you wish to request a review of the decision of one of the following University Panels, please submit this request and a completed Stage Two: Reviews request form to reviews@bathspa.ac.uk within **10 working days** from the date of written notification of the Stage One Panel outcome:

- Stage One: Formal Appeal Panel
- Stage One: Exceptional Circumstances Panel
- Stage One: Academic Misconduct Panel

For further details regarding Bath Spa University's Appeals procedures, please consult the [Appeals Policy](#).

Complaints

If you wish to submit a complaint, please consult the University's [Complaints Policy](#), making your complaint as detailed and precise as possible, clearly explaining the nature of the complaint, the service and/or persons involved, and specifying the desired outcome. All students must read the full [Complaints Procedure](#) document before submitting a complaint. The Procedure document contains key information such as which complaints can and cannot be considered under the procedure, who can submit a complaint, and what happens at each stage of the procedure.

Complaints must be made within three months from the date of the incident or sequence of events giving rise to the complaint.

Please consult the [Complaints](#) section of the website for further details.

Study Breaks and Withdrawal from Your Studies

Study Breaks - taking a break from your studies

Taking a Study Break is a formal way of taking a break from your studies and requests for Study Breaks will be considered for medical reasons or for other extenuating circumstances which prevent you from engaging with your course for a period up to one academic year. Study Breaks may also be approved to enable students to take advantage of opportunities related to your studies, such as internships or placements.

We would advise that you consult with either Student Wellbeing Services, your course team or your Academic Advisor about taking a break from your studies, before formally requesting to do so. If you wish to make a request for a Study Break, you will need to do so via [MyServices – Taking a Study Break](#).

We would also recommend you speak to the Finance team <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/students/student-finance/> in order to understand how taking a Study Break may affect your fee liability and finances.

Withdrawing from your course

If you are considering withdrawing from your course, we recommend that you discuss this with either the course team or your Academic Advisor before formally requesting to be withdrawn. If relevant, we also recommend that you contact Student and Wellbeing Service <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/students/student-wellbeing-services/wellbeing/> in order to establish whether there is anything that the University can do to support and help you with your reasons for wishing to withdraw.

If you have discussed your decision with your course team or Academic Advisor and still decide to leave, please contact us via [MyServices – Withdrawing from your course](#).

Please be aware that the official withdrawal date will be recorded as the date that the University receives the formal notification of withdrawal.

We would also recommend you speak to the Finance team <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/students/student-finance/> in order to understand how withdrawing from your studies may affect your fee liability and finances.

If you are staying in accommodation provided by the University, we recommend contacting our Accommodation team to understand how withdrawal may affect your living arrangements and fees. Their contact details and further information can be found on their webpages: [Accommodation](#).

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Glossary

Academic Advisor - an academic member of staff, whose contact details are provided to a student in order to allow them to act as a first point of contact for the student as well as serving as a source of advice and support

Academic judgement - an opinion in a matter where only the opinion of an academic expert will suffice

Academic Misconduct - any activity used by a student which provides them with an unfair academic advantage over others. Sometimes referred to as Unfair Practice

Academic Year - the period of time in which students attend university. Please see the Bath Spa University's [term dates](#)

Appeal - a process wherein a student can formally ask for a review of a University decision made at a Central Assessment Board

Appeals Panel - the forum in which appeals are heard and decisions regarding the appeals are confirmed

Assessment item - an individual assessment item (e.g. an essay) which contributes to the assessment of a module

Assessment-only – a year following Level 6 to complete reassessments in order to complete a full award

Award - a recognition of academic achievement, which is bestowed upon a student who has attained the required proficiency

Certificate - a document which certifies an academic award or achievement

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - a higher education qualification, which can be awarded upon achievement of 120 credits

Cheating - fraudulent activity in relation to the submission of academic work, which could take many forms, including plagiarism, collusion or the use of unauthorised notes in tests and examinations

Classification - a grading structure for undergraduate degrees. At Bath Spa University, the final degree mark for all Honours degrees will be calculated from the best 100 credits at both Level 5 (Year 2) and Level 6 (Year 3). These marks will be weighted at 30% from Level 5 and 70% from Level 6

Collusion - collaboration with others on an assessment which is meant to be an individual submission

Combined Award - a degree which comprises two subjects (Joint degree)

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Complaint - a form of feedback which can be submitted to the university and, where appropriate, a formal policy will be followed

Core module - must be taken and passed by all students in the subject

Course leader - an academic member of staff, to whom the responsibility for the academic leadership, management and assessment for a programme has been assigned

Coursework - work which is carried out by students for the purposes of learning. Coursework may or may not be credit-bearing

Credit - the academic unit which is gained upon successful completion of modules

Deadline - the date which has been specified upon which an assessment must be submitted in order for the work to be accepted and marked without restrictions

Deferred - A deferred assessment is an assessment which is normally carried over to the assessment board following the original assessment board at which the marks for the assessment would be considered. The marks for a deferred assessment will be uncapped

Degree - a qualification awarded to a student upon successful completion of a course of study

Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) - a higher education qualification, which can be awarded upon achievement of 240 credits

Dissertation - a substantial paper which usually involves original research and demonstrates a student's mastery of his or her subject and of the scholarly method

Exceptional circumstances - unforeseen or unpreventable circumstances that significantly affects a student's performance in an assessment

Exit award - a recognition of academic achievement, which is awarded to a student upon the achievement of a certain number of credits

Extension - an agreed period of time following a deadline for the submission of an assessment item, after which the assessment item should be submitted on the date of a new deadline agreed between a student and a relevant academic member of staff

Fit to Sit/Submit Principle - a principle in which the submission of an assessment or the participation in an examination is a declaration by the student that they are fit to do so

Formal teaching - academic tuition which is delivered by an academic member of staff within an education setting

Formative - a non-credit bearing form of assessment, usually conducted during academic sessions and followed by feedback being provided to a student in order to

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facilitate improvements in the student's learning

Foundation degree - a degree which is awarded upon achievement of 240 credits. The achievement of a certain number of credits at a minimum degree level is usually required. Further details are available in the [Qualifications Credit Framework](#) document

Internal moderation - a process in which assessments are checked by a number of academic members of staff, to ensure consistency in the application of academic criteria and marking practices

Lecture - an oral presentation with the intention of instruction and dissemination of knowledge

Module - discrete unit of study at a designated level, with its own objectives and outcomes, prerequisites, syllabus and scheme of assessment

Module leader - an academic member of staff, to whom the responsibility of managing the delivery and assessments of a module has been assigned

Optional module - subject specific and count towards the credit you must pass in order to be awarded a particular degree

Ordinary degree - a degree which is awarded upon achievement of 300 credits. The achievement of a certain number of credits at a minimum degree level is usually required. Further details are available in the [Qualifications Credit Framework](#) document

Open Module - outside of subject-specific credit requirement for your named degree. All students will have the opportunity to take 20 credits at levels 5 and 6 from outside their degree subject(s)

Pathway - a defined combination of modules within a route to lead to a final award. At Bath Spa University, a minimum of 40 credits at each of levels 5 and 6 must be pathway-specific in order for a named pathway to appear on an award

Personal study - study which is carried out by a student outside of formal teaching sessions. Students are expected to carry out a certain number of hours of personal study a week.

Placement - a defined period of work experience during a course of study

Plagiarism - the submission of work which is not the student's own, without appropriate referencing

Professional Placement Year - a professional placement within a working environment during the course of a degree, with the purpose of allowing students to develop skills and knowledge within an industry relevant to their degree subject

Programme of study - a coherent set of modules, chosen by the individual student in

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order to gain an award.

Progression Break – an academic year in which a student is required to take a progression break to complete 60 credits outstanding (referred or deferred) prior to progressing to their next level of study. Please see the [Progression Rules](#)

Project - a multi-faceted assignment which may be carried out individually or in groups

Publication date (results) - the date on which academic results are released to a cohort of students

Reassessment - the opportunity to re-submit an individual assessment item by a specified deadline (usually following the failure of the assessment upon initial submission)

Referred - A referred assessment is an assessment which has been failed at the first attempt and is normally due to be submitted by the deadline for the next assessment board. Marks for referred assessments are capped according to the regulations stipulated in the [Undergraduate Academic Framework](#)

Registration - the process of enrolling onto a programme of study

Required module - must be taken and passed by all students on a particular route or pathway

Required* module - modules within a defined list, from which a selection must be taken and passed by students on a particular route or pathway

Route - the combination of modules which comprise a course and, upon successful completion, lead to a final award. Some programmes offer a number of different pathways towards the final award, which allow students to choose certain specialisations

Semester - a half-year term at university

Seminar - a class composed of a group of students, usually led by an academic member of staff

Single Honours - a degree which is awarded upon achievement of 360 credits. A minimum number of credits in the degree subject will be specified, which varies from course to course

Students' Union - an organisation run by and for students. The [Students' Union](#) at Bath Spa University is a registered charity

Study Break - a period of time in which a student is officially permitted to take time away from studying on his or her academic degree

Subject leader - an academic member of staff, to whom the responsibility for the academic leadership, management and coordination of an academic subject area has

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been assigned

Submission - the handing in of an assessment, usually on a defined submission date

Summative - a credit-bearing form of assessment. The successful passing of the summative assessments defined for a module is required to enable a student to successfully pass a module. The grades from a summative assessment may contribute towards the classification of a final award

Top-up degree - a degree which usually comprises only the final year of academic study and follows on from earlier academic study or training

Transcript - a document which details a student's academic record

TurnitinUK - an internet-based plagiarism detection service

Ultra - a student and staff learning portal at Bath Spa University (VLE)

University Central Assessment Board – Central Assessment Boards within the University operate at two levels: a) Subject Boards, at which the marks for students are considered and agreed within each module and the overall module performance is discussed; and b) Central Assessment Boards, at which marks are officially ratified and, following which, results and any progression implications are officially published to students

Workshop - an interactive class session, usually involving a small number of students, with the intention to facilitate the development of specific skills