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This guidance was originally written with standard examinations in mind but also applies to online assessments following changes made to the format of assessments since Easter term 2020 because of COVID-19.

1. Rationale

This guidance outlines the system of Examination Warnings which apply to all examination candidates for the awards of B.A., B.Th., LL.M. and Diplomas and Certificates. Following the dissolution of the Board of Graduate Studies from 1 October 2020, this also applies to all examination candidates on Postgraduate taught programmes such as the MPhil by Advanced Study. They do not cover the professional medical and veterinary examinations or Preliminary Examinations for which there is no system of Examination Allowances.

The University's policy distinguishes very clearly between the role of Examiners in marking and classing candidates and the procedure for dealing with cases relating to illness or extenuating circumstances. In accordance with that policy, Examiners are not authorised, except in cases where an examination warning has been submitted for a candidate with a SpLD (Specific Learning Difficulty), to take account of any personal or individual circumstances when marking or classing the work of candidates or to adjust marks as a consequence.

2. Examination warnings

There are two types of Examination Warnings:

- those used to notify Examiners of candidates with a Specific Learning Difficulty or who are colour blind;
- candidates suffering from unexpected illness or other unexpected grave cause who are in danger of failing or underperforming as a consequence. It should not be used for students with a long term illness with no change in diagnosis.

The College is responsible for submitting the relevant Examination Warning to the Secretary of the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee. Notification of a candidate with a diagnosed Specific Learning Difficulty or who is colour blind should be submitted as soon as possible. Warnings relating to illness or grave cause should be submitted as soon as is practical or as soon as a diagnosis has been provided.

3. Procedure for dealing with Examination Warnings for candidates with a Specific Learning Difficulty

The Examination Access and Mitigation Committee will notify the Chair of Examiners of any candidates with a diagnosed SpLD, where an examination warning has been submitted or where an Exam Access Arrangement application is approved for a SpLD. Examiners are requested not to penalise minor, spelling or grammatical errors unless they form an essential part of the assessment. In all other respects, Examiners are expected to mark the work in the same way as other candidates and in accordance with the relevant marking scheme and classing criteria. The Chair/Senior Examiner is responsible for notifying the relevant Examiner or Assessor marking the candidate's scripts.

4. Procedure for dealing with Examination Warnings for candidates who are colour blind

The Examination Access and Mitigation Committee will notify the Chair of Examiners of any candidates who are colour blind and may require adjustments to their practical examination as a consequence. In such instances, the Chair of Examiners is authorised to identify appropriate adjustments in consultation with the College Director of Studies and the relevant technician responsible for setting up the practical.

5. Procedure for dealing with Examination Warnings relating to illness or other grave cause

Examination Warnings relating to illness or other grave cause will not be referred to the Examiners' Final Meeting but will be viewed by the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee if an application for an examination allowance is submitted. Unless an application is submitted, the warning will not be reviewed. Colleges should still continue to submit these warnings on-line using CamSIS and normally by no later than the last day of the student's examination.

Tutors are reminded that the Examination Warning is intended to be a mechanism whereby the College considers there is a danger of failure or underperformance as a consequence of illness or other grave cause and therefore constitutes sufficient grounds for referral to the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee.

6. Cases referred to the [Examination Access and Mitigation Committee](#)

If a student fails, the Examiners will leave the candidate's name off the Class List but will list them separately for the attention of the Secretary of the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee. The College is then responsible for making an application to the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee for an Examination Allowance.

In some cases a student may have been classed already by the Examiners – a class which could be misrepresentative - in which case the College is responsible for submitting an application to the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee for an Examination

Allowance. Providing there is tangible evidence demonstrating that the candidate was ill or suffered from other grave cause, there may be grounds for an Examination Allowance.

The Examination Access and Mitigation Committee meeting on **24 June 2022** is reserved for finalists who would otherwise not be eligible to proceed at General Admission. All other applications including non-finalists and any further applications to raise a student's class will be referred to the July meeting.

Any successful applications will be referred to the Chair of Examiners although it may take several weeks before these cases are resolved because of the need to confer with other Examiners. The Secretary of the Examination Access and Mitigation Committee will notify the College of the outcome as soon as possible and will make arrangements to issue the necessary Notice(s) in the Reporter.

Further information on this type of allowance can be found in the Guidance notes for Examination Allowances:

<https://www.student-registry.admin.cam.ac.uk/about-us/EAMC>