

Applications to extend the deadline for the submission of dissertations and other coursework

Notes for Guidance for Staff and Students 2020-21

These guidance notes are intended to complement the relevant University Ordinances. They relate to decisions taken by the Committee in 2020-21 and they do not themselves constitute a set of regulations. Nor should they be taken to imply that, given a particular set of circumstances, the Committee will automatically reach a particular decision.

The relevant Ordinances can be found online in Chapter III (Examinations) of Statutes and Ordinances. (<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/>)

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Examination Access and Mitigation Committee

The Examination Access and Mitigation Committee (EAMC) is a committee of the General Board which meets monthly throughout the year to consider applications for examination allowances and related matters. There is also a large volume of student casework undertaken under delegated authority much of which involves the expert opinion of its Medical Advisers.

Prior to October 2018, most of this work was undertaken by the Council's Standing Committee on Applications (known as the Applications Committee).

The EAMC has the following overarching aims:

- To endeavour to ensure parity of treatment between applicants to the Committee who share similar circumstances, whilst recognising that each case is individual.
- To be mindful of the interests of students **taking the same examination but** who are not applicants to the Committee.
- To ensure that, particularly in relation to disregarding terms and repeating a period of study, an applicant is **neither advantaged nor disadvantaged** in comparison with other students.

1.2 Eligibility

The EAMC considers applications from colleges on behalf of undergraduates and also on behalf of students on the following postgraduate courses: EMBA; LLM; MAST; MBA; MCL; MEng; M.Fin; MMath; MMus; MSci; PGCE.

1.3 Purpose of a deadline extension

One of the purposes of the EAMC is to consider the cases of students who, due to unexpected circumstances, are unable to complete dissertations and other coursework by the scheduled submission date. If, due to medical or grave cause the student is unable to complete coursework by the deadline given, then the college may apply on behalf of the student for an extension for a specified period of time. The following should be noted:

- Applications should demonstrate that there has been an unexpected development in the student's circumstances. Applications simply based on a long-term ongoing condition are unlikely to succeed as the expectation is that appropriate arrangements should already be in place. However, all applications, including those based on a long-term ongoing condition or disability, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Only in exceptional circumstances will an extension be granted for more than **seven days**.
- Extensions will normally allow for the coursework to be examined in time for the relevant meeting of the Board of Examiners.

2 How to make an application

The college **must** apply to the Secretary of the EAMC for an extension to a deadline and should not approach the Chair or Senior Examiner directly.

The Committee only considers applications made through the college on the student's behalf, except in the most exceptional circumstances.

The application must be complete, i.e. it must include all the required documentation, a tutorial signature and explicit confirmation as to whether or not it has the College's support, and if it does not, to confirm it has told the student so. The application may also include any additional information which the college wishes to submit.

The student may include their own statement or other supporting evidence. It is in all parties' interests that any such statement is clear and concise. The Committee regards it as good practice that the student should be fully aware of all the documentation being submitted by the College.

Where medical evidence is provided, this will be shared with the Chair and / or Senior Examiner and in some cases, the departmental administrator. Colleges should ensure that the student is aware of this distribution of evidence.

A College's application should include the following:

- a completed and signed application form;
- evidence of medical circumstances or other grave cause (note above re; distribution of evidence).
- a signed Student Declaration Form

Completed applications should be sent to the Assistant Secretary of the EAMC at eamc@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Applications **must** be at least a week before the scheduled deadline for the submission of the dissertations or other coursework to enable the Secretary to consult the relevant Chair of Examiners or, where applicable, the Senior Examiner.

Please note that in fairness to all students, the submission deadline is strictly observed and retrospective applications will not normally be considered.

Until an outcome has been determined, students should continue to work to the original submission date. There are no guarantees that any application will be approved.

If an application is not approved and the work is submitted late, then the student will be subject to any penalties ordinarily applied for late submission.

3 How the Committee considers applications

Most applications to extend the deadline for the submission of dissertations and other coursework are dealt with by authority delegated to the Chair and / or Secretary. If, however, they wish the application to be considered at a scheduled meeting, then the application will be held until the next meeting.

Applications simply based on a long term ongoing condition are unlikely to succeed as appropriate arrangements should already be in place normally as a result of a Student Support Document or AMA.

Any request for extension which would not allow for the coursework to be examined in time for the relevant meeting of a Board of Examiners is also unlikely to be approved.

For all students, study should be the primary focus of attendance. Engagement with extra-curricular activities is not prohibited and the University encourages students to have a positive work / life balance. However, it is advised that participation in extra-curricular activities should not prevent a student from meaningful engagement with their studies and / or impact the student's ability to perform academically. Applications to extend deadlines on these grounds is unlikely to be approved.

4 Review procedure

Details of the [Review Procedure](#) and form can be found online and requests for review should be submitted on the Review Request form within 14 days of the formal decision being issued. It is particularly important for this purpose that the College keep records of when it communicates the Committee's decisions to the students. In instances where the Committee has declined an application or offers an alternative to the allowance sought, it is essential that the decision is conveyed to the student as soon as possible.

The review will essentially be of a procedural nature i.e. the Reviewer will consider whether in reaching its decision(s) the Committee has observed the relevant Ordinances and these Notes of Guidance and whether or not it has come to a reasonable decision in that context. The Review Procedure is the final stage before the student may take their case to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator.

5 Key contacts

Complex queries	Jenny.green@admin.cam.ac.uk
General / preliminary queries	eamc@admin.cam.ac.uk
Making an application to the Committee	eamc@admin.cam.ac.uk