

Joint statement on policy protecting student outcomes in 2020-21

All parties recognise that all academic staff are committed to maintaining high levels of academic/teaching standards and students fully appreciate their efforts, recognising that the pandemic has brought about as much change for staff as it has for students themselves. The campaign for academic mitigation is not in contradiction of this appreciation, but rather is aiming to make results this year achievable under the adverse circumstances students face.

These adverse circumstances can comprise of – but are not limited to – lack of access to resources/equipment, as well as more personal circumstances including digital poverty*, inadequate working from home conditions, death or illness in their family or support network, or indeed their own either physical or mental health. Even outside of these situations, all students are impacted in some way by the pandemic, and it is these other factors that are underpreparing students for their assessments.

We feel positive about the progress made so far in the No Disadvantage Guarantee communicated to students on 15th January 2021. However, we continue to seek the best possible outcome on behalf of the students and additional collaboration is required to finalise these policies. Exeter UCU fully support officers, student representatives, and activists from the Guild and the SU in their pursuit of a protective academic policy whilst maintaining the value of their degree. All parties ask the University to continue to work with both staff and students to ensure any measures taken achieve this so that students receive the best outcome possible and that the impact to staff is limited.

Penny Dinh - VP Education Exeter, University of Exeter Students' Guild

Sunday Blake, President, University of Exeter Students' Guild

Cara Chittenden - President Exeter, Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union

Maariyah Najeeb - Exeter Postgraduate Education Officer, Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union

Jack Wilkins - Exeter Undergraduate Education Officer, Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union

Isabella Enoizi, Students for Academic Mitigation

Jacob Myers, Students for Academic Mitigation

Sharon Strawbridge – President UCU branch, Claire Foullon Secretary UCU branch, Adrian Campey PGR Officer UCU branch, on behalf of Exeter UCU Committee

*See UCU position on digital poverty [here](#).

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
**STUDENTS'
GUILD**

UCU
University and College Union

**THE FALMOUTH & EXETER
STUDENTS' UNION**

**S4 STUDENTS FOR
ACADEMIC
MITIGATION**