

Special consideration policy

Reviewed By	Andrea Whitehead
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What is special consideration?

“Special consideration is given to a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of their control **at the time of the assessment**. It is applied when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate’s ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Special consideration can only seek to go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in examinations. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. There will be situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination. Only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardize the standard of the examination.”

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to identify roles and responsibilities in the special consideration process and confirms that Bolton Impact Trust agrees to “*submit any applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria.*”

Eligibility for special consideration

Roles and responsibilities

Academy Lead

Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication [SC](#)

Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration are submitted to awarding bodies by the exams officer

Exams officer

Understands the criteria as detailed in [SC](#) to determine where candidates will/will not be eligible for special consideration

Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration are submitted to awarding bodies

Teaching staff and/or SENCo

Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to determine a candidate’s eligibility for special consideration.

Candidates (or parents/carers)

Provide any medical or other evidence that may be required to determine eligibility for special consideration

Applying for special consideration

Where eligible, special consideration is applied for at the time of the assessment where candidates “*have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control.*”

For candidates who are present for the assessment but disadvantaged Bolton Impact Trust must be satisfied that there has been a material detrimental effect on candidate examination performance or in the production of coursework or non-examination assessment. ([SC](#), section 3)

Where a candidate may arrive for an exam and is clearly unwell, extremely distressed and/or may have sustained an injury that requires emergency access arrangements to be put in place:

the candidate will be kept comfortable and under centre supervision from the required time while appropriate arrangements are put in place for the candidate to take the exam in the best possible conditions

a judgement will be made on how the candidate's situation or disposition affected performance in the exam

where appropriate and where eligible, special consideration is applied for

Where candidates may be affected by a major disturbance in the exam room (emergency evacuation etc.), special consideration is applied for on behalf of all candidates.

Where a candidate takes three or more timetabled exams on the same day and the total duration of all papers is more than 5 hours 30 minutes (GCSE) including *any approved extra time but not any time taken for supervised rest breaks* special consideration for an allowance on last paper taken is applied for.

Where a candidate may be affected by a minor disturbance in the exam room caused by another candidate (momentary bad behaviour, mobile phone ringing etc.), special consideration cannot be applied for.

If a candidate is absent from a timetabled component/unit for acceptable reasons, and the centre can support this, special consideration is applied for if the exam missed is in the terminal series and the *minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence* can be met. For ungraded examinations taken in an examination series prior to certification, candidates must be re-entered for any missed units at the next assessment opportunity. Unless there are difficulties arising, e.g. group performances which cannot be repeated, special consideration will not be awarded. ([SC](#), section 4)

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration is explored in [SC 5](#) and applied for where eligible. This might include, for example:

- other certification
- coursework/ non-examination assessment extensions
- shortfall in work (coursework/non-examination assessment)
- lost or damaged work (non-assessment components)
- candidates taking an incorrect or defective question paper
- candidates undertaking the wrong controlled assessment or non-examination assessment assignment

Where a candidate may be eligible for special consideration (a post assessment adjustment) in a vocational qualification, the centre follows [SC 7](#) and awarding body guidance to determine if, when and how an adjustment can be applied for.

Processing applications for special consideration

Roles and responsibilities

Academy Lead

- Ensures that all eligible applications will be supported by signed evidence produced by a member of the senior leadership team

Senior leadership team

- Produce/provide signed evidence in support of an application

Exams officer

- Understands that special consideration must be applied for at the time of the assessment
- Understands that special consideration cannot be applied in a cumulative fashion and that where a candidate may be affected by different indispositions, special consideration should only be applied for the most serious indisposition
- Ensures applications will be processed as required by the awarding bodies
- Keeps evidence to support all applications on file until after the publication of results and provides the signed evidence provided by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application where this may be requested by an awarding body
- Meets the required deadline(s) for submitting applications

Teaching staff and/or SENCo/ Learning Mentors

- Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to support a candidate's application for special consideration

Candidates (or parents/carers) will

- Provide any required medical or other evidence that may be required to support an application for special consideration
- Will be informed that all cases must be dealt with by the centre

Submitting applications for special consideration

Where a candidate or group of candidates is/are eligible for special consideration applications are submitted to the relevant awarding body following the published processes in [SC](#).

Evidence to support applications is kept on file until after the publication of results.

Timetabled written exams

- For GCSE qualifications, applications for individual candidates are submitted online by logging into the relevant awarding body secure extranet site and following the links to special consideration
- The processes for submitting a single application to cover all exams affected where a candidate is present but disadvantaged and a separate application for each day on which exams are missed where a candidate is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason detailed in [SC 6](#) will be followed
- For other qualifications, applications will be submitted online where the awarding body's secure system accepts these
- The paper [form 10](#) *Application for special consideration* is only completed and submitted where the online system does not accept applications for a particular qualification
- For cases involving groups of candidates, applications are made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts group applications or form 10 will be completed
- The paper [form 14](#) *Self certification form (Self certificate for candidates who have missed an examination)* will only completed by a candidate where circumstances warrant this and will not used where the centre knows the candidate was ill

Internally assessed work

- Where appropriate, applications are made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts them or form 10 is completed and submitted
- Where a short extension to a work submission deadline for an individual candidate is being requested, the awarding body will be contacted directly
- Where an application relates to a shortfall in work for an individual candidate, this will be submitted online or by completing form 10, dependent on the awarding body

Post assessment adjustments – vocational qualifications

- Where the learner's circumstances are eligible, form 10 or [form VQ/SC Application for special consideration Vocational qualifications](#) will be completed and submitted to the awarding body

Late applications

If, after the publication of results for a particular exam series, a claim is made that special consideration was not applied for at the time of an assessment where a candidate was eligible, the claimant will be informed that late applications will only be accepted by an awarding body in the most exceptional circumstances and where a member of the senior leadership team is able to produce evidence to support a late application.

If a claim is made after the completion of a review of results, the claimant will be informed that an application for special consideration cannot be submitted.