



Exceptional regulations for 2022: Extenuating Circumstances (ECs)

These regulations should be read in conjunction with all existing regulations. These regulations apply to all UNNC students undertaking assessment from 7 December 2022 until the end of the autumn examination period 2022/23. We will keep these regulations under review and may extend the period further.

Pro-active communications regarding teaching and assessment arrangements should alleviate the need for many speculative extenuating circumstances, however the University recognises the exceptional demands of the current circumstances and sets out the following, which should be read in conjunction with the existing extenuating circumstances policy. Where a tension arises between these exceptional regulations and existing regulations, the exceptional regulations take precedent.

EC1 Students and colleagues should be encouraged to act responsibly and avoid taking unnecessary risks. The local government and health authorities have published guidance regarding self-isolation and recommended actions and, as a general principle, any student taking measures to comply with that guidance should not fear additional disadvantage in respect of the University's handling of extenuating circumstances claims.

EC2 The University recognises that:

Unless hospitalised, a student is unlikely to be able to obtain medical evidence of illness as medical advice from their local health authorities is to stay home and not engage with medical services;

Students may not have access to the IT equipment necessary to complete a programme of online learning;

EC3 Extenuating Circumstances Panels are asked to assess claims on the basis of evidence available to them and to consider a student's own account of impact. Panels may request evidence underlying health conditions if relevant to the case. Panels should approve extenuating circumstances claims and suspend the need for the usual standards of evidence where the case presented amounts to a compelling account of impact on the student's ability to study or take assessments.

EC4 Any decisions to not attend teaching, supervision etc, either physically face-to-face or through digital means, where students are able to attend, and where those decisions are not based on advice published/recommended by the local government and health authorities, or due to reasonable concerns related to a student's underlying health, would not be covered by the exceptional extenuating circumstances regulations.

FAQs

Why are new EC regulations needed?

These are unprecedented international circumstances. We know you may not be able to get evidence to support a COVID-19 related claim. However, we want to support you with the challenges you are facing while maintaining our high academic standards.

Do I need to provide evidence for my ECs claim?

We know that you may not be able to get evidence to support the circumstances of your claim - for example, self-isolation. We will consider your account of the impact the circumstances have had on your performance.

We may ask for evidence underlying health conditions if they are relevant to your case.

When might an EC claim relating to COVID-19 be rejected?

We may reject your claim if you decide not to attend teaching, supervision or other learning (physically or through digital means) where you are able to attend, and your decision isn't based on advice published or recommended by the University or government authorities, or because of reasonable concerns relating to your underlying health.

My studies are being affected by extenuating circumstances but I'm unable to access medical or other support services and, in consequence, I am unable to provide evidence in support of my claim. What should I do?

Please submit an EC claim and;

1. Provide any evidence that you do have and that might bear on the case. If you are experiencing an exacerbation of a health condition (mental or physical), any evidence that you have available to you of that health condition, for example, a selfie with student ID and antigen testing ,will help your School/Faculty support your EC claim.

2. Give a detailed description of what has happened and how that has affected you.