

Higher Education Special Consideration Procedure

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Purpose

The purpose of this Procedure is to provide students with an appropriate path to address disadvantage arising that results in impairment of studies. This procedure supports and mandates the implementation of Federation University Australia's Student Access, Progression and Wellbeing Policy. It expands on the principles outlined in the policy as they relate to special consideration and provides guidance on processing and granting special consideration to eligible students.

Scope

This procedure applies to all students enrolled in undergraduate and coursework postgraduate courses, seeking special consideration. Higher Degree by Research students are excluded from this procedure and should refer to the HDR Examinations procedure.

Legislative Context

- Federation University Australia Act 2010
- Federation University Australia (Students) Regulations 2022
 - Part 2 - Admission to become a student
 - Division 1 - Selection
 - Division 3 - Enrolment
 - Division 5 - Assessment
 - Part 5 - Student Misconduct
 - Division 2 - Academic and research misconduct by students
 - Division 6 - Summary and emergency sanctions
- Federation University Australia Statute 2021
 - Part 8 - Awards, Titles and Honorary Degrees
 - Section 41 - Conferring of awards
 - Section 43 - Testamur
 - Section 52 - Withholding of results and exclusion
- Disability Discrimination Act (1992)
- Disability Standards for Education (2005)
- Privacy Act (1988)
- Educational Services to Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 (as amended), Educational Services to Overseas Students (ESOS) Regulations 2001 and National Code of Practice 2018
- Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 2010

Definitions

A complete list of definitions relevant to this procedure is contained within the Student Access, Progression and Wellbeing Policy.

Term	Definition
Discretionary Assessment Extension	An assessment extension of up to 5 University working days for one assessment and granted at the discretion of the lecturer or unit coordinator upon request by the student.
HE Special Consideration – Deferred Examination	An examination held in the timetabled deferred examination period. An examination can be deferred a maximum of two times per unit. Students will not be able to apply for grade consideration for deferred examinations.
HE Special Consideration - General	<p>A supplementary assessment, or an extension of an assessment due-date or altered attendance requirements. Such allowances may be made for one or more assessment tasks or units within any teaching semester.</p> <p>Students will not be able to apply for grade consideration in addition to special consideration.</p>

Actions

1. Confidentiality and Privacy

Any Special Consideration Applications received must be treated by all parties as strictly confidential – refer Information Privacy Policy.

Information forming part of the Special Consideration Application shall only be discussed with, or made available to, a person who is:

- A party to the application;
- Is or has been legitimately involved in the management of that application; or
- Has a formal management role in following up the consequences or implications of the application.

Discretionary Assessment Extensions and Special Consideration applications and all relating documentation will be stored in accordance with privacy legislation.

Parties must be aware of the consequences if there is a breach of confidentiality, which may include disciplinary action.

2. Communicating Discretionary Assessment Extensions and Special Consideration procedure / forms

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Communicating via Unit Description	Unit Coordinator	1. All Unit Descriptions will include important information relating to Discretionary Assessment Extensions and Special Consideration.
B.	Communicating via FedUni website	Manager, Health & Wellbeing	1. The University has developed a Special Consideration webpage which is managed and maintained by the Manager, Health & Wellbeing and outlines all aspects of the Procedure as it affects students.

3. Requesting a Discretionary Assessment Extension

A Discretionary Assessment Extension is an application for a short-term extension (up to five working days) on one assessment task. If a longer extension is being sought, or extensions for multiple assessments or units, the student is required to apply for Special Consideration General (Action 6-10)

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Applying for Discretionary Assessment Extension	Student	1. Review the Special Consideration webpage and

			download the discretionary extension application form to review the information required to request an extension.
B.	Submit completed Discretionary Assessment Extension Application form and supporting documentation (if applicable) or 'request extension' via email	Student	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Either submit the completed discretionary extension application form to unit coordinator / lecturer via email from the student email address and with the subject field correctly flagged as 'request for extension' no later than two working days prior to the assessment submission date and outline the length of extension you are requesting (up to 5 University working days) and the reasons for this request. Or alternatively provide the same information as identified in the application form in the body of an email from the student email address to the unit coordinator / lecturer with the subject field flagged as 'request for extension' 2. Student may submit any documentation that may support their discretionary assessment extension request (includes, but not limited to medical certificate, assessment drafts or evidence of progress, evidence of group-work difficulties) if applicable. 3. NOTE: Federation University has special support procedures in place for supporting matters relating to family violence. Students who are experiencing family violence are encouraged to contact student counselling services.

4. Assessing a Request for a Discretionary Assessment Extension

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Assess the request	Lecturer/Unit Coordinator/Partner Academic Coordinator	1. Lecturer / Unit Coordinator / Partner Academic Coordinator to assess the request and make a decision at their own discretion based on the details of the request. The Lecturer / Unit Coordinator / Partner Academic Coordinator may request drafts of the assignment to assist in their decision making and/or assist in being able to support the student further.

5. Notifying the Result of the Request for a Discretionary Assessment Extension

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Notify the Student	Lecturer/Unit Coordinator/Partner Academic Coordinator	1. Lecturer / Unit Coordinator / Partner Academic Coordinator to notify the student in writing, by email, of the outcome of their request within one University working day of receipt including the revised submission date.

6. Applying for Special Consideration - General & Deferred Examination

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Accessing the Application for Special Consideration & Associated forms	Student	1. Access the forms from the University's Special Consideration webpage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education Special Consideration – General online form • Higher Education Special Consideration – Deferred Exam online form
B.	Completing the Special Consideration – General form	Student	1. Complete all personal information as directed 2. Outline all pieces of assessment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Code • Unit title • Assessment task

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Code • EXT: Extension of Assessment date • SA: Supplementary assessment • AR: Attendance Requirements • Assessment due date (if applicable) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Select the grounds for the application and specify the length of time that their studies have been affected 4. Provide additional information regarding the impact of the condition / circumstances on their studies and the request they are making. 5. Identify whether they have had previous Special Consideration applications 6. Submit the form via the online forms process 7. Provide documentation to support the Special Consideration – General application.
C.	Completing the Special Consideration – Deferred Examination form	Student	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Applications: Students can submit a completed Special Consideration - Deferred Examination prior to the examination date. If the student has not received notification prior to their examination date they should not enter the examination room and attempt the examination. 2. Other Applications: Students must submit their Special Consideration – Deferred Examination form no later than three University working days after the date of the examination. A request for a deferred examination can be made for a maximum of two times for each unit. Students may be required to provide

			<p>additional detail to support any request for a second deferred examination. A third request for the same unit will not be considered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Students who are severely/ moderately unwell on the day of their scheduled examination should not enter the examination room and attempt the examination; they are encouraged to apply for a deferred examination. 4. Complete all personal information as directed 5. Outline all pieces of assessment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit code • Unit title • Examination date 6. Select grounds for the application and specify the length of time their studies have been affected. 7. Provide additional information regarding the impact of the condition/circumstances on their studies and outline the request that they are making. 8. Provide documentation to support their Special Consideration- Deferred Examination application. 9. Submit the Special Consideration- Deferred Examination application via the online form with supporting documentation, no later than three University working days after the date of the exam. 10. Students who are unable to finish their exam due to the onset of serious illness or other eligible cause must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the exam invigilator, who will note the time of exit and the reason associated.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect Special Consideration – Deferred Examination form. • Submit the Special Consideration- Deferred Examination application via the online form with supporting documentation, no later than three University working days after the date of the exam. Possible outcomes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Consideration granted: a deferred examination will be provided for the student. • Special Consideration not granted: Student's exam will be assessed as per normal. • Partner Provider students: Submit their application and supporting documentation via the online form process in My Student Centre. Please note: Student studying at the China and Hong Kong locations will be required to submit the hard copy form to the Partner Administration Office. <p>Special Consideration not granted: Student's exam will be assessed as per normal.</p>
D.	Collating supporting documentation	Student	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decide on the most appropriate additional documentation to support their application, which could include, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from counsellors or psychologists or health care professional certification forms • Medical Certificate which includes a specific statement that in the health care professionals opinion

			<p>(not the student's opinion) that, as a result of the complaint or treatment, the student is impacted or unfit or unable to undertake the assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death Notice • Police report • Defence Reserve Service Notification • Jury Service notification • Emergency Service (e.g., CFA) notification • Traumatic experience (eg involvement in or witnessing a serious accident, a serious crime committed against the student, witness to a serious crime, witness to and/or experiencing family violence) evidence. • Family violence documentation can include but is not limited to support agencies such as Berry Street, WRISC, CAFS counsellor. Students are encouraged to contact Federation University's counselling services for support and to provide documentation on the student's behalf to avoid disclosing specifics around sensitive matters when applying for special consideration. • Where students experience significant technical and/or platform issues whilst completing online tests through a locked-down browser (or equivalent), sufficient and appropriate evidence must be provided to support the request for a special consideration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence may include a capture of the screen which clearly indicates the entire display, with all
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			<p>text and on-screen errors (where applicable) clearly visible. Where the resolution of the image is insufficient, multiple zoomed images may be included along with the image displaying the entire screen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: As cameras, phones etc. are not permissible during most assessments, it is still reasonable for a student to leave their testing area to retrieve a device in order to gather evidence to support their submission. Should the student resume the test, the device must be removed before doing so. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Collect supporting documentation and attach to the Special Consideration (General or Deferred Examination) application. Where a student identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, this may also include a Cultural wellbeing plan or a support letter from the Aboriginal Education Centre team.
E.	Lodging a complete application	<p>Student</p> <p>Student HQ Staff/Global Professional School/Disability Liaison Unit</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lodge the application via the online process no later than three University working days after the approved submission of the assessment task. The recommended method for lodging the application and supporting documentation is in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online: Submit the application and supporting documentation via the online form process in My Student Centre. On-Campus: Where students are unable to

			<p>submit their application via the online process due to access/technical issues, students can submit the hard copy application form in person or email to Student HQ/Partner provider on their campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner Provider students: Submit their application and supporting documentation via the online form process in My Student Centre. Please note: Students studying at the China and Hong Kong locations will be required to submit the hard copy form to the Partner Administration Office. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Applications submitted via the online process will receive confirmation of submission via email with a link to their application via MySC. 4. Applications Submitted via hardcopy; Student HQ/Partner provider staff will confirm receipt of documents by signing and dating the application form and confirm whether supporting documentation has been lodged at the same time as the application. 5. Student HQ staff scan and email the Special Consideration application and supporting documentation to the relevant Course Coordinator – ensuring all pages have been scanned accurately. 6. Email a copy of the application form and supporting documentation to the student to retain for their records.
F.	Lodging an incomplete application – lodging supporting documentation at a later date.	Student HQ staff/Global Professional School	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the application is lodged with incomplete supporting documentation, students will be contacted to provide

			<p>additional supporting information before their application can be assessed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Inform the student that they have five working days to submit supporting documentation via the online form process otherwise the application will be withdrawn. 3. If the student returns all required documentation at the later date (within the five University working days timeframe) confirm on the form, that supporting documents have been submitted. 4. Email all forms to the relevant Course Coordinator for assessment. 5. Where student submitted hard copy form; return all forms and supporting documentation to the student to retain for their records.
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7. Assessing the Application

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Reviewing and assessing the application	Course Coordinator or delegate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A complete application will be received from the School Administration staff via the online form process or email where hard copy forms submitted. 2. Consider the following key factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of condition/ circumstances • The impact of the condition/ circumstances on their ability to undertake their unit/course. • The duration of time that their ability to undertake unit/course is impacted • The specific request made by the student

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategies that the student has identified that they will implement in combination with the Special Consideration application to minimise the condition/circumstance in the future (if applicable). • The recommendations made by the Health Care Professional (if applicable). • The authenticity of the Health Care Professional credentials. • The recommendations by the Aboriginal Education Centre, where a student identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Make a professional assessment regarding the outcome of the Special Consideration Application based on all evidence presented. 4. Select either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Approved' and outline the approved special consideration • 'Not approved' and outline the reasons for the decision. 5. Finalise outcome via the online form process or where hard copy form received Sign and date the application form 6. Input details of the Special Consideration into the student's record on the university database, including details of the outcome. Information regarding outcome should include timeframes and reasons and should also be provided on fdlGrades.
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8. Notifying the Applicant

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Notifying the Applicant	Course Coordinator or delegate	Provide notification using the email template, to the applicant of the outcome of the Special Consideration application, including any alternative arrangements, or reasons for a not-approved outcome, made via their Federation University student email. Student must be informed within five (5) University working days.
B.	Recording the outcome	Student HQ/Global Professional School	Provide a note in fdlGrades outlining the outcome for the special consideration request which includes the name of the person who undertook the assessment

9. Notifying the School

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Contact all academics identified in the application to inform them of an approved application for Special Consideration (General or Deferred Examination)	Course Coordinator or delegate Student	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Input the details of the Special Consideration application (both General and Deferred Examination forms) into the student's record on the University database and a file note on fdlGrades, including details of the outcome. 2. Course Coordinator to contact all lecturers including relevant partner provider staff for partner provider students and/or examinations unit identified in the applications to inform them of an approved application for Special Consideration. 3. Student to contact the relevant academic staff to finalise the adjustments to their assessment in accordance with their application (if applicable). Contact should be within two working days from return to studies.

10. Appealing the Outcome

	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	STEPS
A.	Lodging an appeal	Student Student Advocacy Appeals Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students may lodge an appeal against a Special Consideration outcome within 10 University working days of the adverse decision. Appeals must be submitted, in writing, to the Appeals Committee. 2. Students must ensure they include all relevant documentation to support their appeal. 3. Students may seek information on the appeals process, lodging an appeal and preparing for a hearing but cannot request staff to lobby on their behalf or provide advice or direction. Students may seek information from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Advocacy Phone: 03 5327 6105 Email: studentadviser@federation.edu.au URL: https://federation.edu.au/current-students/assistance-support-and-services/student-support-services/student-advisory-service/appeals/appeals-to-appeal-committee Executive Officer, University Appeals Committee Phone: 03 5327 9253 Email: university.appeals@federation.edu.au URL: https://federation.edu.au/about-us/governance/academic-board/standing-committees/

Supporting Documents

- [Academic Governance Policy](#)
- [Students and Support for Students Policy](#)
- [Higher Education Assessment \(inclusive of FedTASKs\) Procedure](#)
- [Family and Domestic Violence Procedure](#)
- [Appeals to the University Appeals Committee Procedure](#)
- [Disability Learning Access Plan \(LAP\) Procedure](#)
- Disability Learning Access Plan (LAP)
- [Higher Education Examinations Procedure](#)

Forms.

- [Discretionary Extension Form](#) (PDF 736.6kb)
- [Health Care Professional Certification Form](#) (PDF 807.1kb)
- [Higher Education Special Consideration - Deferred Examination Application Form](#) (PDF 819.4kb)
- [Higher Education Special Consideration - General Application Form](#) (PDF 815.4kb)

Responsibility

- Chief Learner Experience Officer, as the Approval Authority, is responsible for monitoring the implementation, outcomes and scheduled review of this procedure.
- Director, Student Services and Registrar, as the Document Owner, is responsible for maintaining the content of this procedure as delegated by Approval Authority.
- Head - Health and Wellbeing is responsible for the administration support for the maintenance of this procedure as directed by the Director, Student Services and Registrar.

Promulgation

The [Higher Education Special Consideration Procedure](#) will be communicated throughout the University via:

- An Announcement Notice via FedNews website and on the 'Recently Approved Documents' page on the 'Policies, Procedures and Forms @ the University' website to alert the University-wide community of the approved Policy.
- Learning and Teaching Quality Committee
- Institute/School meetings
- Academic Induction Program
- Student Health & Wellbeing meetings
- Student Senate meeting

Implementation

The [Higher Education Special Consideration Procedure](#) will be implemented throughout the University via:

- An Announcement Notice via FedNews website and on the 'Recently Approved Documents' page on the 'Policies, Procedures and Forms @ the University' website to alert the University-wide community of the approved Policy

- Moodle module

Records Management

Document Title	Location	Responsible Officer	Minimum Retention Period
Application for Special Consideration and supporting documentation.	For electronic records, the University's approved records management or student management system. Where hard copy, records should be stored on the student file.	Executive Dean	Destroy 7 years following completion, withdrawal or deferment of course.
Decision documentation and notification of outcome	For electronic records, the University's approved records management or student management system. Where hard copy, records should be stored on the student file.	Executive Dean	Destroy 7 years following completion, withdrawal or deferment of course.
Appeal Application and supporting documentation	Appeals Committee filing system	Appeals Committee Executive Officer	Retain as per relevant Appeals Committee disposal class