

School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography

Postgraduate Taught Programmes Safety Net Policy

The University has now published its [Safety Net Policy](#) which aims to reduce the risk that students may be disadvantaged by the conditions in which they revise for and sit their exams in the exceptional circumstances of the CV-19 pandemic.

As a department we will be implementing the following safety net measures based on the University guidance regarding what is permissible:

1. These measures are in addition to the option open to every individual candidate to submit mitigating circumstances, if they think their work or preparation for the assessments have been disrupted inordinately. None of these proposals can bring a candidate's mark down; they can only improve it.
2. At the **MSc/MPQ level** (where the MSc degrees consist of four papers plus a dissertation), the Examiners will discard the weakest mark from Trinity Term (providing it is a passing mark)* and replace it with the average of the other papers taken in Trinity Term (i.e. the dissertation and any paper completed in Michaelmas Term and marked in Hilary Term will be counted towards the final mark for the degree as normal and are not included in this 'safety net' calculation).
 - a) **Medical Anthropology**, the weakest mark of the four papers will be discarded and replaced with the average of the other three papers.
 - b) In the other three degrees where one paper has already been completed – **Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology** (Paper 1: Quantitative Methods), **Social Anthropology** (Paper 1a), and **Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology** (Paper 1) – the weakest mark of the three papers taken in Trinity Term will be discarded and replaced with the average of the other two papers taken in Trinity Term.
3. At the **MPhil level**, given the small number of assessed components, it is not considered practicable to have any kind of automatic mark adjustment or mathematical formula. A safety net is in effect provided by the measures already taken: the Board of Examiners has already given extra time and a lower workload (by abolishing the take-home essay) to the Social Anthropology and VMMA students; the timing of the MPhil Medical Anthropology assessments mean that it is not practicable to abolish assessments. However, the Examiners will pay special attention to any mitigating circumstances submitted.

* Anyone failing a paper in Trinity Term will have to retake it and will have their marks considered at the September Exam Board. Anyone retaking a paper from MT in TT will have that paper included in the 'safety net' calculation, i.e. the lowest of all four papers taken in TT will be discarded and the replaced with the average of the other three.