

Section 14 Programme extension policy

14.1 Purpose

- 14.1.1 This policy details the criteria and procedures for applying to extend a student's period of study. This applies to students who have completed all teaching requirements but have been unable to complete the programme's final assessments in the normal timescale due to exceptional circumstances.

14.2 Scope

- 14.2.1 The procedure to be followed for extensions within 24 months of the standard period of study in relation to programmes delivered by a validated partner organisation (validated provision) will be set out in the programme documentation provided by the validated partner.
- 14.2.2 Validated programme students who require a programme extension beyond the maximum period of study must follow the University procedures set out below in [section 14.7](#).

14.3 Standard periods of study

- 14.3.1 The standard periods of study for York St John University awards are defined in the [University Regulations](#). Where specified in a [programme specification](#), the duration of a programme of study may vary from the standard period.
- 14.3.2 Students must complete all study and submit all assessments/reassessments required for completion of the programme **within 24 months** following the standard period of study set out in the [University Regulations](#) or in the programme specification. This 24-month period includes any extensions granted for exceptional circumstances or as a reasonable adjustment, any period of suspension of studies (with the exception of that for maternity/paternity reasons) and any reassessments. This is the normal maximum period allowed for completion of studies and all assessments. Extensions to this maximum period will only be agreed in accordance with the procedure set out below in [section 14.7](#).

14.4 Programme extension durations

- 14.4.1 Programme extensions are normally out of residence – students are not enrolled, do not paying fee and are not entitled to further academic support.

Duration	Process
Programme extensions of 3 weeks or less	Students follow the exceptional circumstances procedures explained in section 13 .
Programme extensions of more than 3 weeks but within the maximum period of study	Students and Programme/Course Lead, or nominated representative, follow the programme extension procedure explained in section 14.6 .
Programme extensions beyond the maximum period of study (as defined in section 14.3)	Students and Programme/Course Lead, or nominated representative, follow the procedure explained in section 14.7 .

14.5 Evidence to support programme extensions

- 14.5.1 Each application must be accompanied by satisfactory supporting evidence, normally from an independent and relevantly qualified independent professional.
- 14.5.2 Students must provide **evidence of the impact** that the circumstances have had, or will have, on their ability to study, submit their assessment, or complete a scheduled assessment.
- 14.5.3 The nature of the evidence required follows the principles set out for evidence in the 'Exceptional Circumstances Policy' (refer to [section 13](#)).

14.6 Programme extension procedure

- 14.6.1 As soon as it is known by the student that their circumstances will impact upon their ability to complete their programme of studies within their standard period of study, the student must contact their Programme/Course Lead, or nominated representative, to discuss their circumstances and whether a programme extension is necessary. The request should normally be made at least **2 weeks prior** to the end of the period of study.
- 14.6.2 Students cannot suspend their studies if they have completed all the teaching for the final year of studies. Students who have been unable to complete their programme's final assessments in the normal timescale due to exceptional circumstances should apply for a programme extension. Examples where a suspension of studies is not permitted, and a programme extension should be applied for if extra time is required include:
 - Students completing reassessments for their final assessments.
 - Postgraduate students within 6 weeks prior to their programme expected end date.
 - Student whose expected end date has passed.
- 14.6.3 Grounds for a programme extension must be exceptional and significant. They may include but are not limited to serious and persistent health problems; pregnancy; significant bereavement; significant caring responsibilities for family member or partner with a disability or mental health condition; serious financial problems; difficulties accessing clients required for assessments or where a part time student's employment pattern has significantly changed.
- 14.6.4 Students should be made aware that a programme extension may delay their graduation.
- 14.6.5 International students with Student Visas must contact the Visa and Compliance team by submitting a case via the [Student Hub](#) before applying to discuss the implications of extending their programme of study. The University cannot guarantee that the student will receive a visa extension.
- 14.6.6 For a request to extend the standard period of study **by 3 weeks or more**, or for a request to prolong an existing programme extension, the Programme/Course Lead, or nominated representative, and student must complete the online 'Programme Extension' form. A separate 'Programme Extension' form is required for each new extension.
- 14.6.7 The Programme/Course Lead, or nominated representative, must include written support for the extension and certify that the student has made satisfactory progress so far. An action plan must also be completed.
- 14.6.8 In exceptional circumstances, and dependent upon the circumstances and appropriate evidence, extensions can be granted for a maximum of 1 academic year at a time provided this does not exceed the maximum period of study (refer to **section 14.3**).
- 14.6.9 Relevant supporting evidence must be submitted with the application form. The claim cannot be considered until satisfactory evidence has been received by the Exceptional Circumstances Panel. The nature of the evidence required follows the principles set out for evidence in the 'Exceptional Circumstances Policy' (refer to [section 13](#)).
- 14.6.10 The Exceptional Circumstances Panel will inform the student and the relevant teams, including the Library and the student's School, of the student's new expected completion date once an extension has been approved and processed.

14.7 Extensions beyond the maximum period of study

- 14.7.1 It is rarely appropriate to extend beyond the maximum period of study (that is, beyond 24 months of the maximum period of study for the programme specified in the [University Regulations](#) and programme specification).
- 14.7.2 Extension beyond this period may only be granted for a **maximum of 3 months**, where it will allow the student to submit **1** assessment or reassessment leading to eligibility for a particular award.
- 14.7.3 If a programme extension beyond the maximum period of study is required the Programme/Course Lead, or nominated representative, and the student must complete the 'Programme Extension' form and submit this, with accompanying supporting evidence, for consideration by the Special Cases Panel. The Special Cases Panel will make a decision on behalf of the University Assessment Board. It may only be granted where the student has provided appropriate evidence of serious extenuating circumstances, and the School has confirmed that there is a realistic prospect of the student submitting an assessment conferring eligibility for an intended or exit award.
- 14.7.4 The Special Cases Panel will inform the student and relevant teams, including the Library and the student's School, of the student's new expected completion date once an extension has been approved and processed.