Dear Higher Education provider

Admitting University of Sussex finalists to further study (2023)

You will be aware that the University and College Union (UCU) is currently engaged in a marking and assessment boycott as part of a dispute with university employers over pay and working conditions. This is a national dispute which began on 20 April 2023 and is scheduled to continue until 30 September 2023. The action affects 146 universities, including the University of Sussex.

Whilst all assessments and examinations have taken place, the marking and assessment boycott means that, where staff are exercising their right to take part, some student work might not be marked until the boycott ends.

There will be University of Sussex finalists who are unaffected by the boycott, and will receive their full degree classification on time, but there will also be students, who, as a consequence of the boycott, have missing marks. The University is seeking to mitigate the impact in the following ways:

- Students registered on an undergraduate degree who have a minimum of 300 credits in total, including at least 60 credits at level 6 will be awarded a temporary Interim Ordinary degree this summer. Once the boycott ends, all exams and assessments will be marked and processed through our full quality assurance processes and, subject to these marks, Interim Ordinary degrees will be converted to classified honours degrees.
- Some undergraduate students may have too many missing marks to be awarded this Interim Ordinary degree whilst the boycott continues. Once the boycott ends, all exams and assessments will be marked and, subject to these marks, students will receive a classified honours degree.
- Students registered on an Integrated Masters degree who have 360 credits in total, including at least 120 credits at level 6, will be awarded a temporary classified Bachelors degree this summer. Once the boycott ends, all exams and assessments will be marked and processed through our full quality assurance processes and, subject to these marks, classified degrees will be converted to Integrated Masters degrees.

All students affected by the boycott will be issued with an interim transcript that provides details of all modules taken, including marks where these are available, and which have been assured through the University’s standard quality assurance processes. Please note that where marks are missing because of the boycott, the overall average mark displayed on the transcript will appear lower than expected because any missing marks are currently counting as a zero or zeros for the purpose of the calculation.

The impact of the boycott is understandably unsettling for finalists, especially as they navigate their transition from university into further study or employment. We hope the information provided here will help to explain the situation to you and reassure you that degree outcomes will be available as soon as marking and assessment is complete.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kelly Coate

Professor Kelly Coate, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education & Students