



ACADEMIC BOARD

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ANNUAL REPORT ON EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES 2010-11

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Executive summary

This paper provides a brief overview of the use of extenuating circumstances procedures by students in the academic year 2010-11. Data and analysis on equal opportunities monitoring are included.

1. Introduction

1.1 This year a shortened version of the annual report on extenuating circumstances has been compiled, due to the maternity leave of the responsible QA officer. The data for this report was acquired at an earlier date than usual, and only includes claims for Semesters A and B submitted to 09 August 2011. In addition there are some slight fluctuations in the MIS data acquired from Proclarity, as is to be expected before the completion of end of year returns. However, we are confident that these statistics still paint a reliable overall picture of the use of extenuating circumstances procedures by students in the academic year 2010-11, which can be compared against trends shown in previous years.

2. Summary of claims

2.1 Year on year, we have detected an overall trend for a gradual increase in the number of extenuation claims, which is roughly proportionate to the annual increase in student numbers. In semesters A and B this year we received a slightly smaller number of claims than in 2009-10 [**Chart 1(a)**]; however, these figures do not take into consideration a number of late claims received during August and September. We expect the overall trend for a steady increase in applications to continue.

- 2.2 The success rate of extenuation claims made in Semesters A and B 2010-11 was slightly lower than in the period 2007-2010, when the percentage of claims that were accepted rose steadily [**Chart 1(b)**]. Nevertheless, over half (55.1%) of all claims submitted by students in Semesters A and B were accepted.
- 2.3 This year we were not able to track the extent of extenuation in each school by showing module claims as a proportion of module registrations, as MIS data for modules was organised according to the new school structure, whereas our extenuation data was organised according to the old school structure. Schools usually reveal their own distinctive trends, both as to the likelihood that students will claim extenuation and the likelihood that these claims will be accepted, and previous reports have indicated that these trends do not necessarily correlate with the equal opportunities profiles of their students. Module registration monitoring will be resumed in next year's report, when we will be able to observe whether school restructuring has effected any changes to these school trends.
- 2.4 This year we have identified how many extenuation claims were made by Undergraduate or Postgraduate students, and how many of the claims submitted on-campus were made by students with Home /EU status, or with International status (as collaborative partners hold their own extenuation panels, data for students studying at collaborative partner institutions is not available) [**Table 2**]. Predictably, Undergraduate students were more likely to apply for extenuation than Postgraduates [**Charts 2(a) and (b)**] - submitting 91% of the claims while only accounting for 75% of student enrolments. However, applications from Postgraduate and Undergraduate students achieved a roughly equal rate of success (55.1% for Undergraduates and 55.0% for Postgraduates).
- 2.5 The data for 2010-11 indicated that students with Home or EU status were more likely to apply for extenuation than students with International status [**Charts 2(c) and (d)**]. This is perhaps to be expected, given that visa requirements would make it more problematic for international students to defer assessments. There was no significant disparity in the success rates for these groups, as Home / EU students had an average of 55.1% claims accepted, while International students had an average of 54.7% claims accepted [**Table 3**].
- 2.6 **Table 4** provides data for the number of late extenuation claims that were received for Semesters A and B (up to 09 August 2011). In each semester, the deadline for the submission of extenuation claims is 5pm on the Tuesday after the final week of examinations. Our statistics show that a significant number of claims were submitted after this deadline in 2010-11, with students from some schools showing a greater tendency to submit late claims. The largest proportion of late claims came from the School of Law (23.7%) whereas claims from HSS and the School of Health and Bioscience were more likely to be submitted on time (4.5% and 7.9% of late claims respectively).
- 2.7 Our regulations state that where a student is unable to submit a claim for extenuation within the specified time period (e.g. due to emergency in-patient hospital treatment occurring during the examination period), he or she should submit the claim at the earliest opportunity, via the School Office, accompanied by evidence as to why the claim is being submitted late. In reality, few students offer an acceptable case for their lateness, and as a result late claims are far less likely to be accepted – the average rejection rate for such claims is 74.8% as opposed to just 44.9% across all claims [**Table 4**].

3. Summary of Equality and Diversity Monitoring

- 3.1 Equal opportunities data for extenuating circumstances tend to reveal similar patterns of activity year on year. For example, female students are ~~always~~ more likely than male students to apply; black student are ~~always~~ more likely to apply than white students; male students are

less likely to be successful in their claims than female students. These generalisations continue to be true for 2010-11, with a few minor variations.

- 3.2 **Table 5** and **Charts 5(a), (b) and (c)** reveal no changes to the usual gender demographics. 6.9% female students made at least one claim for extenuation during Semesters A and B 2010-11, compared to 4.1% of male students. By assessment component, females accounted for 71% of all claims received, and 58% of these claims were accepted, compared to only 47% of claims submitted by male students.
- 3.3 **Table 6** breaks down the number of claims by ethnicity. ~~As usual, t~~There was an increasing likelihood of applying through white (3.5%), Asian (5.1%), mixed race (6.3%) and black (7.8%) students, while success rates revealed a relatively small amount of variance from the mean. It should be remembered that a larger number of claims from a particular group does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that these claims should be proportionately successful. One interesting deviation from the norm in this year's figures is that claims from white students (usually the most successful ethnic group) were less likely to be successful (60.0%) than claims from mixed race (62.3%) or Asian (61.2%) students.
- 3.4 **Table 7** breaks down the number of claims by disability and disability type. Students with mental health issues or multiple disabilities were most likely to make an extenuation claim (22.3% and 25.0% respectively) and enjoyed a high rate of success (70.2% and 62.8% respectively) - statistics which echoed similar figures presented in last year's report. In previous years, claims from students with a known disability have always enjoyed a higher-than-average rate of success. Unusually, the overall rate of acceptance for students with disabilities this year was ~~only~~ 51.9%, compared to 55.6% for students with no known disability [**Table 8**]. We will continue to monitor the data to see if these figures indicate an anomalous result for 2010-11 ~~or the start of a new trend~~.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Establish 'Extenuation Champions'; two academic members of staff per School (minimum), to extend access to advice and guidance for students.
- 4.2 Extend the current process of referral of 'at risk' students to appropriate support by more proactive intervention; allowing the extenuation panel to agree, as appropriate, when a student should be directly contacted by a support service.
- 4.3 Adopt and implement the [Student Maternity Guidance Procedures](#) (first draft complete).
- 4.4 In collaboration with UELSU, run an extenuation awareness raising campaign highlighting the application process, new feedback system and other recent changes.
- 4.5 That Academic Board approve this report.

Extenuation Report Statistics 2010-11 (Semesters A and B only)

Section 2: Summary of Extenuation Claims received in 2010-11

Table 1: Number of component claims by school (Semesters A and B only)

Sem	AVA	CITE	EDU	HBIO	HSS	LAW	PSY	RDBS	Total
A	26	37	113	157	176	107	172	103	891
Accept	17	13	67	106	95	36	63	50	447
Reject	9	24	46	51	81	71	109	53	444
B	48	41	123	210	157	143	138	118	978
Accept	27	25	64	140	107	68	82	69	582
Reject	21	16	59	70	50	74	56	49	395
Total	74	78	236	367	333	249	310	221	1868
%									
accepted	59.5%	48.7%	55.5%	67.0%	60.7%	41.8%	46.8%	53.8%	55.1%

NOTE: data only includes claims submitted up to 09.08.2011

Chart 1(a): Total number of extenuation claims for Semesters A and B since 2005-6

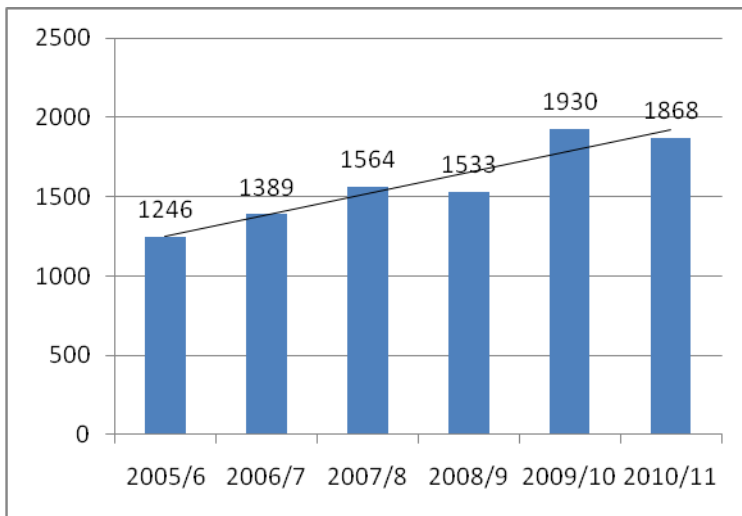


Chart 1(b): Success rate of extenuation claims for Semesters A and B since 2005-6

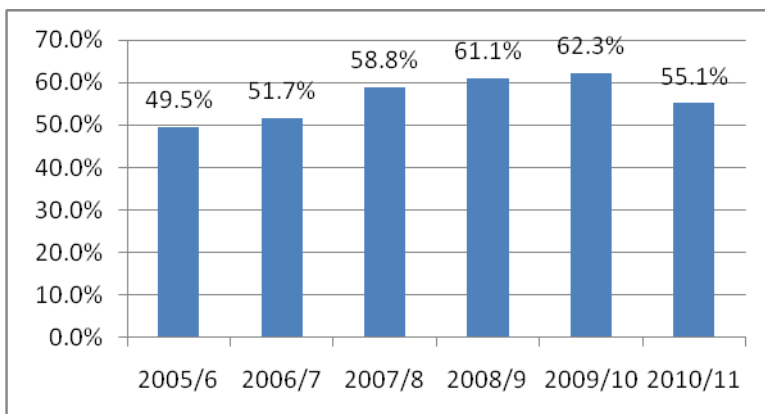
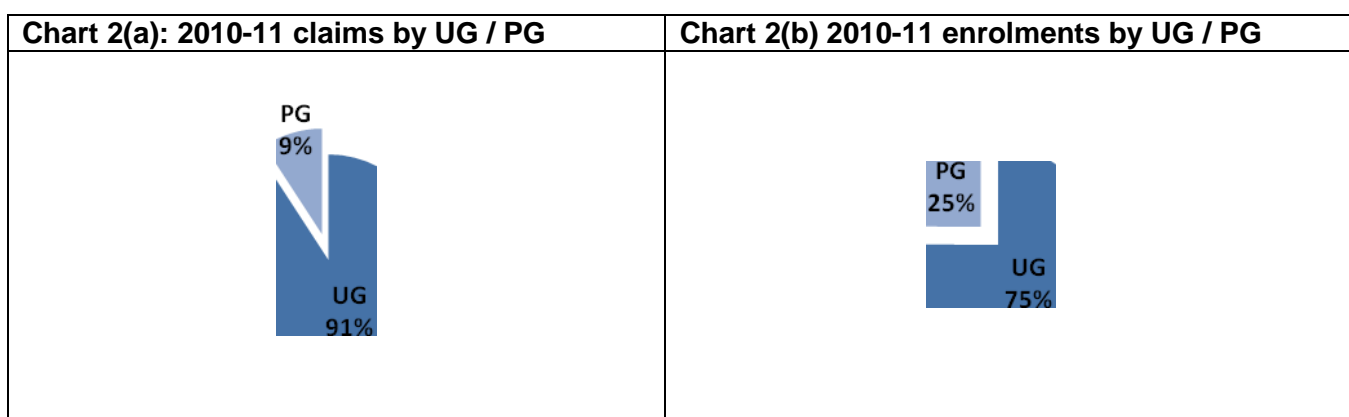


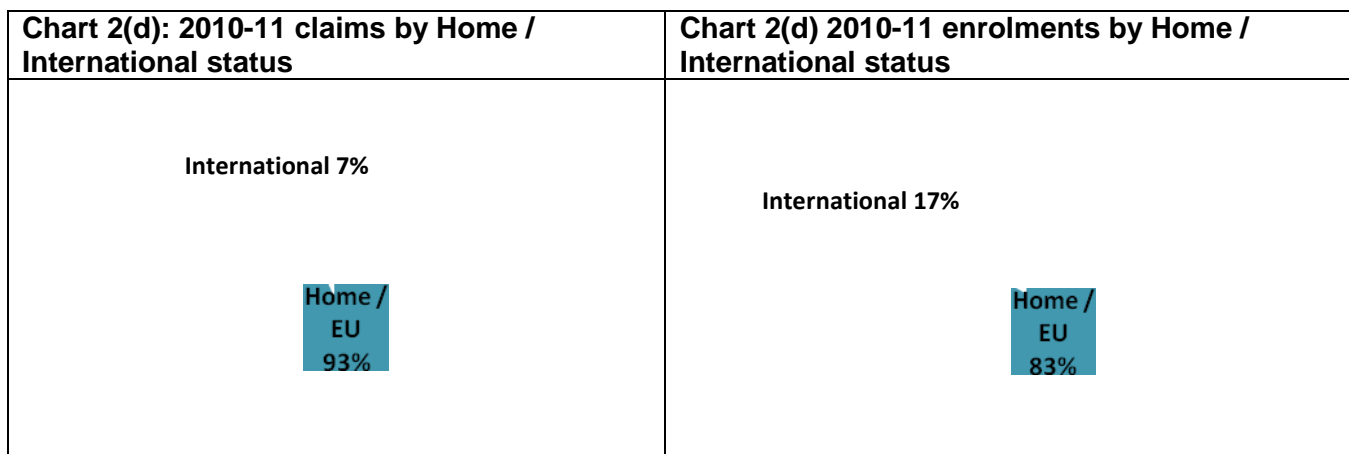
Table 2: Extenuation claims 2010-11 from Undergraduate / Postgraduate, Home / International students

	No. claims	Accept	Reject	% Accepted
UG	1697	935	762	55.1%
Home / EU	1612	884	728	54.8%
International	85	51	34	60.0%
PG	171	94	77	55.0%
Home / EU	128	75	53	58.6%
International	43	19	24	44.2%

Data shown is for UEL on campus programmes only, Semesters A and B only



MIS data obtained 04.10.2011



MIS data obtained 04.10.2011

Table 3: 2010-11 - Rates of success for Home / International students

	No. claims	Accept	% Accepted
Home / EC	1740	959	55.1%
International	128	70	54.7%
Total	1868	1029	55.1%

Table 4: Extenuation claims received after the final deadline in Semesters A and B 2010-11

School	late claims	% of total	No. late claims rejected	% Late claims rejected
AVA	10	13.5%	5	50.0%
CITE	11	14.1%	10	91.0%
EDU	24	10.2%	13	54.2%
HBIO	29	7.9%	18	62.1%
HSS	15	4.5%	13	86.7%
LAW	59	23.7%	47	79.7%
PSY	36	11.6%	28	77.8%
RDBS	38	17.2%	32	84.2%
Total	222	11.9%	166	74.8%

NOTE: data only includes claims submitted up to 09.08.2011

Section 3: Equal Opportunities Monitoring

Table 5: Extenuation claims 2010-1 by gender

	Component claims	Accepted	Rejected	% Accepted	No. students who applied	No. students enrolled	% Students who applied
Female	1330	778	552	58.5%	695	10110	6.9%
Male	538	251	287	46.7%	336	8189	4.1%
Total	1868	1029	839	55.1%	1031	18299	5.6%

MIS data obtained 09.09.11

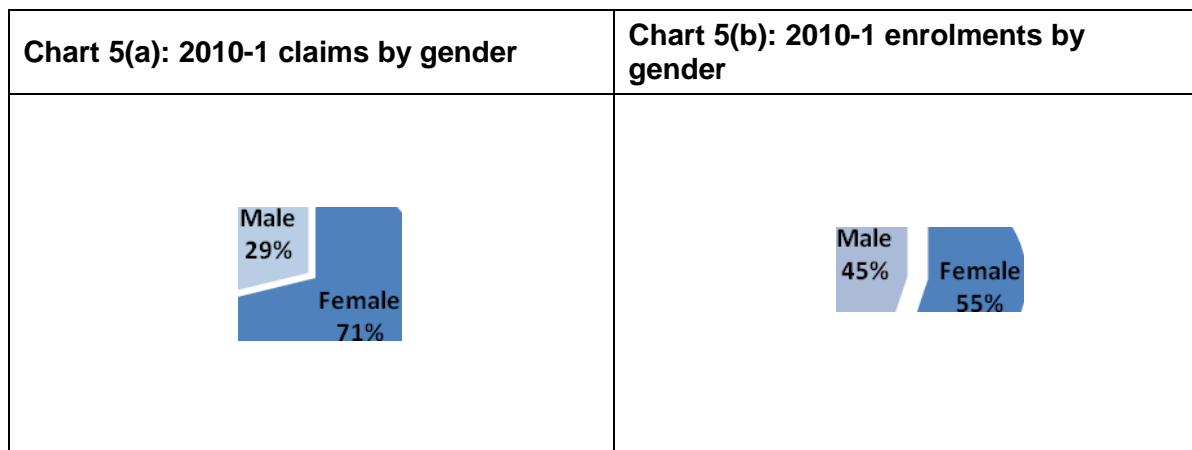


Chart 5(c): 2010-1 extenuation success rates by gender

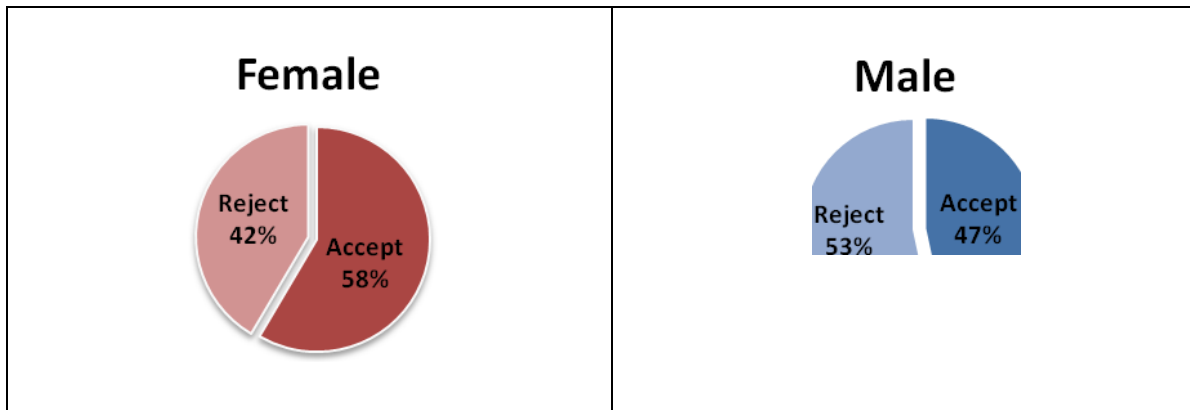


Table 6: Extenuation claims 2010-11 by ethnicity

	No. component claims	No. accepted	% Accepted	Students who applied	Students enrolled	% who applied
Asian	395	244	61.2%	214	4206	5.1%
Asian - Bangladeshi	103	62	60.2%	56	1111	5.0%
Asian - Chinese	9	6	66.7%	6	188	3.2%
Asian - Indian	78	43	55.1%	43	1251	3.4%
Asian - Other	81	52	64.2%	40	870	4.6%
Asian - Pakistani	124	81	65.3%	69	786	8.8%
Black	780	396	50.8%	437	5629	7.8%
Black - African	532	279	52.4%	297	4036	7.4%
Black - Caribbean	185	80	43.2%	108	1260	14.3%
Black - Other	63	37	58.7%	32	333	9.6%
White	350	210	60.0%	185	5290	3.5%
White - British	253	148	58.5%	129	3680	3.5%
White - Irish	22	15	68.2%	11	257	4.3%
Other White Background	75	47	62.7%	45	1353	3.3%
Mixed	114	71	62.3%	61	971	6.3%
White and Asian	10	6	60.0%	9	163	5.5%
White/Black African	16	7	43.8%	10	206	4.9%
White/Black Caribbean	30	10	33.3%	14	243	5.8%
Other Mixed	58	48	82.8%	28	359	7.8%
Other	91	37	40.7%	53	1124	4.7%
Not known	138	71	51.4%	81	1083	7.5%
Grand Total	1868	1029	55.1%	1031	18303	5.6%

MIS data obtained 29.08.11

Table 7: Extenuation claims 2010-11 by Disability

Disability Type	No. claims	Accepted	% Accepted	Students who applied	Students enrolled	% who applied
Learning difficulty	150	72	48.0%	769	75	9.8%
Mental health	47	33	70.2%	112	25	22.3%
Multiple disabilities	43	27	62.8%	72	18	25.0%
Wheelchair/mobility	30	10	33.3%	63	13	20.6%
Illness or health condition	25	11	44.0%	204	31	15.2%

Hearing impairment	7	6	85.7%	40	4	10.0%
Visual impairment	3	0	0.0%	30	1	3.3%
Other disability	34	17	50.0%	71	3	4.2%
Total for Disability	339	176	51.9%	1361	170	12.5%
No disability	1508	839	55.6%	16840	852	5.1%
Not Known	21	14	66.7%	102	9	8.8%
Grand Total	1868	1029	55.1%	18303	1031	5.6%

MIS data obtained 29.08.11

Table 8: Success rates for students with a disability 2008-2011

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Average success rate	57.5%	58.7%	55.1%
Known Disability	64.3%	61.7%	51.9%
No Disability	55.7%	57.8%	55.6%