



## University Student Handbook for Taught Courses



**2018/19**

Please read this Handbook in conjunction with your Course Handbook.

All course materials, including lecture notes and other additional materials related to your course and provided to you, whether electronically or in hard copy, as part of your study, are the property of (or licensed to) UCLan and MUST not be distributed, sold, published, made available to others or copied other than for your personal study use unless you have gained written permission to do so from the Dean/Head of School. This applies to the materials in their entirety and to any part of the materials.

*This Handbook is produced centrally and locked for editing. Partner institutions only are given permission to contextualise the Handbook.*

### **UCLan Mission statement**

We create positive change in our students, staff, business partners and wider communities, enabling them to develop their full potential by providing excellent higher education, innovation and research.

### **UCLan Values**

- The pursuit of excellence in all that we do.
- Equality of opportunity for all, supporting the rights and freedoms of our diverse community.
- The advancement and protection of knowledge, freedom of speech and enquiry.
- Supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of all.

### **Student Charter**

The Student Charter has been developed by the University and the Students' Union so that students gain the maximum from their UCLan experience. It is a two-way commitment or 'contract' between the University and each individual student. It acts as a means of establishing in black and white what students can expect from the University and the Union in terms of support, and in return what we expect from our students. [Read the full Student Charter](#)

### **Supporting Diversity at UCLan**

UCLan recognises and values individual difference and has a public duty to promote equality and remove discrimination on various grounds including race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age. During your time at UCLan we expect you to be able to

- experience "an integrated community based on mutual respect and tolerance where all staff and students can feel safe, valued and supported."
- contribute to creating a positive environment where discriminatory practices and discrimination no longer happen.

Please review the UCLan [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) for further information.

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## 1. Welcome and Introduction to the University

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) welcomes you and hopes that you will enjoy studying at UCLan and that you will find your course both interesting and rewarding. This Handbook provides you with generic University level information and the Course Handbook provides specific information about your programme of study.

If your programme of study is based at UCLan Burnley, additional information can be found on the website: <https://www.uclan.ac.uk/burnley>

### 1.1 Communication

The University expects you to use your UCLan email address and check regularly for messages from staff. If you send us email messages from other addresses they risk being filtered out as potential spam and discarded as unread.

### 1.2 External Examiner

The University has appointed an External Examiner to your course who helps to ensure that the standards of your course are comparable to those provided at other higher education institutions in the UK. External Examiner reports will be made available to you electronically. The School will also send a sample of student coursework to the external examiner(s) for external moderation purposes, once it has been marked and internally moderated by the course tutors. The sample will include work awarded the highest and lowest marks and awarded marks in the middle range. Details of the External Examiner associated with your course can be found in your Course Handbook.

### 1.3 Expected hours of study

The normal amount of work involved in achieving a successful outcome to your studies is to study for 10 hours per each credit you need to achieve – this includes attendance at UCLan and time spent in private study. Please note however that this may vary depending on your particular course and programme of study. You should therefore check your Course Handbook or contact a member of staff within the relevant School.

### 1.4 Attendance Requirements

Student attendance at timetabled learning activities of courses and modules is required. Notification of illness or exceptional requests for leave of absence must be made as detailed in the Course Handbook. Individual modules and/or courses may incorporate a specific attendance requirement as part of the assessment criteria for successful completion of a module.

Students with continuous unauthorised absence may be deemed to have withdrawn from the course. The date of withdrawal will be recorded as the last day of attendance. You may request a review of this decision if you have grounds in line with the [Academic Appeals Procedure](#). Tuition fees will be charged in accordance with Appendix 2 of our [Tuition Fee Policy](#).

You must swipe in using your student card. Each time you are asked to enter your details on the Student Attendance Monitoring system (SAM) you must remember that the University has a responsibility to keep information up to date. **You must only enter your own details on the system** as to enter any other names would result in inaccurate records and be dishonest. Any student who is found to make false entries, such as scanning but not attending, can be disciplined under the [Regulations for the Conduct of Students](#)

## 1.5 Data Protection

All of the personal information obtained from you and other sources in connection with your studies at the University will be held securely and will be used by the University both during your course and after you leave the University for a variety of purposes. These purposes are all explained during the enrolment process at the commencement of your studies. If you would like a more detailed explanation of the University's policy on the use and disclosure of personal information, please see the University's Data Protection Policy and [Privacy Notice](#) or contact the Information Governance Officer, Office of the University Secretary and Legal Officer, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, PR1 2HE or email [DPFOIA@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:DPFOIA@uclan.ac.uk).

## 2. Learning resources



### 2.1 Learning Information Services (LIS)

Extensive [resources](#) are available to support your studies provided by LIS – library and IT staff. Take advantage of the free training sessions designed to enable you to gain all the skills you need for your research and study.

You can find the link to the Library Opening Hours here:

[http://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/study/library/opening\\_hours.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/study/library/opening_hours.php)

### 2.2 Electronic Resources

LIS provide access to a range of electronic resources – e-journals and databases, e-books, images and texts.

## 3. Preparing for your career

Your future is important to us, so to make sure that you achieve your full potential whilst at university and beyond, your course has employability learning integrated into it. This is not extra to your degree, but an important part of it.

Your course will take you on a journey of development that will help you to map your personal story of your time at university.

You will be encouraged to record your learning journey so that you can demonstrate all the work-related skills you have developed, both before and during your time at UCLan. This will help you to show future employers just how valuable your degree is and the employability skills you have acquired.

- You will be given the opportunity to explore your identity, your strengths and areas for development, your values and what you want to get out of life.
- You will be able to investigate a range of options, including jobs and work experience, postgraduate study and self-employment.
- We will support you to enable you to successfully tackle the recruitment process and to develop your enterprise skills.

It's your future: take charge of it!

Careers offers a range of support for you including:-

- Careers advice and guidance appointments, plus applications checks and practice interviews

- Support to find opportunities including work placements, internships, voluntary positions, part-time employment and live projects
- Workshops, seminars and events to develop your knowledge and skills, plus the Annual Careers Fairs in November with over a hundred employers on campus promoting opportunities
- Online mentoring by an employer or professional from a wide range of different industries
- Quick and easy access to lots of online resources and careers development tools with CareerEDGE (UCLan's online careers system)

A daily drop-in service available from 09:00-17:00 (Mon-Thurs) 09:00-16:00 (Fri) for CV and cover letter checks and initial careers information. For more information come along and visit the team (in Foster Building near the main entrance) or access CareerEDGE at [www.uclan.ac.uk/careers](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/careers)  
**UCLan Careers** | Foster Building | University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE  
 01772 895858 [careers@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:careers@uclan.ac.uk)

#### 4. Student support, guidance and conduct



##### 4.1 Student Support

“Got a Problem to Sort? Come to us for Support”.

The <i> is your first point of call for all enquiries, help and advice. We provide guidance to all UCLan students whatever the query may be. We offer advice on:

- Bank and Confirmation of Study Letters
- Council Tax Exemption Certificates
- International Student Support
- Library Services and Support
- Printing and Printer Credit • Student Financial Support
- UCLan Cards
- UCLan Financial Bursary (1<sup>st</sup> year students only)
- Student Support and Wellbeing (including Disability) and much more.

We are based on the ground floor of the UCLan Library and open 7 days a week most of the year. Our friendly and approachable team will do their best to ensure your query is answered. Come and have a chat with us if you have a query on any aspect of student life and study.  
[http://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/study/library/the\\_i.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/study/library/the_i.php)

If you are struggling financially or have financial concerns which may prevent you from continuing on your course, you are advised to seek advice from the University's Finance Support Team, based in the <i>, or in the Advice and Representation Centre at the Students' Union.

If you are finding the course challenging or cannot complete independent study and assessments on time you should consult your Academic Advisor.

##### 4.2 Students with disabilities

You are strongly encouraged to declare your disability on your application form when you apply to study at UCLan. If you have declared this Disability Services will be in contact with you to advise you about reasonable adjustments which may be appropriate in the circumstances. You can also tell any member of staff at the University, who will ask you to sign a disability disclosure form, to let the Disability Service know that you have a disability

and agree to share this information with them. Disability Services will then get in touch with you to discuss your available options. Following this you will be assigned a Disability Adviser whom you can contact should you need any further help or assistance. [https://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/health/disability\\_services.php](https://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/health/disability_services.php)

### 4.3 Assessment arrangements for students with a disability

Arrangements are made for students who have a disability/specific learning difficulty for which valid supporting evidence can be made available. Contact your Disability Adviser for advice and information, [disability@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:disability@uclan.ac.uk)



### 4.4 Health and Safety

As a student of the University you share responsibility for the safety of yourself and for that of others around you. You must understand and follow all the regulations and safety codes necessary for a safe campus environment. Please help to keep it safe by reporting any incidents, accidents or potentially unsafe situations to a member of staff as soon as possible.

Safety assessments have been undertaken for each module of your course and you will be advised of all applicable safety codes and any specific safety issues during the induction to your course and modules. You must ensure that you understand and apply all necessary safety codes. These form an essential element of your personal development and contribute to the safety of others.

### 4.5 Conduct

You will be expected to abide by the [Regulations for the Conduct of Students](#) in the University. UCLan expects you to behave in a respectful manner towards all members of the University at all times demonstrated by using appropriate language in class, switching mobile phones / other devices off prior to attending classes, and also in your use of any social networking sites.

If your behaviour is considered to be unacceptable, any member of staff is able to issue an informal oral warning and the University will support staff by invoking formal procedures where necessary. You can read more about UCLan expectations in the Regulations for the Conduct of Students.



## 5. Students' Union

The Students' Union is the representative body for all UCLan students. The organisation exists separately from the University and is led by the Full Time Officer team as well as representatives on the Students' Council. The Students' Union building is located at the heart of the Preston campus, and is the hub for all student activities.

Representation and campaigning for students' rights is at the core of what the Students' Union does and is encompassed by its tag line of *Making Life Better for Students*. Should you wish to make a change to any aspect of your student experience, whether it be academically related or not, then the Students' Union is where your voice can be heard, actions taken, or campaigns launched.

Your Students' Union is also the home to a fantastic range of student-led [societies](#), [sports teams](#) and multitudes of volunteering opportunities. You can also receive help in finding parttime work whilst you study. Not sure where to go? Pop into the [Opportunities Centre](#) on the ground floor of the Students' Union building and someone will point you in the right direction.

We hope your time at University is trouble free, but should you come into difficulties around anything from academic appeals, to issues with housing, benefits or debt, then the Student Union's dedicated staff team in the [Advice and Representation Centre](#) are on hand to help and offer impartial advice.

More information on all these things, as well as details about all the Student's Union (not-for-profit) commercial services, including its student supermarket (Essentials) and student-bar (Source) can be found at [www.uclansu.co.uk](http://www.uclansu.co.uk)

## 6. Rationale, aims and learning outcomes of the course

6.1 You will find information specific to your chosen course of study in your Course Handbook, in the form of a 'programme specification'. As defined by the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) - the regulatory body responsible for overseeing quality compliance in the Higher Education Sector - a programme specification is a concise description of the intended learning outcomes of an HE programme. It is the means by which the outcomes are achieved and demonstrated. In general, modules or other units of study have stated outcomes, often set out in handbooks provided by institutions to inform student choice. These intended learning outcomes relate directly to the curriculum, study and assessment methods and criteria used to assess performance. Programme specifications can show how modules can be combined into whole qualifications. However, a programme specification is not simply an aggregation of module outcomes; it relates to the learning and attributes developed by the programme as a whole and which, in general, are typically in HE more than the sum of the parts.

6.2 Sometimes certain aspects of courses may be subject to change. Applicants are encouraged to check information on our relevant course pages from time to time, particularly before submitting any application for their academic year of study. Material changes about a course will be notified to you in material produced after the change is made and at the time you are made any offer of a place of study for that course. For details about changes to course information after you have accepted any offer, please see our [Additional Information and Conditions of Offer](#)



## 7. Assessment

Please note that all modules will be assessed. You are expected to attempt all required assessments for each module for which you are registered, and to do so at the times scheduled unless authorised extensions, special arrangements for disability, or extenuating circumstances have been expressly agreed by the University to allow you to defer your assessment.

### 7.1 Dealing with difficulties in meeting assessment deadlines

Assignments must be submitted no later than the time and date on your assignment instructions / brief. If you anticipate that you will have difficulty in meeting assessment

deadlines or you have missed or are likely to miss in-semester tests you must report this at the earliest possible opportunity. An academic staff member, such as your Academic Advisor or Module or Course Leader, will be able to provide advice to you on how to do this. Extenuating Circumstances are defined as unforeseen, unpreventable circumstances that significantly disrupt student performance in assessment. Where students have a temporary unexpected circumstance that means that they are unable to complete a particular assignment on time the student may apply for an extension of up to ten working days.

## 7.2 Extensions

Authorisation of the late submission of work requires written permission. Your School is authorised to give permission for **one extension period of between 1 and 10 working days** where appropriate evidence of good reason has been accepted and where submission within this timescale would be reasonable taking into account your circumstances. Requests for extensions should be made prior to the submission date as extensions cannot be given Retrospectively ([Academic Regulations](#)).

You should complete and submit an extension request form, with any supporting evidence, to your CAS Hub. Further information is available on the Student Portal at:

[https://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/study/examinations\\_and\\_awards/extensions.php](https://www.uclan.ac.uk/students/study/examinations_and_awards/extensions.php)

We aim to let you know if the extension has been granted within 1 working day of the receipt of the request.

If you are unable to submit work within 10 working days after the submission date due to verifiable extenuating circumstances, you may submit a case for consideration in accordance with the University's Policies and Procedures on Extenuating Circumstances ([Academic Regulations](#) and [Assessment Handbook](#)).



## 7.3 Extenuating circumstances

Some students face significant events in their personal life that occur after their course has started, which have a greater impact on their studies than can be solved by the use of an extension. If this applies to you, the University is ready to support you, with both your course and your personal wellbeing, through a process called Extenuating Circumstances (see [Academic Regulations and Assessment Handbook](#))

You can apply for Extenuating Circumstances online via [myUCLan](#). You must apply no later than 3 days after any examination or assessment submission date. Do not wait until you receive your assessment results to submit a claim. It is in your own interests to submit the claim as soon as possible.

You will be expected to re-submit claims for extenuating circumstances for each semester in which they apply. All evidence provided relating to extenuating circumstances will be treated in a sensitive and confidential manner. Supporting evidence will not be kept for longer than is necessary and will be destroyed shortly after the end of the current academic year. [Further information about the submission process](#)

In determining assessment recommendations, Assessment Boards will consider properly submitted claims from students who believe their performance has been adversely affected

by extenuating circumstances. N.B. Assessment Boards are not permitted to alter individual assessment marks to take account of extenuating circumstances ([Academic Regulations](#) and [Assessment Handbook](#)).



#### 7.4 Late submissions

If you submit work late without authorisation, a universal penalty will be applied in relation to your work:

- If you submit work within 5 working days following the published submission date you will obtain the minimum pass mark for that element of assessment.
- Work submitted later than 5 working days after the published submission date will be awarded a mark of 0% for that element of assessment.
- Unauthorised late submission at resubmission will automatically be awarded a mark of 0% for that element of assessment.

You may apply to appeal this decision in accordance with the University's [Academic Regulations](#).

#### 7.5 Feedback Following Assessments

UCLan is committed to giving you clear, legible and informative feedback for all your assessments ([Academic Regulations](#)). You are expected to review and reflect on your feedback and learn from each experience to improve your performance as you progress through the course.

For courses (except distance learning):

You will be provided with generic feedback for in-module formative and summative elements of assessment which contribute to a module within 15 working days of the scheduled submission or examination date. Generic feedback on end of module assessment and dissertations will be made available within 15 days of publication of results. Generic feedback may be oral, written, posted on a website or other.

For distance learning courses:

You will be provided with generic feedback for in-module formative and summative elements of assessment which contribute to a module within 20 working days of the scheduled submission or examination date. Generic feedback on end of module assessment and dissertations will be made available within 20 days of publication of results. Generic feedback may be oral, written, posted on a website or other.



#### 7.6 Unfair Means to Enhance Performance

The University regards any use of unfair means in an attempt to enhance performance or to influence the standard of award obtained as a serious academic and/or disciplinary offence. Such offences can include, without limitation, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and re-presentation ('unfair means').

You are required to sign a declaration indicating that individual work submitted for assessment is your own and will be able to view your Originality Report following e-submission of assessed work.

If you attempt to influence the standard of the award you obtain through cheating, plagiarism or collusion, it will be considered as a serious academic and disciplinary offence as described within the [Academic Regulations](#) and the [Assessment Handbook](#).

- Cheating is any deliberate attempt to deceive and covers a range of offences described in the [Assessment Handbook](#).
- Plagiarism describes copying from the works of another person without suitably attributing the published or unpublished works of others. This means that all quotes, ideas, opinions, music and images should be acknowledged and referenced within your assignments.
- Collusion is an attempt to deceive the examiners by disguising the true authorship of an assignment by copying, or imitating in close detail another student's work - this includes with the other student's consent and also when 2 or more students divide the elements of an assignment amongst themselves and copy one another's answers. It does not include the normal situation in which you learn from your peers and share ideas, as this generates the knowledge and understanding necessary for each individual to independently undertake an assignment; nor should it be confused with group work on an assignment which is specifically authorised in the assignment brief.
- Re-presentation is an attempt to gain credit twice for the same piece of work.

The process of investigation and penalties which will be applied can be reviewed in the [Assessment Handbook](#). If an allegation is found to be proven then the appropriate penalty will be implemented as set out below:

In the case of a **single** offence of unfair means in an undergraduate or postgraduate assessment:

- the appropriate penalty will be 0% for the element of assessment, and an overall fail for the module (whether or not the resulting numeric average mark is above or below the minimum pass mark). The affected element of the assessment must be resubmitted to the required standard. The mark for the module following resubmission will be restricted to the minimum pass mark. Where unfair means is detected for the first time on a reassessment for an already failed module, no further reassessment for the module will be permitted, and the appropriate fail grade will be awarded.

In the event of a **repeat** offence of unfair means (irrespective of whether the repeat offence involves the same form of unfair means) on the same or any other module within the course:

- the appropriate penalty will be 0% for the module with no opportunity for re-assessment. This penalty does not preclude you being able to retake the module in a subsequent year.

The penalties will apply if you transfer from one UCLan course to another during your period of study and module credits gained on the former course are transferred to the current course.

Contact the [Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre](#) by emailing: [suadvice@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:suadvice@uclan.ac.uk) for support and guidance.

### 7.7 Appeals against assessment board decisions

If you consider that you have a reason to appeal against an assessment board decision, please bear in mind that your reasons must fall within the grounds specified in the University [Academic Regulations](#): Section I. You cannot appeal simply because you disagree with the mark given. The specified grounds for appeal are:

1. that an Assessment Board has given insufficient weight to extenuating circumstances; 2. that the student's academic performance has been adversely affected by extenuating circumstances which the student has, for good reason, been unable to make known to the Assessment Board;

3. that there has been a material administrative error at a stage of the examining process, or that some material irregularities have occurred;

that the assessment procedure and/or examinations have not been conducted in accordance with the approved regulations (this fourth ground will not be relevant to an appeal against a decision relating to an interruption or discontinuance of study. Such an appeal should be based on one or more of the three grounds above.

If you want to appeal, then you must do so within 14 days of your results being published. The onus is on you to find out your results and submit your appeal on time. Contact the [Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre](#) by emailing: [suadvice@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:suadvice@uclan.ac.uk) for support and guidance.



## 8. Student voice

You can play an important part in the process of improving the quality of your course through the feedback you give. In addition to the ongoing discussion with the course team throughout the year, there are a range of mechanisms for you to feed back about your experience of teaching and learning which are outlined below. Where appropriate, we aim to respond to your feedback and let you know of our plans for improvement.

The Student's Union can support you in voicing your opinion, provide on-going advice and support and encourage your involvement in all feedback opportunities. They will be requesting that you complete the National Student Survey (during semester 2 for students in their final year of study) or the UCLan Student Survey (all other students).

The Students' Union and University work closely together to ensure that the student voice is heard in all matters of student-life. We encourage students to provide constructive feedback throughout their time at university, through course reps, surveys and any other appropriate means.

The Union's Full Time Officer team, members of Students' Council and School Presidents each have particular representative responsibilities and are involved with decision making committees at levels as high as the University Board. Therefore it is very important students engage with the democratic processes of the Students' Union and elect the students they see as most able to represent them.

### 8.1 Course Representatives and School Presidents

A course representative is a student who represents their fellow students' views and opinions to the course team, school, university and Students' Union. Course representatives work proactively and diplomatically to improve the academic and overall experiences of students.

The role of a course representative is extremely beneficial to both students on your course and the University. It enables students to have ownership of their student experience, to voice

their opinions and to share positive practice with the course team, primarily at the Student Staff Liaison Committee Meetings (see below).

Course representatives will be elected every year either in April or September. Alongside receiving recognition, support and respect, being a course representative is a great opportunity to enhance your employability skills. If you are interested in becoming a course representative and wish to find out more about the role visit the [Students' Union](#) website or by emailing: [coursereps@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:coursereps@uclan.ac.uk).

School Presidents are annually elected representatives who voice the opinions of students within each school. They communicate and engage with students in their school to gain feedback and work in partnership with senior management to create positive change. They are also trained to support and signpost course representatives where needed. If you wish to find out who your School President is or more about the role visit the [Students' Union website](#) or email: [coursereps@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:coursereps@uclan.ac.uk)



### **8.2 Student Staff Liaison Committee Meetings (SSLC)**

The purpose of a SSLC meeting is to improve courses, to have an open discussion and respect each other's views, to share good practice where identified, to provide opportunity for students to feedback to staff about their course and student experience, to regularly review the course to improve its development, and to jointly work together to action plan

against issues raised.

There will normally be one meeting per semester which will last no more than 2 hours. Your School President will Chair the meetings with an Academic Co-Chair, using guidelines and will provide a record of the meeting with any decisions and / or responses made and / or actions taken as a result of the discussions held. A standard agenda and action grid template will be used. Course representatives will gather feedback from students and communicate this to the School President in advance of the meetings.

### **8.3 Complaints**

The University recognises that there may be occasions when you have cause for complaint about the service you have received. When this happens, the University's Student Complaints Procedure is intended to provide an accessible, fair and straightforward system which ensures an effective, prompt and appropriate response. Click on this link for more information University's Student [Complaints Procedure](#)

If you are a student registered for a University award at a partner college, who is dissatisfied with the provision at the college, you should pursue your complaint in accordance with the college's complaints procedure in the first instance. In the event of continuing dissatisfaction when you have completed the college's procedure, you will be entitled to submit your complaint to UCLan under stage 3 of the procedure.