



## **FAQs for candidates who were re-sitting or taking exams independently at BHASVIC**

**17 April 2020**

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We recognise that this year's context and the cancellation of the summer exam series has been exceptionally challenging for so many of our students and for students across the UK this year.

We know our current and ex-students have had to wait anxiously for clarity about alternatives to the summer exams, if, when and how grades will be produced and the significance of this for next steps in their lives.

The following provides our ex-students who we planning to re-sit exams this summer, as well as our own and external students who were intending to sit exams independently.

### **Ofqual Letter to Students about how grades will be assigned this summer**

Before reading the FAQs below, please read [Ofqual's letter to you](#).

**Frequently asked questions – the following frequently asked questions are answered in this guidance:**

- 1. I am a BHASVIC student who withdrew from a course in the autumn or spring this year – can I still get a grade for the course?**
  - 2. I am an Ex-BHASVIC student who never sat my final exams (due to personal circumstances) – will I be given a grade by BHASVIC?**
  - 3. I am an Ex-BHASVIC student who wanted to re-sit this summer – will I be given a grade by BHASVIC?**
  - 4. I am not a BHASVIC student and was using the college as an exam centre. How will I get a grade?**
  - 5. I am a BHASVIC student who was taking an A level course independently – will I get a grade?**
  - 6. I won't be getting a grade from BHASVIC for summer exams - what are my options now?**
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## FAQs

### 1. I am a BHASVIC student who withdrew from a course in the autumn or spring this year – can I still get a grade for the course?

If you withdrew, or were withdrawn, from one of your courses at BHASVIC prior to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the college will not be providing final grading for you this year.

Please follow advice given to you at the time from your Guidance Manager regarding Recovery Courses and other options available to you.

### 2. I am an Ex-BHASVIC student who never sat my final exams (due to personal circumstances) – will I be given a grade by BHASVIC?

If you studied a course at BHASVIC and completed the course (you did not leave the course before Easter of the second year), then the college will consider your case and whether it is able to provide a calculated grade for you.

Please contact the Exams Office urgently [exams@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:exams@bhasvic.ac.uk), clearly stating your name and the exams you had entered for. The exams office will put you in touch with your Guidance Manager at the time you studied at BHASVIC – your Guidance Manager will explore your options with you.

Please note – if you *did* sit final exams last year and were *re-sitting* them this summer, see the next section below.

### 3. I am an Ex-BHASVIC student who wanted to re-sit this summer – will I be given a grade by BHASVIC?

**BHASVIC will not be able to submit grades for ex-students who had registered to re-sit exams this summer.**

#### **Why will BHASVIC not give me a grade if I intended to re-sit this summer?**

The government's process for final grades this year requires the college to produce Centre Assessment Grades (CAGs) and submit these to the exam board for all candidates who would have been sitting exams at BHASVIC.

However, there is particular advice for external or private candidates (students who are not on roll at BHASVIC and have not been attending lessons this year – this means ex-students).

For the college to produce and submit a grade, teachers must have clear evidence of each candidate's performance. This evidence would take the form of regular, robust and substantive assessments on student progress *this year*, leading up to final exams this summer. Teachers are able to do this for students whom they have been teaching this year, but will not be able to do this for students who they have not been teaching.

BHASVIC teachers will not be using performance and assessment evidence on course in previous years, prior to summer 2019, (ie prior to sitting a final exam) to submit a grade for this summer's re-sit. The most substantive evidence a teacher has of performance in a final exam is previous performance in a final exam. This means that the grade achieved in previous exams cannot be overruled by teacher assessment based on evidence before that exam. If a candidate had extenuating circumstances prior to or during their final exams last summer, then special consideration should have been applied for, if those circumstances were serious enough to warrant this. If special consideration had not been applied for, the college will not be able to correct this via the Centre Assessed Grade process this year.

**4. I am not a BHASVIC student and was using the college as an exam centre. How will I get a grade?**

BHASVIC will not be able to provide a calculated grade or submit a grade to an exam board for you. We will only have evidence to provide calculated grades for those students who have been on the course at the college and taught by us. You are advised to sit the exam in the autumn or in summer 2021.

**Why will BHASVIC not give me a grade if I intended to re-sit this summer?** Please see FAQ 3 above.

**5. I am a BHASVIC student who was taking an A level course independently – will I get a grade?**

If you are a BHASVIC student but have been studying independently towards a qualification (for example, an A level foreign language) we will not be able to provide you with a grade and you are advised to sit the exam in the autumn or in summer 2021.

**Why will BHASVIC not give me a grade if I intended to re-sit this summer?** Please see FAQ 3 above.

**6. I won't be getting a grade from BHASVIC for summer exams - what are my options now?**

We understand that the most common reason for a sixth form student to re-sit exams is to gain the grades needed to gain a place on their university course of choice. Our advice to you follows about university admissions and further exam retake options.

**University admission – we advise you do the following, in order:**

1. Contact your university course of choice and see if they will consider admitting you with the grades you have already achieved. They may well do this because Autumn 2020 is going to see the lowest number of students to places available in UK universities than ever before and a lot of universities will be very keen to admit students. If this doesn't yield your place, then...

2. Contact your backup course university or a university with a similar/alternative course to your preferred course. They may give you an early indication of acceptance via Clearing. If you are still unclear about your options or have no place for the Autumn, then...
3. Contact our Ex-Student HE advisor Nikki, at [n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk). Nikki will be able to help you navigate your options.

**Postponing my re-sit exam - you have three options:**

1. Sit the exam in the special Autumn Term series instead
2. Sit the exam in Summer 2021
3. Withdraw completely

In all cases, please contact our Exams Office ([exams@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:exams@bhasvic.ac.uk)) as a matter of urgency with your chosen option, particularly withdrawal as the window for you getting a refund from the exam board is rapidly closing. Please state your full name and details of all exam papers you had intended to take in your communication.

BHASVIC Senior Management Team

April 2020