

UTC Cambridge Exams Contingency plan

Lead member of SLT:
Governor Committee:

Deputy Principal
Interim Management Board

Legislation and reference:

JCQ Guidelines

Associated documentation

UTC Cambridge Exams policy

UTC Cambridge Vision

UTC Cambridge: Delivering Future Scientists

UTC Cambridge Mission

Through an innovative curriculum, developed with leading scientists from industry and academia, UTC Cambridge builds bespoke learning solutions delivered in a state of the art science and technology environment that empowers students to manage their academic and career development.

UTC Cambridge Values

We set ourselves challenging goals, are agile and resilient, to achieve our personal best.

By respecting one another we enhance our experience and benefit from different perspectives.

We take individual responsibility, ensuring team delivery.

By respecting our environment, our world, we make a difference.

We celebrate positive contribution and aspire to excellence.

We are morally and ethically responsible in scientific and environmental innovation.

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Purpose of the plan

This plan examines potential risks and issues that could cause disruption to the management and administration of the exam process at UTC Cambridge. By outlining actions/procedures to be followed in case of disruption it is intended to mitigate the impact these disruptions have on our exam process.

Alongside internal processes, this plan is informed by information contained in the Joint contingency plan for the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland where it is stated that “Centres should prepare plans for any disruption to examinations as part of their general emergency planning. It is important to ensure that relevant centre staff are familiar with the plan. Consideration should be given as to how these arrangements will be communicated to candidates, parents and staff should disruption to examinations occur.”

Causes of potential disruption to the exam process

1. Exam officer extended absence at key points in the exam process (cycle)

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the exam cycle not undertaken including:

- Planning*
 - annual data collection exercise not undertaken to collate information on qualifications and awarding bodies specifications being delivered
 - annual exams plan not produced identifying essential key tasks, key dates and deadlines
 - sufficient invigilators not recruited and trained
- Entries*
 - awarding bodies not being informed of early/estimated entries which prompts release of early information/material required by teaching staff
 - candidates not being entered with awarding bodies for external exams/assessment
 - awarding bodies entry deadlines missed or late or other penalty fees being incurred
- Pre-exams*
 - exam timetabling, rooming allocation; and invigilation schedules not prepared
 - candidates not briefed on exam timetables and awarding bodies information for candidates
 - exam/assessment materials and candidates' work not stored under required secure conditions
 - internal assessment marks and samples of candidates' work not submitted to awarding body/external moderators
- Exam time*
 - exams/assessments not taken under the conditions prescribed by awarding body
 - required reports/requests not submitted to awarding bodies during exam/assessment periods e.g. very late arrival, suspected malpractice, special consideration
 - candidates' scripts not dispatched as required to awarding bodies.
- Results and post-results*
 - access to examination results affecting the distribution of results to candidates
 - the facilitation of the post-results services

Centre actions:

- Head of Centre to appoint member of administrative staff to take over responsibilities should absence of EO have the potential to affect the meeting of deadlines.
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- Staff member to work closely with EO to ensure they are up to date with the exam cycle and responsibilities at each point in time. This will be done under the supervision of the Deputy Principal/ Head of Centre.

1. SENCo extended absence at key points in the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Key tasks required in the management and administration of the access arrangements process within the exam cycle not undertaken including:
 - Planning*
 - candidates not tested/assessed to identify potential access arrangement requirements
 - evidence of need and evidence to support normal way of working not collated
 - Pre-exams*
 - approval for access arrangements not applied for to the awarding bodies
 - modified paper requirements not identified in a timely manner to enable ordering to meet external deadline
 - staff providing support to access arrangement candidates not allocated and trained
 - Exam time*
 - access arrangement candidate support not arranged for exam rooms

Centre actions:

- Head of Centre responsible for ensuring position is filled should absence have the potential to disrupt exam preparation.
- EO to ensure access arrangements are in place by the spring term for all exam students where possible.
- EO to plan access arrangements for exam days in advance of the Summer series, in consultation with SENCo

2. Teaching staff extended absence at key points in the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Key tasks not undertaken including:
- Early/estimated entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in pre-release information not being received
- Final entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in:
 - candidates not being entered for exams/assessments or being entered late
 - late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- Internal assessment marks and candidates' work not provided to meet submission deadlines

Centre actions:

- Heads of faculties responsible for ensuring deadlines are met for estimated entries. Any omissions to be referred to Deputy Principal.
- Deputy Principal responsible for ensuring the priority for teaching is the examination cohort and staff will be covered in good time, by trained professionals, in all circumstances.

3. Invigilators - lack of appropriately trained invigilators or invigilator absence

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Failure to recruit and train sufficient invigilators to conduct exams
- Invigilator shortage on peak exam days
- Invigilator absence on the day of an

exam Centre actions:

- EO responsible for recruitment/training of invigilators in the spring term of the summer series. Advance planning required to ensure enough are available for the sittings.
- Head of Centre to be informed if recruitment necessary.
- All staff receive up dated exam invigilator training to ensure back up is available in case of invigilator absence.

4. Exam rooms - lack of appropriate rooms or main venues unavailable at short notice

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Exams officer unable to identify sufficient/appropriate rooms during exams timetable planning
- Insufficient rooms available on peak exam days
- Main exam venues unavailable due to an expected incident at exam

time Centre actions:

- EO responsible for ensuring planning of rooms is completed by the end of the Spring term to identify potential rooming issues.
- Alternative venues within the school to be made available by teaching staff in the event of an unexpected incident e.g. PFA Centre
- Head of Centre to liaise with EO to ensure no disruption due to room shortages.

5. Failure of IT systems

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- MIS system failure at final entry deadline
- MIS system failure during exams preparation
- MIS system failure at results release

time Centre actions:

- EO to contact awarding bodies directly to arrange alternative methods of information exchange.
- Head of Centre to be informed.

6. *Disruption of teaching time – centre closed for an extended period

*Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre closed or candidates are unable to attend for an extended period during normal teaching or study supported time, interrupting the provision of normal teaching and learning.

Centre actions:

- Head of Centre responsible for finding alternative venues/methods of learning.
- Priority given to exam cohort.
- EO to contact awarding bodies for advice regarding special consideration
- Centre to communicate with parents and students.

7. *Centre unable to open as normal during the exams period

*Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations
- *In the event that the Head of Centre decides the centre cannot be opened for scheduled examinations, the relevant awarding bodies must be informed as soon as possible. Awarding bodies will be able to offer advice regarding the alternative arrangements for conducting examinations that may be available and the options for candidates who have not been able to take scheduled examinations.

Centre actions:

- Open for candidates only if possible.
- Use alternative venue, in agreement with awarding bodies e.g. PFA Centre
- Offer students the opportunity to sit the next series.

8. *Candidates unable to take examinations because of a crisis – centre remains open

*Criteria for implementation of the plan

Candidates are unable to attend the examination centre to take examinations as normal Centre actions:

- EO to liaise with student and parents to find alternative venue/advise on next opportunity to sit the examination/apply for special consideration as required.

9. *Disruption to the transportation of completed examination scripts

*Criteria for implementation of the plan

Delay in normal collection arrangements for completed examination scripts

Centre actions:

- EO to communicate with awarding bodies for approval of alternative delivery arrangements

10. *Assessment evidence is not available to be marked

*Criteria for implementation of the plan

Large scale damage to or destruction of completed examination scripts/assessment evidence before it can be marked

Centre actions:

- EO to communicate with awarding bodies immediately.
- Student marks to be submitted based on appropriate evidence.
- Candidates offered the opportunity to retake in subsequent series.

11. *Centre unable to distribute results as normal

*Criteria for implementation of the plan

Centre is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates, or to facilitate post-results services

Centre actions:

- EO and Head of Centre to assess alternative arrangements for issuing results with the regulators.
- Head of Centre to inform transition schools, students and parents about delay as soon as possible.

*information taken from the Joint contingency plan for the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Emergency Evacuation

If the fire alarm or other alert sounds students should stop their exams and remain seated in silence for confirmation whether they need to evacuate the exam room. The main invigilator notes the time the exam is stopped.

If no evacuation is needed, the exam is restarted and the time students were stopped for, added on to the end of the exam. It is possible that the EO may need to apply for special considerations for the disruption.

If evacuation is necessary, the students should be taken out of the lecture theater by the fire exit doors and walked round to the back of the building. Students **MUST** be kept in silence and all staff that are not responsible for a tutor group should go to assist this process. Any students in one to one exam rooms should remain in silence as they leave by the nearest exit and be supervised by their invigilator.

Once it is safe to return, students should be lead back to their exam venue where the exam can be restarted and missing time added on to the end of the exam. It is likely that the EO will need to apply for special considerations for the disruption.