

COVID-19 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION PROGRAM

Criteria

Applies to oral and performance exams, major projects and submitted works.

- Student lives or goes to school in an area that has been, or is placed, in level 4 lockdown during 2021 (ie. this will apply to all of greater Sydney).
- The impact must be as a direct result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Student suffered a **substantial** impact to preparation/rehearsal for their oral or performance exam, or development of their major project, due to loss of access to school facilities or support.

Schools can apply for their whole cohort or for individual students. Schools will provide a brief explanation of how their affected students were impacted. Detailed evidence for students who have been impacted by Level 4 restrictions will not be required.

Process

Students for whom schools submit an application for the COVID-19 Special Consideration Program for an exam component *will not have that exam component marked by HSC markers*. That is, they will not sit their external HSC oral or performance exam or submit their major project or work for marking by HSC markers. This is because teachers are best placed to understand how much each student has been affected, and to give the student the most appropriate mark.

The students will receive a final mark in the affected component based on the mark provided by their teacher. The teacher-provided mark will be moderated using the students' and cohort's performance in externally marked components of the course (eg. the written exam).

Schools will apply via Schools Online.

Applications will need to be made before the exam or hand-in date (see below under Key Dates).

What teachers need to provide

All students

If a school submits an application for all students in the school group, they must submit a teacher-provided mark in the affected component for every student in the course. The mark should represent achievement in the examination component, had the student not been impacted by COVID. Teachers will determine this mark based on their knowledge of the student's work and ability. Specific guidelines will be provided for each course.

Teachers will be provided with HSC Marking Support Packs. In courses where Packs are not available teachers will use the NESA published marking guidelines.

Some students

If a school submits an application for one or more students in the school group, but not the whole cohort, teachers must provide a mark in the component for the affected students. Teachers are invited to also provide a mark in the component for all other students. Providing a mark for all students in the group allows NESA to understand how well the teacher expects the student(s) to perform in the exam component relative to the rest of the cohort. This is better for the students who have been included in an application, particularly those who perform better in the practical component than the written component.

Key dates

All student hand-in dates remain as published, whether they are being marked by HSC markers or they are submitting an application to the COVID-19 Special Consideration Program and being marked by their teacher.

Applications for:

- oral exams must be submitted to NESA at least 48 hours before the exam day
- performance exams must be submitted at least 48 hours before the school's scheduled marking day
- practical exams must be submitted at least 48 hours before the hand-in day.

The teacher-provided marks need to be submitted to NESA no later than 8 October 2021.

Schools Online will be open for applications from 2 August 2021.

HSC Marking Support Packs will be available by 30 August 2021.

Other important points

The usual [illness/misadventure program](#) continues to be available to students who suffer illness or misadventure at the time of an exam, including being sick with COVID.