

## **Coronavirus – Information for institutions offering ARB prescribed qualifications**

### **Update**

In March, the Board provided institutions offering ARB prescribed qualifications with information setting out how it would continue to monitor qualifications as a result of the pandemic. The Board has now reviewed its stance and updated its position.

ARB acknowledges that the coronavirus pandemic is an ongoing issue for all, and new norms have quickly been established to maintain the delivery and standards of qualifications at all levels. We remain confident that institutions will have made every possible effort to uphold the quality of their prescribed provision under challenging circumstances, and ARB requirements will have continued to be met.

The Board is therefore extending the requirements it issued in March 2020 to include the 2020/2021 academic year. As a result institutions will need to report any changes that they have made to their prescribed qualifications within their annual monitoring returns covering the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 academic years. An updated example Annual Monitoring form can be found on our website [here](#), which details expected information.

Where an institution is renewing prescription within this time period, the same information will be sought for consideration as part of a renewal application.

To reinforce the stated requirements, ARB's particular focus continues to be that each prescribed qualification continues to provide a sufficient basis for registration. The expectation remains that that any adjustments at any level, i.e., Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3, for this academic year and last, have been:

1. demonstrably necessary because of the epidemic;
2. made within the approval frameworks of existing institutional quality assurance processes;
3. proportionate;
4. in line with Government guidance and the general standards of best practice;
5. well-documented and recorded by institutions including in relation to changing adjustments over time and the processes by which they were considered, approved and implemented;
6. subject to regular and documented review as to effectiveness and outcomes.

We expect that, notwithstanding any adjustment or changes you make, the quality of your qualifications will not be materially compromised. ARB expects any holder of your qualification to be as suitable for registration, notwithstanding any adjustments, as they would have been had the adjustments not been required.

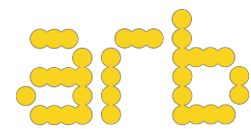
### **Part 1 and Part 2 Annual Monitoring**

As stated in the information supplied in March, we will be asking you to provide details, assurances and where appropriate evidence, that our requirements have continued to be met for all of your prescribed qualifications as a result of the measures you have put in place through your annual monitoring submissions. This information will need to relate to the 2019/2020 and the 2020/2021 cohorts respectively.

### **Special Notification of Adjustments to Prescribed Part 3 Level Qualifications**

In a variation from earlier guidance, we no longer require an urgent course change notification for Part 3 oral examinations being moved on to remote video conferencing platforms. This information can also be reported through your annual monitoring in line with the requirements above. However, more significant changes to any Part 3 level qualifications (or any qualifications), such as changes to learning outcomes, qualification structure, and/or Criteria mapping, will need to be reported to ARB at the earliest opportunity, following the guidance in Annex 3 of our [Procedures](#), Changes to Prescribed Qualifications (page 32).

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us – [qualifications@arb.org.uk](mailto:qualifications@arb.org.uk)



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