**Special Consideration**

**What is special consideration?**

‘Special consideration is given to a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of their control at the time of the assessment. It is applied when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate’s ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Special consideration can only go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in their assessments. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. This means that there will be some situations where candidates should not be entered for a qualification or a unitised examination. This is because only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded. To make larger adjustments would jeopardize the standard of the qualification.

There are minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence (see Chapter 4, section 4.3).

All assessments measure what a candidate knows and can do. The overall grade(s) awarded must reflect the level of attainment demonstrated in the assessment(s). The grades awarded do not necessarily reflect the candidate’s true level of ability if attainment has been considerably affected over a long period of time.

Where long term circumstances have prevented the candidate from reaching the competence standards, it may not be possible to make an adjustment’.

*(Source: JCQ Section 1: A guide to the special consideration process – General and Vocational qualifications – Effective from 01 September 2023)*

**National Star College candidate eligibility for special consideration**

Where eligible, special consideration will be applied for where National Star candidates:

* Arrive for an exam and are clearly unwell, extremely distressed and/or may have sustained an injury that requires emergency access arrangements to be put in place. In this instance the candidate will be kept comfortable and under supervision from the required time, while appropriate arrangements are put in place for him/her to take the exam in the best possible conditions. A judgment will then be made on how the candidate’s situation or disposition affected performance in the exam, and where appropriate and where eligible, special consideration will be applied for.
* May have been affected by a major disturbance in the exam room (emergency evacuation etc). Special consideration will be applied for on behalf of all candidates.