

To whom it may concern,

**Re: University of Warwick graduates 2023**

At the University of Warwick, we are strongly committed to upholding the quality and value of our degrees and all academic awards, ensuring that employers and postgraduate study providers can have confidence in our students' abilities and performance. However, we are writing to provide some additional context related to the impacts upon students' marks of Covid-19 and more recent industrial action.

The 2019-20 academic year encountered significant disruption from Covid-19. The University made the decision that first year students would not be assessed through examinations and, where possible, academic departments would assess through online assignments. In certain situations therefore, an examination assessment for a module could not take place and this has resulted in a "zero" being displayed on the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) in this specific year of study. The zero and absence of a mark simply means there was no opportunity to assess the student through examinations.

During 2022-23, among many institutions nationally, the University of Warwick has been affected by national strikes and assessment boycotts called by the Universities' and Colleges' Union. The result of this action is that it has not been feasible for all students' marks to be provided on their HEAR, or in the case of postgraduate taught students, their transcript, within the usual timeframe. Where marks are missing, a "zero" mark may be displayed. This zero denotes the temporary absence of a mark; it does not mean that the student has not done everything required of them to complete the module. Our regulations permit us to award and classify degrees where there may be a limited number of marks unavailable at the time of award. Where students are awarded a classified degree this summer, they are eligible to attend graduation in July 2023 to receive their degree certificate. In the event that missing module marks become available and a degree classification has been awarded, this initial classification will be protected, but a higher classification may be awarded when marks are subsequently confirmed.

Whilst we have implemented these temporary changes to procedures, our exam board processes have continued to operate with academic rigour. We have taken all possible steps to ensure that every student proceeding to graduate has demonstrated a high commitment to learning and met the academic requirements of their course. We have continued to work with external examiners and our professional networks to ensure due scrutiny; and we continue to adhere to the needs and requirements of employers, peer institutions and professional, statutory and regulatory bodies.

Yours faithfully,

**Adam Child**  
Academic Registrar