

Consolidation Week – Original and Current

A Pandemic-Related Measure

Consolidation Week was introduced, during the height of the global coronavirus pandemic, in 2020/21 as a means of providing a designated intra-semester break. It was recognised that the novelty and intensity of fully online learning, teaching and assessment, as well as the other pandemic-related challenges, would be extremely tiring for staff and students and a pan-institutional break would provide some much-needed respite.

At that time, the parameters for use of Consolidation Week were as follows:

- No new material to be introduced;
- No deadlines for assessment submissions to be set;
- No centrally timetabled classes;
- Time for students to catch-up on outstanding pieces of work, review their learning from material covered in the first half of the semester and review aspects of courses that may need to be revisited or revised;
- Schools to use the time to actively support student learning, for example, through laboratory, studio or workshop sessions;
- Provision of additional sessions such as wellbeing activities for students and staff, ongoing induction and careers.

The continuation of Consolidation Week into 2021/22, as a pandemic-related measure, was approved by SCIBE.

Formalisation of Consolidation Week from 2022/23

In June 2022, the Senate approved the formalisation of Consolidation Week as a permanent feature of the University's Structure of the Academic Year and it is now built into all [Academic Calendars](#). This was on the basis of 88% of staff respondents and 100% of student respondents to the Consultation on the Review of the Academic Architecture being supportive of the continuation of Consolidation Week.

However, at that time, it was recognised that there would be a further discussion on the nature and purpose of Consolidation Week, as its original intention as a pandemic-related break would not always be applicable. It's timely now to begin this discussion, as Schools start to redesign their programmes around the refreshed HWU Graduate Attributes and the Global Changemaker Curriculum.

Current Use of Consolidation Week

As the University has transitioned out of the pandemic, there has been greater variety in the use of Consolidation Week, including many of the uses as above, such as field trips, as well as learning and teaching events. For many students, Consolidation Week is used to travel home to be with family; for others, it has been taken as a holiday.

However, the original set of parameters remains as above.

Consolidation Week in 2024/25

For 2024/25, the original set of parameters remains in place for Consolidation Week. The Learning and Teaching Academy will lead a review of the purpose of Consolidation Week during this academic year, with a view to defining the future parameters for Week 6.