

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

SUBMISSION OF FORMAL ACADEMIC APPEAL

Before completing this form, students of the University and those on programmes validated by the University should ensure that they consult the University's procedures relating to student academic appeals (<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/policies/calendar/part1/otherregs/appeals/>).

Please complete this form clearly.

Under the formal stage academic appeal process, the completed form, with any relevant attachments, should be submitted to the appropriate Pro Vice Chancellor(s) of College or College Manager via the relevant contact emails which can be found [here](#).

The University encourages you to seek help and advice with your appeal from the Student Guild Advice Unit see <http://www.exeterguild.org/support/advice/> or for students based at the Penryn Campus the FXU Advice Service <http://fxu.org.uk/content/746643>

Please note the time constraints stipulated in the appeal procedure.

ABOUT YOU

Name (in full)	Wiktor Wiejak		
Student ID number:	720011045	Year of programme (1st, 2nd, etc)	1st
College/Institution	Faculty of Environment, Science and Economy		
Programme of study	Computer Science		
Your contact address	TW7 6PQ 31 Grainger Road Isleworth, London, UK		
Telephone no.	07708644661		
E-mail address	ww414@exeter.ac.uk		

ABOUT YOUR APPEAL

Indicate with a tick in the relevant box(es) the area(s) under which your appeal is being entered (see para 2.1 of the procedure):

2.1.1	A formal assessment result	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.1.2	A degree classification	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1.3	A decision consequential to an academic failure	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1.4	A decision relating to postgraduate registration status	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1.5	The decision reached is one which no reasonable body, properly directing itself, could have arrived at (for Mitigation Appeals)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate with a tick in the relevant box(es) the ground(s) of appeal (see para 3.1 of the procedure):

3.1.a*	Material circumstances affecting your performance of which the Board of Examiners or Faculty Board had not been aware before reaching its decision (only if reasonable grounds can be presented by you why such circumstances had not been presented to the Board in advance of its meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.b	Procedural irregularities in the formal conduct of an assessment or in reaching another academic decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1.c	Evidence of prejudice or bias on the part of one or more examiners	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continue overleaf

If you have ticked a) i.e. Material circumstances not presented in advance of the Board making its decision, you must explain **why this was the case*

Describe here why you believe you have grounds for appeal, providing specific evidence with reference to a) b) or c) as ticked

I believe that the marking criteria for: ECM1410 Object Orientated Programming did not correspond to my quality of work. This module was run as a 100% pair coursework and the marking criteria had been split up according to the following (which also displays my marks for this module):

number	criteria	max-mark	Received
1	Comments & annotations	5	5
2	Java conventions	5	5
3	Operations	50	0
4	OO Design	40	40
5	Penalty: 3 rd party	-10	0
6	Penalty: Input	-5	0
7	Penalty: Code printout	-5	0

The marking method on the Operation in this coursework relied heavily on automated marking with multiple tests. If the code did not compile in the test environment (even if it did compile on the students computer) students were awarded 0 marks and their code was not evaluated further in this section. Another example where the automated test marking would fail is if the file name provided was different than the expected name on the tests. I find this unfair as the passing grade of 40% was heavily dependent on this single case.

I felt betrayed by a system that does not appreciate the full quality of commitment and work which was more than up to standard if not better. Evidence of this lies in the other sections of this coursework that by itself suggests I have developed an exceptionally broad factual and conceptual understanding of the subject, relative to the level through extensive reading and lecture attendance. Only with the Operations sections marking there is a clear misalignment with respect to the others. I am also mindful of my classmates who failed because of the aforementioned issue and as a result are forced to resit this module. A module that discriminates against individuals who make a tiny incompatibility against Dr Pacheco's testing suite with severe consequences.

In my case, I identified an edge case which would cause a NullPointerException inside one of the functions given specific conditions (when no users were registered). I took it upon myself to impress my module leader, if this was assessed, showing incentive and a high level of programmatic problem solving. As I found out later, because of this, my submission was no longer compatible with the test suite making my submission seem to be of worthless value in comparison to what it was in reality.

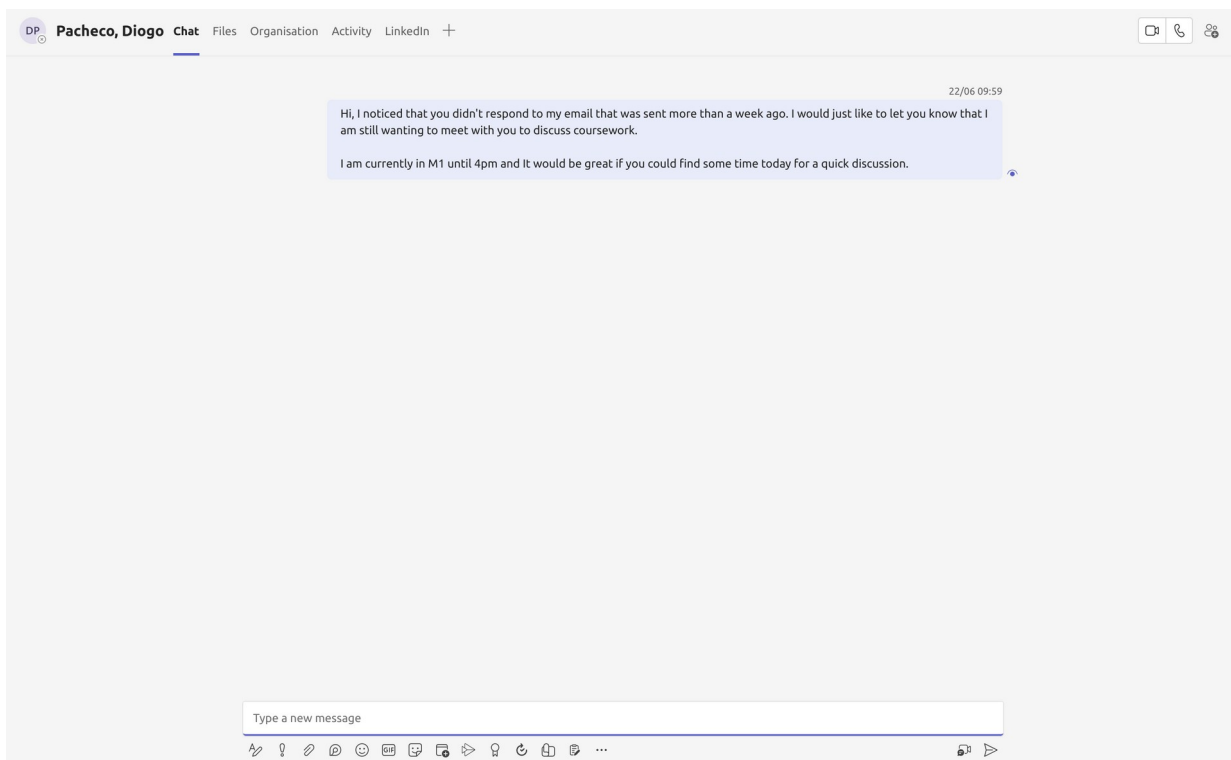
With the permission of my classmate, Ben Abbott, I would like to also present Ben's experience with this coursework. The reason for him failing this module and being forced to resit it was due to not all files being contained within the same directory. In Ben's case, automated testing failed him for not recognising the work he had put into the coursework. This cost him access to a range of marks between 30% and 80%. He doesn't have an issue retaking this module, however I believe he is paying too big a price in terms of time and resources that could be put towards learning new content in second year modules. Time that would be wasted proving, for the second time, that he has the programming capabilities for completing this specific coursework.

After receiving my marks, I contacted the module leader Dr Diogo Pacheco and organised a meeting with him, on Thursday 06/07/2023, where he firmly outlined that he believed the marking to be fair. We did not see eye to eye. I also presented him with my concerns of the modules Gaussian curve to be out of sync with the expected, as I had predicted there to be a gap in the middle. I also asked politely for an opportunity to retest my code, that did not include my improvements, out of curiosity. Improvements, that I deemed necessary and mitigated edge cases. He strongly declined but after learning that I actually passed the module not having access to the majority of the marks he agreed. As of yet I have not heard back.

What I would like to be done is for my coursework submission to be re-marked in a way that rewards the quality of my work. If deemed necessary, I would also like for there to be review in each students submission who was also wronged by this irregularity. I can also see that some improvements could be made to the automated marking framework that not only could rectify this years submissions but also resolve the issue for future assessments in this module.

List here any documents that you are attaching to support your appeal and explain their significance to the appeal. **Please note that it is your responsibility to provide any evidence that you feel is relevant to your appeal, the University will not seek evidence on your behalf.**

Setting up a meeting with Dr Diogo Pacheco. This was done in person as I happen to also work as an intern in the same offices.



The meeting with Dr Diogo Pacheco

meeting

This event occurred **1 day ago** (Thu 06/07/2023 15:30 - 16:00)

Microsoft Teams Meeting;
Teams meeting

Pacheco, Diogo invited you **Accepted 1**

Fri 31st Mar 2023, 12:00 PM BST	ECM1410	Continuous Assessment	Object-oriented	Electronic submission	30th Mar 22:58	View submission Deadline passed	59	fb_1086683_720011045.pdf as_1086683_238249.zip
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I've also attached my submission and feedback document to this email as well as the specification.

Signed	wiktor	Date	09/07/2023
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July 2015