You can apply for Special Consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control, interferes with your ability to sit or submit an assessment.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,
- Significantly affect your ability to complete assessable work, be it a formal end-of-term examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further information on Special Consideration, including guidance on how to apply, visit: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration or contact specialconsideration@unsw.edu.au

UNSW has a Fit to Sit/Submit rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control which affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment which does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough to sit or submit an assessment, and if your application is approved, an alternative examination or assessment will be offered to you.

Please note that you will be required to provide evidence to support your Special Consideration application and it is highly likely that a back to source check will be carried out on your documentation.

See: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration for more information
Guidance

For the purposes of the UNSW Fit to Sit or Submit rule, being fit means that you are generally feeling well and functioning effectively.

You are responsible for deciding in advance of an examination start time or assessment due date whether you are unwell or facing other significant circumstances which will affect your performance.

It is advisable not to wait until your situation worsens before notifying the university. It is important to seek help as soon as possible when things go wrong as your studies may be affected as a result.

Exam and Assessment periods naturally bring feelings of stress and anxiety. When applying for Special Consideration, it is important to differentiate between these normal feelings of anxiety, and feeling unwell or overwhelmed by significant circumstances which are beyond your control.

Exam Period

Prior to an exam
If you determine you are not fit to sit an examination, you can apply for Special Consideration.

During an exam
If you determine you are not well during an examination, raise your hand to alert the exam invigilator and you can apply for Special Consideration.

After an exam
You are no longer able to apply for Special Consideration if you have sat the exam. Exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis where it is clear that illness prevented you from making an informed decision.

Ongoing Support

Special Consideration is designed to provide support to students who experience an acute and short term period of difficulty.

Please consult the UNSW services below if you require further support.

The Learning Centre for academic assistance
Counselling and Psychological Services
Student Equity and Disabilities Unit
Health Services
Financial Assistance and Loans
Peer Mentoring