Ban on Applying Penalties for Late Submission of Student Work

What is this ban?

When a student submits an assignment after the due date but without an extension, academics normally deduct a late penalty from the student's mark. A ban on applying penalties for late submission simply involves not deducting this late penalty when students, who do not have an extension, submit work after the due date.

How do I participate?

As of 12.01am on Friday 14 April 2023, members employed by the University of Melbourne can simply not apply late penalties. However, the action will be effective if you also do the following:

1. Send a message to your students informing them that you are participating in the ban and why you have chosen to do so;
2. When leaving comments on an assignment where you would normally have deducted marks, write a comment letting your student know that you have not deducted marks because you are participating in industrial action.

Why should I participate?

This ban intends to build solidarity with students.

If later in the semester we choose to take further industrial action -- e.g. striking or withholding marks -- the university may pit staff against students, claiming that we are acting against the interests of our students. Not deducting late penalties raises awareness with students about what our claims are and why we are taking industrial action.

Many of our claims would positively improve the learning experience of students.

Concerned about repercussions from supervisor?

It is illegal for the university or any of its employees to retaliate against someone for exercising a workplace right, including participating in protected industrial action.

If you are facing retaliation for participating in the ban, contact the branch email unimelb@nteu.org.au or a delegate in your work area immediately. This is an issue that the NTEU takes extremely seriously.

You can help achieve better conditions for all staff by participating in the ban on applying penalties for late student assessment.

JOIN NTEU