# EXTENUATING AND MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

There is a process that you need to be aware of in relation to the need for student support and it may be called **Extenuating Circumstances** or **Mitigating Circumstances** in your university.

Imagine this situation: you are getting close to submitting an assignment or taking an examination and something extreme, unusual and unpredictable happens to affect your studies and your ability to do the work you need to do. If it is accepted that those circumstances have probably had an impact on your ability to perform at your normal level, then the university will usually have some way of making an allowance for those circumstances.

Be aware, though, that there are very few universities – if any – which will accept minor circumstances as legitimate. Issues such as car crashes an hour before a submission deadline or queues at printers or IT difficulties on your own computer will very rarely qualify. However, if there has been a recent death of a friend or relative, or if you were in hospital or under medical treatment which may have affected your completion of the work, then such circumstances may be seen as acceptable. **You would always, however, need to provide strong supporting evidence**.