

SECTION 18: AWARDS: INTEGRATED MASTERS

Please see Section 16 for guidance which applies to all awards, including provisions for an Aegrotat award (in cases where a student is prevented by illness or personal circumstances from completing the assessment for an award), and procedures in the case of tuition fee debt. For information about extenuating circumstances procedures, please refer to section 8.

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18.1 CLASSIFICATIONS

Integrated Master's degrees may be awarded with the following classifications:

First Class

Second Class Division 1

Second Class Division 2

Third Class

A Pass degree is not available for Integrated Master's degrees.

Candidates who have failed to fulfil the requirements for Third Class shall be stated to have Failed, but may be eligible for an alternative qualification.

An Aegrotat degree may be awarded to a candidate who is prevented by reason of illness or other incapacity from completing the assessment for a degree, in accordance with Ordinance C4(III). A Aegrotat degree is not classified. See section 16.6 for further information on an Aegrotat.

18.2 WEIGHTING

The awarding of four-part M degrees will be based on the marks of Parts 2, 3 and 4 weighted either 2:3:5 or 2:4:4, as agreed by the University Board for Teaching and Learning.

For professional accreditation or exceptionally pressing academic reasons, exceptions to this pattern may be approved by the University Board for Teaching and Learning and the Senate. Such exceptions to this arrangement are set out in Annex 3.

The programme specification will set out the manner in which the placement year will contribute.

18.3 DEFINITIONS FOR AWARDING OF INTEGRATED MASTER'S DEGREES

The following definitions apply in the awarding method for Integrated Master's degrees:

Average Mark of a Part

In calculating the average mark for a Part, modules are weighted by their number of credits.

The average mark of a Part should be calculated to one decimal place, with the second decimal place being rounded up if it is 5 or greater and rounded down if it is less than 5.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, the calculation of the average shall exclude such modules.

Overall Weighted Average (Integrated Master's)

The overall weighted average for an M degree is calculated as follows:

Either

$(0.2 \times \text{average Part 2 mark}) + (0.3 \times \text{average Part 3 mark}) + (0.5 \times \text{average Part 4 mark}) = \text{overall weighted average}$

Or

$(0.2 \times \text{average Part 2 mark}) + (0.4 \times \text{average Part 3 mark}) + (0.4 \times \text{average Part 4 mark}) = \text{overall weighted average}$

(The approved programme specification will state which of these schemes applies.)

The overall weighted average should be calculated to one decimal place, with the second decimal place being rounded up if it is 5 or greater and rounded down if it is less than 5. The overall weighted average should be calculated from the full set of marks (with the relevant weightings by credit and Part) and not from a combination of the rounded averages of Parts.

Final Year Honours Credit Requirement (Integrated Master's)

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The requirement that candidates for an Integrated Master's degree achieve 80 credits in their Final Part with a mark of at least 50, which is a condition for the award of an Integrated Master's degree.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, a module which has a result of Pass shall contribute to the Final Year Honours Credit Requirement.

Dominant Quality

The class which best represents the profile; that is, the highest class in or above which at least half of the marks fall weighted according to the number of credits and to the Part in the same proportion as in the weighted average mark.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, the calculation of dominant quality shall exclude such modules.

Exit Velocity

The comparison of the marks in the final Part in relation to earlier marks to determine whether the candidate's performance is improving or declining in the final Part of the programme. The Exit Velocity of a candidate is the class in which the candidate's average performance in the final Part of the programme lies.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, the calculation of exit velocity shall exclude such modules.

Absolute Significant Weakness (Integrated Master's)

Failure to achieve a specified minimum mark in a designated module (a 'hurdle') which leads automatically to failure of the degree. (Provisions relating to such 'hurdles' must be stated fully in the Programme Specification and the Programme Handbook; the information provided must specify that failure in a 'hurdle' entails failure in the degree. It is intended that the number of such 'hurdles' should be kept to a minimum.)

Borderlines

In respect of the overall weighted average, all programmes use the same ranges for determining candidates within a borderline, as follows:

Integrated Master	Boundary	Borderline BELOW
	1st/2i	68.0 – 69.9
	2i/2ii	58.0 – 59.9
	2ii/3rd	48.0 – 49.9
	3rd/Fail	38.0 – 39.9

18.4 AWARDING METHOD FOR INTEGRATED MASTER'S DEGREES: SUMMARY

The Senate has approved the following awarding method for Integrated Master's degrees, which requires that the same criteria be applied in the same order for all such programmes.

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The Final Year Honours Credit Requirement (Integrated Master) should be applied. If that requirement has been fulfilled (i.e. the candidate has achieved 80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 50), consideration can be given to the classification of the degree.

The Overall Weighted Average should then be used to place the candidate in a class.

For those in the borderline below a class:

If the Dominant Quality or the Exit Velocity is in (or higher than) the class above the borderline, the candidate should normally be raised to the class above the borderline.

If the Dominant Quality and Exit Velocity are in (or lower than) the class of the overall weighted average, the candidate should normally be left in that class.

NB: the result of Pass is not available for Integrated Master's programmes.

Supplementary conventions relating to specified programmes under the provisions of Section 18.5(d) are applied (including any provisions relating to Absolute Significant Weakness).

18.5 AWARDING METHOD FOR INTEGRATED MASTER'S DEGREES: DETAILED PROCEDURE

- a) In order to be eligible for an M degree, a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which not less than 100 shall normally be at level 6 or above and not less than 120 at level 7) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.
- b) The weighting of Parts 2, 3 and 4 for classification of M degrees shall be 2:3:5 or 2:4:4, in accordance with the approved programme specification. For professional accreditation or exceptionally pressing academic reasons, exceptions may be approved by the University Board for Teaching and Learning and the Senate.
- c)

(i) Awards

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of an Integrated Master's degree:

Where the conditions for a higher class have been met, the higher class should be awarded.

First Class

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 50

and

[An overall weighted average of at least 70

or

An overall weighted average of at least 68, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark in the range 70-100

or

An overall weighted average of at least 68, provided that the average for modules taken in the Final Part is 70 or more]

Second Class Division 1

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 50

and

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[An overall weighted average within the range 60.0-69.9

or

An overall weighted average of at least 58, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 60 or more

or

An overall weighted average of at least 58, provided that the average for modules taken in the Final Part is 60 or more]

Second Class Division 2

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 50

and

[An overall weighted average within the range 50.0-59.9

or

An overall weighted average of at least 48, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 50 or more

or

An overall weighted average of at least 48, provided that the average for modules taken in the Final Part is 50 or more]

Third Class

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 50

and

[An overall weighted average within the range 40.0-49.9

or

An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 40 or more

or

An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that the average for modules taken in the Final Part is 40 or more]

NB The result of Pass is not available for Integrated Master's programmes.

(ii) Fail

Candidates who do not fulfil these criteria and any supplementary conventions shall be stated to have failed. Candidates who have failed may be eligible for a lesser award.

d) Supplementary conventions relating to specified programmes

School Boards of Teaching and Learning may recommend to the University Programmes Board, in respect of specified programmes, further provisions relating to designated modules, including provisions in respect of Absolute Significant Weakness and other requirements relating to the achievement of minimum marks. Such provisions must be stated in the Programme Specification and in the Programme Handbook. While it is intended that such supplementary conventions be

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kept to a minimum, it is recognized that programmes which bear professional accreditation (or the equivalent) may be subject to a number of supplementary conventions.

e) Examiners' Discretion

Examiners may recommend a higher classification than the guidelines imply, where they deem this to be appropriate. The grounds for such a recommendation must be recorded in the Programme Examiners' Meeting Minutes. In order to ensure transparency and support consistency, all such recommendations must be approved by the relevant Teaching and Learning Dean before being reported to the relevant University Awarding Board.

A statement clarifying the conditions under which Examiners might properly exercise discretion to agree a classification at variance with the algorithm contained in the Assessment Handbook is included in Section 16.4.

Document control

Version	Section	Keeper	Reviewed	Approving authority	Approval date	Start date	Next review
1.0	CQSD	KHSS	3 years	UBTLSE			
1.1	CQSD	KHSS	3 years	UBTLSE	03/11/21	19/04/22	01/09/2024
1.2	CQSD	KHSS	3 years	UBTLSE	06/06/23	25/09/2023	01/09/2024