

# 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.

## Contents

18.1	Classifications.....	2
18.2	Weighting.....	2
18.3	Definitions for awarding of Integrated Master's degrees.....	2
	Average Mark of a Part.....	2
	Overall Weighted Average (Integrated Master's).....	2
	Final Year Honours Credit Requirement (Integrated Master's).....	3
	Dominant Quality.....	3
	Exit Velocity.....	3
	Absolute Significant Weakness (Integrated Master's).....	3
	Borderlines.....	3
18.4	Awarding method for Integrated Master's degrees: summary.....	4
18.5	Awarding method for Integrated Master's degrees: detailed procedure.....	4
	First Class.....	4
	Second Class Division 1.....	5
	Second Class Division 2.....	5
	Third Class.....	5
	d) Supplementary conventions relating to specified programmes.....	6
	e) Examiners' Discretion.....	6
18.6	Provisions in the event that assessment marks are not available as a consequence of major disruption.....	6

## 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

**Assessment Handbook: Section 18**

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

(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)**

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
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## 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.

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

**Assessment Handbook: Section 18**

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

[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 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 should be recorded in the Minutes.

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.

## **18.6 PROVISIONS IN THE EVENT THAT ASSESSMENT MARKS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MAJOR DISRUPTION**

18.6.1 In circumstances in which the University's academic provision has been significantly disrupted by matters outwith the University's control, the Senate [or body acting on behalf of the Senate] may activate the provisions specified in this sub-section of the Assessment Handbook. Matters outwith the University's control include but are not limited to strikes and industrial action, staff illness, severe weather, natural disaster, epidemic or pandemic, fire, war, civil disorder or unrest, riot, terrorist attack or the threat of it, and restrictions imposed by the government or public authorities.

18.6.2 The provisions apply only to those candidates for whom assessment marks are not available as a consequence of matters outwith the University's control, as specified in 18.6.1 above. The Programme Examiners are responsible for satisfying themselves that marks are not available wholly or partly as a result of matters outwith the University's control, and, on this basis, determine in respect of each candidate whether these provisions or the standard provisions for classification should apply.

**18.6.3 Calculation of marks**

In the event that marks are available for some, but not all, components of the assessment for a module, the School responsible for the module shall, where it is reasonably possible, derive a mark for the module from those components for which a mark is available.

**18.6.4 Classification**

18.6.4.1 Provided that the candidate has at least 80 credits with marks in each Part or, where a Part extends over two years, sub-Part which contributes to classification, the candidate shall be

## Assessment Handbook: Section 18

classified in accordance with the stipulations specified in this section (18.6). The following amendments to the standard definitions apply:

The **Final Year Honours Requirement (Integrated Masters)** (i.e. 80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 50) shall remain a condition of achieving an Integrated Masters degree with Honours.

The **Overall Weighted Average (Integrated Masters)** shall be calculated on the basis of those credits for which marks are available, with the average for each Part contributing to the Overall Weighted Average in accordance with the specified proportions, notwithstanding any variation in the number of credits with marks in each Part.

**Exit Velocity** (i.e. weighted average for the Final Part) shall be calculated on the basis of those credits for which marks are available.

**Dominant Quality** shall be calculated on the basis of those credits for which marks are available, with the number of credits scaled up to 120 for each Part (or sub-Part) and then weighted in accordance with the specified proportions for each Part or sub-Part.

For avoidance of doubt, the **Absolute Significant Weakness (Integrated Master's)** rule (whereby failure to achieve a specified minimum mark in a designated module (a 'hurdle') leads automatically to failure of the degree) shall apply where the mark for the designated module is available, and shall not apply where the mark for the designated module is not available.

Programmes accredited by a PSRB are also subject to the stipulation in 18.6.4.3.

- 18.6.4.2 In the case of candidates who have less than 80 credits with marks, the University Awarding Board, in close consultation with Programme Examiners and with reference to External Examiners, are required to consider each case on its merits and submit a recommendation to the Senate with a brief indication of the principles which have informed the decision. The University Awarding Board, in considering such cases, shall take due account of a range of evidence, which may include performance during the programme. Programmes accredited by a PSRB are also subject to the stipulation in 18.6.4.3.
- 18.6.4.3 In the case of programmes accredited by a PSRB, these provisions are subject to confirmation from the PSRB that they are content that the modules for which marks are available are adequate to their requirements for an accredited degree. In the event that they are not, an alternative non-accredited degree may be awarded or, as appropriate, the student may be Deemed Not to have Sat and have a further opportunity to sit the assessment (if the full complement of assessments has not been taken) or wait for completed assessments to be marked.
- 18.6.4.4 In the event that, following classification under these provisions, further marks contributing to a student's classification become available, the relevant Programme Examiners and University Awarding Board shall reconsider the candidate at their subsequent meetings. The Programme Examiners shall reconsider the candidate's marks to determine whether the candidate should be awarded a higher result or classification. Reconsideration of a Finalist's marks shall not lead to a lower classification than the classification originally agreed.