

SECTION 19: AWARDS: POSTGRADUATE MASTERS, POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA, POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Please note that this section relates to degrees awarded on the basis of postgraduate taught programmes and does not include Integrated Master's programmes. The awarding of Integrated Master's programmes is covered in Section 18.

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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19.1 CLASSIFICATIONS

Master's degrees and Postgraduate Diplomas may be awarded with the following classifications:

Distinction

Merit

Passed

In respect of Master's, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate, candidates who have failed to fulfil the relevant requirements for a result of Passed 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). An Aegrotat degree is not classified. See section 16.6 for further information on an Aegrotat.

19.2 WEIGHTING

The awarding of a Postgraduate Master's degree shall be based on the full complement of credits specified in the programme specification, which shall be not less than 180 credits.

The awarding of a Postgraduate Diploma shall be based on not less than 120 credits.

The awarding of a Postgraduate Certificate shall be based on not less than 60 credits.

19.3 DEFINITIONS FOR AWARDING OF POSTGRADUATE MASTER'S DEGREES, POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE

The following definitions apply in the awarding method for Postgraduate Master's degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates:

Weighted Average Mark

All postgraduate taught programmes will use the same method for calculating the Weighted Average Mark, i.e. the average of a student's module marks weighted according to the number of credits.

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

Where it has been agreed at validation that a Master's, Diploma or Certificate programme be based on more than 180 credits, 120 credits or 60 credits respectively, the calculation shall be adjusted accordingly.

Dissertation

A module comprising a substantial piece of independent work (which may include a project in scientific disciplines) which has been designated by the relevant Board of Studies and the School Board for Teaching and Learning (or previously Faculty Board for Teaching and Learning) as a 'dissertation' for the purposes of awarding. A student's programme should not normally include more than one module which has been designated as a 'dissertation'.

Absolute Weakness

For Masters and PG Diploma programmes: A mark below 40 in modules totalling more than 30 credits or a mark below 50 in modules totalling more than 55 credits.

For PG Certificate programmes: A mark below 40 in modules totalling more than 10 credits.

Significant Weakness

A mark below 40 in any modules agreed during scrutiny and validation as being of special significance to the programme.

Dominant Quality

The class which best represents the profile; that is, the highest class which at least half of the marks, weighted according to their number of credits, fall either in or above.

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.

Where it has been agreed at validation that a Master's, Diploma or Certificate programme be based on more than 180 credits, 120 credits or 60 credits respectively, the calculation shall be adjusted accordingly. Hence:

If the marks for at least half of the credits are in the range 70-100, the Dominant Quality is Distinction Standard.

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If the Dominant Quality is not of Distinction Standard and the marks for at least half of the credits are in the range 60 and above, the Dominant Quality is Merit Standard.

If the Dominant Quality is not of at least Merit Standard and the marks for at least half of the credits are in the range 50 and above, the Dominant Quality is Good Standard.

If the Dominant Quality is not of at least Good Standard and the marks for at least half of the credits are in the range 40 and above, the Dominant Quality is Below Threshold Standard.

All programmes will use the same method of profiling to determine Dominant Quality:

Dominant Quality shall be based on a profile recording the total number of credits for modules marked in each category; for example, for a Masters programme a student's profile might be as follows:

Example:

Distinction marks	(at least 70)	for	80 credits
Merit marks	(60-69)	for	60 credits
Good marks	(50-59)	for	40 credits
Below Threshold Standard marks	(40-49)	for	0 credits
Fail marks	(<40)	for	0 credits

In this example, the Dominant Quality of the set of marks is Merit Standard.

Borderlines

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

Master	Boundary	Borderline BELOW
	Distinction	68.0 – 69.9
	Merit	58.0 – 59.9
	Pass	48.0 – 49.9

19.4 AWARDING METHOD FOR AWARDING OF POSTGRADUATE MASTER'S DEGREES, POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE: SEQUENCE

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

Awarding is made by the Examiners exercising judgement of the category which best represents the candidate's achievement based on the overall level of performance (the weighted average of the marks), on the profile of marks overall, and on any specific restriction which may apply (for accreditation or other proper purposes), taking into account any relevant special circumstances. The Examiners' judgement will be guided by the following.

Candidates with Absolute and/or Significant Weakness should normally be Failed.

Otherwise, the Weighted Average Mark should be initially used to place the candidate in a category, subject to the following conventions.

Where a programme includes modules which are marked on a Pass/Fail basis, the Programme Specification will specify the standard which a candidate is required to achieve in the module in order to fulfil the requirements for the award of the degree.

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 was agreed by the University Board for Teaching and Learning in February 2006, and is included in Section 16.4.

19.5 AWARDING METHOD FOR MASTER'S DEGREES: DETAILED PROCEDURE

- a) In order to be eligible for a Master's degree, a candidate must have completed 180 credits (of which not less than 150 shall normally be at level 7 or above) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.

b) Master's degrees:

(i) Awards

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree**:

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

Distinction

[A Weighted Average Mark of 70 or more over 180 credits

AND

a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 68 or more over 180 credits

AND

a mark of 70 or more in 90 credits^

AND

a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

Merit

[A Weighted Average Mark of 60 or more over 180 credits

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 58 or more over 180 credits

AND

a mark of 60 or more in 90 credits^

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

Passed

[A Weighted Average Mark of 50 or more over 180 credits

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed 55 credits).]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 48 or more over 180 credits

AND

a mark of 50 or more in 90 credits^

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed 55 credits).]

(ii) Failed

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A performance which fails to fulfil the criteria for the above classifications. A candidate who has failed may be eligible for a lesser award.

*** Where it has been agreed at validation that a Masters programme does not include a dissertation, the above conventions omitting all references to the dissertation will apply. Where it has been agreed at validation that a Masters programme consists of modules worth a total of more than the minimum requirement of 180 credits, the Weighted Average Mark should be calculated over the agreed greater total of credits.*

^ Where the weighted average mark is calculated on a different number of credits from the standard 180, the number of credits in which this level of performance is required will be half the number of credits forming the weighted average.

19.6 AWARDING METHOD FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA: DETAILED PROCEDURE

- a) In order to be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma, a candidate must have completed 120 credits (of which not less than 90 shall normally be at level 7 or above) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.

b) Postgraduate Diploma:

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

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

Distinction

[A Weighted Average Mark of 70 or more over 120 credits#

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 68 or more over 120 credits#

AND

a mark of 70 or more in 60 credits^^

AND

no mark below 40.]

Merit

[A Weighted Average Mark of 60 or more over 120 credits#

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 58 or more over 120 credits#

AND

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a mark of 60 or more in 60 credits^{^^}

AND

no mark below 40.]

Passed

[A Weighted Average Mark of 50 or more over 120 credits#

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed 55 credits).]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 48 or more over 120 credits#

AND

a mark of 50 or more in 60 credits^{^^}

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed 55 credits).]

Failed

A performance which fails to fulfil the criteria for the above classifications. A candidate who has failed may be eligible for a lesser award.

Where it has been agreed at validation that a programme consists of modules worth a total of more than the minimum requirement of 120 credits for PG Diploma or 60 credits for PG Certificate, the Weighted Average Mark should be calculated over the agreed greater total of credits.

^^ Where the weighted average mark is calculated on a different number of credits from the standard 120, the number of credits in which this level of performance is required will be half the number of credits forming the weighted average.

19.7 AWARDING METHOD FOR POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE: DETAILED PROCEDURE

- a) In order to be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate, a candidate must have completed 60 credits (of which not less than 40 shall normally be at level 7 or above) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.

b) Postgraduate Certificate:

Passed and Failed categories only will be awarded for PG Certificates as follows:

(i) Awards

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

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

Passed

[A Weighted Average Mark of 50 or more over 60 credits#

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 10 credits).]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 48 or more over 60 credits#

AND

A mark of 50 or more in 30 credits^{^^^}

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 10 credits).]

(ii) Failed

A performance which fails to fulfil the criteria for the above classifications.

Where it has been agreed at validation that a programme consists of modules worth a total of more than the minimum requirement of 120 credits for PG Diploma or 60 credits for PG Certificate, the Weighted Average Mark should be calculated over the agreed greater total of credits.

^^^ Where the weighted average mark is calculated on a different number of credits from the standard 60, the number of credits in which this level of performance is required will be half the number of credits forming the weighted average.

19.8 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.

19.9 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.

19.10 SUBMISSION OF MASTER'S WORK TOWARDS ANOTHER DEGREE

A candidate who has qualified for a Master's degree on the basis of a taught postgraduate programme shall not *ipso facto* be admitted to the degree if they are permitted to submit work previously examined for that degree in an examination for another Master's degree (by examination or by thesis) or for the degree of PhD. A candidate shall, however, have the right to claim admission to that degree if they do not successfully complete the subsequent programme.

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

19.11.1 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.

19.11.2 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 19.11.1 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.

19.11.3 **Calculation of marks**

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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.

19.11.4 Classification for Masters degree

19.11.4.1 Provided that the candidate has at least 120 credits with marks and a mark for the dissertation module (if applicable), the candidate shall be classified in accordance with the following stipulations and amendments in respect of the standard awarding conventions given in section 19.5 above.

The **Weighted Average** 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.

The requirement that a candidate has **no mark below 40** shall remain a **condition for the classifications of Distinction and Merit**. For avoidance of doubt, modules for which no mark is available are **not** considered within the scope of this rule and are not treated as if the mark is zero.

The requirement that a candidate has no mark below 40 in a **module of Special Significance** shall remain a condition for the classification of Pass. For avoidance of doubt, modules of Special Significance for which no mark is available are **not** considered within the scope of this rule and are not treated as if the mark is zero.

The **Absolute Weakness** criterion shall be amended with the effect that, taking account of available marks only:

- (as currently) the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits; and
- the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed the following values dependent on the number of credits with marks available:

Credits with marks available	Maximum credits permitted with marks below 50
180	55
170	51
160	48
150	45
140	42
130	39
120	36

Programmes accredited by a PSRB are also subject to the stipulation in 19.11.4.4.

19.11.4.2 Detailed classification method for Masters degrees under 'matters outwith the University's control' procedures

In order to be eligible for a Master's degree, a candidate must have completed 180 credits (of which not less than 150 shall normally be at level 7 or above) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree**:

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

The candidate has at least 120 credits for which marks are available.

Distinction

[A Weighted Average Mark of 70 or more over the credits for which marks are available

AND

a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 68 or more over the credits for which marks are available

AND

a mark of 70 or more in half or more of the credits for which marks are available^

AND

a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

Merit

[A Weighted Average Mark of 60 or more over the credits for which marks are available

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 58 or more over the credits for which marks are available

AND

a mark of 60 or more in half or more of the credits for which marks are available ^

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no mark below 40.]

Passed

[A Weighted Average Mark of 50 or more over the credits for which marks are available

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme, provided that the mark is available for the module)

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AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed the following values dependent on the number of credits with marks available):

Credits with marks available	Maximum credits permitted with marks below 50
180	55
170	51
160	48
150	45
140	42
130	39
120	36

.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 48 or more over the credits for which marks are available

AND

a mark of 50 or more in half or more of the credits for which marks are available ^

AND

a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme, provided that the mark is available for the module)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed the following values dependent on the number of credits with marks available):

Credits with marks available	Maximum credits permitted with marks below 50
180	55
170	51
160	48
150	45
140	42
130	39
120	36

.]

Failed

A performance which fails to fulfil the criteria for the above classifications. A candidate who has failed may be eligible for a lesser award.

*** Where it has been agreed at validation that a Masters programme does not include a dissertation, the above conventions omitting all references to the dissertation will apply. Where it has been agreed at validation that a Masters programme consists of modules worth a total of more than the minimum requirement of 180 credits, the Weighted Average Mark should be calculated over the agreed greater total of credits.*

^ Where the weighted average mark is calculated on a different number of credits from the standard 180, the number of credits in which this level of performance is required will be half the number of credits forming the weighted average.

19.11.4.3 In the case of candidates who have less than 120 credits with marks or who lack a mark for the dissertation, 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 19.11.4.4.

19.11.4.4 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.

19.11.4.5 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 a subsequent meeting. 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 candidate's marks shall not lead to a lower classification than the classification originally agreed.

19.11.5 Classification for Postgraduate Diploma

19.11.5.1 Provided that the candidate has at least 80 credits with marks, the candidate shall be classified in accordance with the following stipulations and amendments in respect of the provisions of section 19.6 above.

The **Weighted Average** 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.

The requirement that a candidate has **no mark below 40** shall remain a **condition for the classifications of Distinction and Merit**. For avoidance of doubt, modules for which no mark is available are **not** considered within the scope of this rule and are not treated as if the mark is zero.

The requirement that a candidate has no mark below 40 in a **module of Special Significance** shall remain a condition for the classification of Pass. For avoidance of doubt, modules of Special Significance for which no mark is available are **not** considered within the scope of this rule and are not treated as if the mark is zero.

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The **Absolute Weakness** criterion shall be amended with the effect that, taking account of available marks only:

- (as currently) the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits; and
- the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 50 must not exceed the following values dependent on the number of credits with marks available:

Credits with marks available	Maximum credits permitted with marks below 50
120	55
110	50
100	45
90	41
80	36

Programmes accredited by a PSRB are also subject to the stipulation in 19.11.5.4.

19.11.5.2 Detailed classification method for Postgraduate Diplomas under ‘matters outwith the University’s control’ procedures

In order to be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma, a candidate must have completed 120 credits (of which not less than 90 shall normally be at level 7 or above) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

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

The candidate has at least 80 credits for which marks are available.

Distinction

[A Weighted Average Mark of 70 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 68 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

a mark of 70 or more in half or more of the credits for which marks are available ^^

AND

no mark below 40.]

Merit

[A Weighted Average Mark of 60 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

no mark below 40.]

OR

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[A Weighted Average Mark of 58 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

a mark of 60 or more in half or more of the credits for which marks are available ^^

AND

no mark below 40.]

Passed

[A Weighted Average Mark of 50 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme, provided that the mark is available for the module)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed the following values dependent on the number of credits with marks available):

Credits with marks available	Maximum credits permitted with marks below 50
120	55
110	50
100	45
90	41
80	36

.]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 48 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

a mark of 50 or more in half or more of the credits for which marks are available ^^

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme, provided that the mark is available for the module)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 30 credits and for all modules marked below 50 does not exceed the following values dependent on the number of credits with marks available):

Credits with marks available	Maximum credits permitted with marks below 50
120	55
110	50
100	45

90	41
80	36

.]

Failed

A performance which fails to fulfil the criteria for the above classifications. A candidate who has failed may be eligible for a lesser award.

Where it has been agreed at validation that a programme consists of modules worth a total of more than the minimum requirement of 120 credits for PG Diploma or 60 credits for PG Certificate, the Weighted Average Mark should be calculated over the agreed greater total of credits.

^^ Where the weighted average mark is calculated on a different number of credits from the standard 120, the number of credits in which this level of performance is required will be half the number of credits forming the weighted average.

- 19.11.5.3 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 19.11.5.4.
- 19.11.5.4 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.
- 19.11.5.5 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 a subsequent meeting. 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 candidate's marks shall not lead to a lower classification than the classification originally agreed.

19.11.6 Classification for Postgraduate Certificate

- 19.11.6.1 Provided that the candidate has at least 40 credits with marks, the award shall be determined in accordance with the following stipulations and amendments in respect of the provisions of section 19.7 above:

The **Weighted Average** 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.

The requirement that a candidate has no mark below 40 in a **module of Special Significance** shall remain a condition for the classification of Pass. For avoidance of doubt, modules of Special Significance for which no mark is available are **not** considered within the scope of this rule and are not treated as if the mark is zero.

The **Absolute Weakness** criterion for the Postgraduate Certificate shall remain, so that, in order to be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate, the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 10 credits.

Programmes accredited by a PSRB are also subject to the stipulation in 19.11.6.4.

19.11.6.2 Detailed classification method for Postgraduate Certificates under 'matters outwith the University's control' procedures

In order to be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate, a candidate must have completed 60 credits (of which not less than 40 shall normally be at level 7 or above) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.

Passed and Failed categories only will be awarded for Postgraduate Certificates as follows.

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

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

The candidate has at least 40 credits for which marks are available.

Passed

[A Weighted Average Mark of 50 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme, provided that the mark is available for the module)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 10 credits.)]

OR

[A Weighted Average Mark of 48 or more over the credits for which marks are available #

AND

A mark of 50 or more in half or more of the credits for which marks are available ^^^

AND

no Significant Weakness (i.e. no mark below 40 in modules agreed at validation to be of special significance to the programme, provided that the mark is available for the module)

AND

no Absolute Weakness (i.e. the total credit value summed for all modules marked below 40 does not exceed 10 credits.)]

Failed

A performance which fails to fulfil the criteria for the above classification.

Where it has been agreed at validation that a programme consists of modules worth a total of more than the minimum requirement of 120 credits for PG Diploma or 60 credits for PG Certificate, the Weighted Average Mark should be calculated over the agreed greater total of credits.

^^^ Where the weighted average mark is calculated on a different number of credits from the standard 60, the number of credits in which this level of performance is required will be half the number of credits forming the weighted average.

19.11.6.3 In the case of candidates who have less than 40 credits with marks, the University Awarding Board, in close consultation with Programme Examiners and with reference to External Examiners, is 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

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may include performance during the programme. Programmes accredited by a PSRB are also subject to the stipulation in 19.11.6.4.

- 19.11.6.4 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.
- 19.11.6.5 In the event that, following the failure of a student to achieve a Postgraduate Certificate under these provisions, further marks contributing to a student's result become available, the relevant Programme Examiners and University Awarding Board shall reconsider the candidate at a subsequent meeting to determine his or her eligibility for an award. For the avoidance of doubt, reconsideration of a candidate's marks shall not lead to a lower result than the result originally agreed.