

For all students entering year one (SQF level 7) only from September 2023, on programmes where these Assessment Regulations apply, the way in which University calculates Honours degrees will change; programmes with approved exceptions in force remain unaffected.

**Classification of Honours Awards (Undergraduate programmes) applicable from Academic Year 2026/27.**

- 19.3 The following Honours classification scheme should be applied to all programmes except where another scheme has been approved as an exception. Where an exception has been approved, the exception must draw reference to the replacement regulations in force to replace Section 19.4 and Section 19.6-19.9 (inclusive) of these Regulations.
- 19.4 In the first instance, students will be classified using an overall credit-weighted average mark of a Calculation Set<sup>1</sup>. This classification may be adjusted upwards in specific cases on the basis of profiling (19.8) and on the basis of a wider consideration of a student's performance (19.9).
- 19.5 In no circumstance can the classification produced by the overall credit-weighted average mark be downgraded.
- 19.6 Where a module has been passed at a second or subsequent attempt, the pass mark for the module, rather than the actual mark awarded, will be used in the consideration of whether the module has to be included in the Calculation Set. For example, a mark at second attempt of 53% will be replaced by a mark of 40%, if that is the pass mark for that module.
- 19.7 Calculation of the credit-weighted average mark and the determination of classification are as follows:
- 19.7.1 The credit-weighted average mark to be used is that from a set of SCQF 10 and SCQF 9 modules that comprise 180 credits in total, and produce the highest credit-weighted average mark. The set of modules (termed the Calculation Set) must include all 120 credits at SCQF 10, and include a Dissertation/Honours Project, if it is part of the programme.
- 19.7.2 In the case of the direct entry to Year 4, the classification is based on the overall credit-weighted average mark of 120 credits taken in that year of study.
- 19.7.3 The classification scheme based on the overall credit-weighted average of the Calculation Set is as follows:

Honours Classification	Credit-weighted average of the calculation set
First Class Honours	> = 70%
Second Class (upper division) Honours	60-69%

<sup>1</sup> The calculation set for a candidate is specified in section 19.7, and is used for the determination of the credit-weighted average and the marks' profile.

Second Class (lower division) Honours	50-59%
Third Class Honours	40-49%

19.8 In cases where the overall credit-weighted average used in the calculation is within 2% of attaining the 50%, 60% and 70% boundaries (i.e. 48-49%, 58-59%, 68-69%), the Progression and Award Board must also take into account the marks' profile of the calculation set to establish if they are eligible for a raised classification. Please see Honours profiling guidance examples shown in the, [Examples of Honours Classification Profiling](#).

19.8.1 Classification of an Honours award in terms of the profile of an individual's performance can be determined with each module in the Calculation Set being marked in accordance with the following scheme:

First class	70-100%
Second class (upper division)	60-69%
Second class (lower division)	50-59%
Third class	40-49%

19.8.2 In the case of a classification determined in line with 19.7.1, the classification will be upgraded from that calculated from the credit-weighted average, if:

- i. a higher classification than that determined from the credit-weighted average of the Calculation Set is reached in 120 of the 180 credit points;
- and,
- ii. the classification in no more than 30 credit points of the Calculation Set is below the classification obtained from the credit-weighted average of the Calculation Set;
- and,
- iii. in the case of a potential upgrading to a First Class award, no modules taken in the final two levels of the programme have been compensated.

19.8.3 In the case of a classification determined in line with 19.7.2 (Direct Entry to Level 4), the classification will be upgraded from that calculated from the credit-weighted average, if:

- i. a higher classification than that calculated from the credit-weighted average of the Calculation Set is reached in 80 of the 120 credit points,
- and,

ii. the classification in no more than 20 credit points of the Calculation Set is below the classification from the credit-weighted average of the Calculation Set.

and,

iii. in the case of potential upgrading to a First Class award, no modules taken have been compensated.

19.9 If, following the application of 19.7 and 19.8 there are particular cases where a student's performance is close to a boundary, it may be necessary to view that student's performance in any or all of the following before reaching a final decision as to whether an upgrading of a classification is appropriate:

i. each element of the final assessments;

ii. the student's complete undergraduate performance; and,

iii. an oral assessment, in line with Section 20.1 below.

19.10 A candidate allowed to re-enter an Honours assessment may, where appropriate, be offered an exit award of unclassified degree; the candidate may choose not to accept the unclassified degree but, if the exit award is accepted, the candidate will not thereafter be eligible to re-enter the assessment for the Honours degree as part of a continuous programme.