

## EXCEPTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS INTRODUCED IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-20, SEMESTER 2

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Academic Council approved a number of temporary arrangements in June 2020 to support students in the light of unprecedented disruption to learning and teaching due to the COVID19 pandemic. These exceptional arrangements are summarised below. They were applied to progression and award outcomes in AY 2019-20, but continue to be relevant for some students.

### **Final award classifications**

Following the university's long-established 'no detriment' principle in relation to changes to assessment regulations, the temporary adjustments for final award classifications will continue to be applied to any affected students, ie **those enrolled on final level modules in AY 2019-20 but who achieve their final award in a subsequent year**. This will be relevant to part-time students and those who suspend studies.

### **Honours degree classification**

The normal regulatory framework applies one calculation to determine Honours classification. This is the mean (average) mark across all Level 10 credits.

For affected students, we will also use a second calculation, which is the mean (average) mark across the best 80 credits at SCQF Level 10, disregarding the lowest marks achieved in S2/SC/S3 modules (semester 2 (S2) / semester continuous (SC) / semester 3 (S3)). If this calculation indicates a higher classification than the normal one, that will be awarded. But it will only be used to improve a classification outcome, not to lower it ('no detriment' approach).

Students must submit assessments for all final level modules and achieve at least the 40% pass mark as normal – compensation is not available for Honours level awards. Further information [here](#).

### **Distinction classification (CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary degree)**

The normal regulatory framework applies one calculation to determine eligibility for Distinction. This requires a mean (average) mark of 70% across all modules at the relevant level.

For affected students, we will also use a second calculation, which is the mean (average) mark across the best 80 credits at the relevant level, disregarding the lowest marks achieved in S2/SC/S3 modules.

If either calculation indicates student has met the 70% threshold, the Distinction classification will be awarded. Further information [here](#).

### **Postgraduate taught (PGT) awards and Distinction classification**

The normal regulatory framework requires achievement of a minimum number of credits at Distinction grade for a postgraduate award with Distinction (postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma or Masters).

For affected students, we will also use a second calculation. This uses two criteria: a minimum number of credits at 70+ AND a mean (average) mark, which will need to be at 67+ for Distinction. We will calculate the mean (average) mark in two ways and use the higher of the two mean marks.

Students must submit assessments for all modules – compensation is not available for PGT level awards. Further information [here](#).

### **Exceptional progression and ungraded credit**

The university permitted 'compensation' for S2/SC/S3 modules in AY 2019-20, where students had not successfully completed assessments. This enabled exceptional progression to the next stage of study, including into Honours level (SCQF Level 10). This adjustment was also applied to any resit / repeat module assessments due during S2 of AY 2019-20. Students were awarded 'ungraded credit' for compensated modules **for the purposes of progression only**.

Some modules and programmes could not be compensated in this way, due to professional body accreditation requirements, or specific health and safety considerations, which were clearly identified by the relevant Board of Examiners.

If a programme requires core practical skills or competences, students may need to be assessed on these at a later stage, to ensure they meet all requirements of the final award.

If a student awarded 'ungraded credit' for one or more modules subsequently withdraws from their programme, and wishes to exit with an award at a lower level, they may be required to complete further assessments in order to meet the requirements of that award. Normally, this would apply only to modules with ungraded credit **at the level of the intended exit award**.