

How we calculate classifications for undergraduate Honours degrees

We understand that your degree classification is very important to you, so we want you to have as clear an understanding as possible about how your degree classification will be calculated.

We regularly review our processes to ensure they are fair and transparent. All Honours degree classifications are determined through the approved institutional methodology. The methodology is based on a weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) and the concept of predominance. The way that degree classifications are calculated is set out in the Determination of Honours Degree Classification Policy.

The calculation

Marks included in the calculation

The calculation of a degree classification is based on the modules you study over years 3 and 4 (or equivalent for part-time). These are the 'countable modules'.

To determine your classification, we calculate your GPA. Within this calculation:

- Compulsory and option modules are treated equally
- The dissertation (or equivalent project) is always included
- Any modules assessed on a pass/fail basis are discounted
- Your lowest marked 20 credits (including modules with a fail mark) is discounted.

The marks for include your countable modules that are to be included in the calculation, are 'weighted' by the number of credit points the module carries. For example, the mark you receive for a 60-credit dissertation will have three times the impact on GPA than the mark for a 20-credit module because of the credit weighting. You will find the credit weighting for each of your modules in the information on your programme provided in the Degree Programme Tables which you can access on the Portal.

If your degree is not a standard 240 credit format over years 3 and 4, the calculation is adjusted:

- If you have more than 240 credits from years 3 and 4, the lowest marked 20 credits (including modules with a fail mark) is discounted and then **all of** the remaining credits are included in the GPA calculation.
- If you have 120 credits or less with marks attributed to them, the GPA must be based on **all** available credits with attributed marks. This means no modules may be discounted.

The average mark derived from the calculation is rounded to the nearest whole number and this represents the GPA which will be used to classify your award.

The classification thresholds are as follows:

- First class: 70
- Upper second class: 60
- Lower second class: 50
- Third class: 40

If your GPA meets a classification threshold, you will be granted that classification.

If your GPA falls within 2 marks of the next higher classification threshold, and at least 50% of all of your credits (before the lowest grade has been removed from the calculation) are at or above the next higher classification threshold (this is called predominance), you will be granted the next higher classification.

An example of this can be seen in the table below:

Overall GPA: 68.4

Credit value	Marks				
	1st	2:1	2:2	3	FAIL
20	75				
20	75				
20	75				
20		68			
20				45	
20		65			
20		65			
20				45	
60	75				
	75				
	75				

In this situation, a student would be awarded a 1st classification as 120 (50%) of their credits with marks attributed are in the 1st classification and their overall GPA is within 2 marks of the higher classification.

May 2025