

Undergraduate Degree Regulations

Version 3.0

Undergraduate Degree Regulations (including Integrated Masters)

Effective from September 2026*

*This version of the Undergraduate Degree Regulations applies to undergraduate students who commenced their programme of study on or after 1st September 2026. Version 2.8 of the Degree Regulations remains applicable to students who commenced their studies after September 2018 but prior to 1st September 2026.

The Undergraduate Degree Regulations define the structure and requirements of the University's undergraduate awards. Students might wish to refer to these Degree Regulations to understand how their marks are taken into account and what happens when things don't go quite as planned (for example, how the compensation and reassessment rules work).

Note: Faculty approved variances to the Degree Regulations will be described within the Programme Handbooks. Where they exist they will take precedence, for example, in order to comply with Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). All changes must be approved through the Variations to Degree Regulations process.

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A Credit and Award Framework

- 1 All awards of the University of Manchester will be given on the basis of the accumulation of credit as mapped out in Table 1, which outlines the minimum credit required for an award, and the minimum credit required at the level of the qualification for an award. This table is based on the credit/awards and levels required by the national Framework of Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ):

Table 1: Undergraduate Credit and Award framework

Name of Award	Minimum credit for the award	ECTS Minimum credit for the award	Minimum credits at the level of qualification	ECTS Minimum credits at the level of qualification	FHEQ level
Integrated Masters Degree	480	240	120	60	7
Bachelors Degree with Honours (4 Year full-time)	480	240	180	90	6
Bachelors Degree with Honours (3 Year full-time)	360	180	90	45	6
Ordinary Bachelors Degree	300	150	60	30	6
Graduate Diploma (GDip)	120	60	120	60	6
Graduate Certificate (GCert)	60	30	60	30	6
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	240	120	90	45	5
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	120	60	90	45	4

Note 1: The table refers to the levels as defined in the FHEQ ([The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#)). Level 7 of the FHEQ relates to a Masters, while levels 4, 5 and 6 correspond to years 1, 2 and 3 of an undergraduate degree.

Note 2: One ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) is equivalent to two UK credits.

Note 3: Durations may differ for part-time courses, but the minimum credit for the award remains the same.

- 2 On completion of study, students will receive an award based on the appropriate amount of credits accumulated, as specified in Table 1.
- 3 The maximum period for completion of a Degree Programme is normally two years beyond the standard duration of the programme (see also [F26](#)).
- 4 A student must accumulate the minimum amount of credit at the level of the qualification in Table 1. In addition, students can take credit at a higher or lower level (up to a maximum of 30 credits) to accumulate the minimum credit for the level of the award, subject to the programme requirements.

B Title of Taught Awards

- 5 A list of all titles of degrees awarded by the University at all levels can be found in Regulation XI "Titles of Degrees and other Distinctions" in the University's General Regulations: [Title of Degrees and other Distinctions](#).

- 6 Degree titles will normally follow the conventions outlined below:
- a) The title "X" signifies that at least two thirds of the credits of the programme and of credits in the final year relate directly to the subject X.
 - b) The title "X and Y" signifies that the distinct subjects X and Y each comprise of more than one third of the credits of the programme and of the credits in the final year.
 - c) The title "X with Y" signifies either:
 - i. that subject X comprises at least two thirds of the credits of the programme undertaken at the University of Manchester combined with a substantial period of study in subject Y (typically one academic year) away from the University; or
 - ii. subject X is studied with distinct subject Y, where X comprises of at least half of the credits of the programme and of the credits in the final year, and Y comprises at least one quarter (but no more than one third) of the credits of the programme and of the credits in the final year.
 - d) The titles "X (with Y)" or "X (Y)" may be used to signify that subject X is studied with a related specialist subject (Y). The related specialist subject (Y) will comprise of less than one quarter but at least one sixth of the credits of the programme and of the credits in the final year. Titles of awards will not normally include more than two subjects, to which "with Z" may be added as a suffix for a substantial period of study (typically one academic year) away from the University where applicable.

C Accreditation of Prior (and Experiential) Learning (AP(E)L)

Note: 'AP(E)L' stands for the award of credits based on learning that has already taken place. AP(E)L credits can exempt a student from parts of their academic programme if they can show that their existing knowledge and skills meet the necessary requirements. This prior learning may have been formally assessed by an educational institution or gained through experience, such as paid or unpaid work. AP(E)L can only be approved for whole course units. For more details, see [Principles and Guidance for the Application of the Accreditation of Prior Learning \(AP\(E\)L\)](#).

- 7 AP(E)L credits will be allowed for up to half of the total credits needed for the programme at the point of application for accreditation. On completion of the programme, at least half of the credits must have been awarded by the University of Manchester, this also applies to exit awards. Only credits gained at the University of Manchester will be used when determining compensation (see [E21](#)), reassessment maximums (see [F31](#)), and Degree Classification (outlined in [L57](#) and [M61](#)). To apply for AP(E)L, evidence of prior learning must date from within 5 years of the application.
- 8 Students with AP(E)L credits can receive an exit award if: their performance at the University of Manchester satisfies the award requirements in Table 1; and at least half of the credits have been awarded by the University of Manchester.
- 9 Schools can stipulate when AP(E)L is not allowed due to Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) requirements.

- 10 AP(E)L may be used in exceptional circumstances for entry into Level 6 (or 7 of an Integrated Masters). However, this must be approved by the Faculty.

D Assessment and Progression

Note: The pass mark for Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, and Bachelors degree programmes is 40. For Integrated Masters programmes, the pass mark is 40 at levels 4, 5 and 6 of the programme, and 50 in the final year (at level 7). 'Progression' is when a student successfully completes one level (e.g. Level 4) and is therefore allowed to move to the next level of study (e.g. Level 5) by satisfying the requirements in the programme specification.

- 11 If a student has exceeded the maximum credits allowed within the compensation zone (see [E21](#)), the Examination Board must specify which units will be compensated and which will be referred. The combined number of credits referred and those compensated cannot exceed 80 credits (see [F31](#)). For full time students, compensation can only be awarded when the full range of marks are available for the level of study. For part time students, compensation can only be awarded when the full range of marks are available for the year of study. Normally, higher scoring units will be compensated, and lower scoring units will be referred.
- 12 Where a student has not passed the required number of credits after compensation, referrals, or consideration of mitigation, the Examination Board can decide to withdraw the student and award an Exit Award if criteria are met in accordance with [Table 1](#). If the Examination Board decides the student can continue, it has the following options at its discretion:
- Allow the student to retake the level (see [section I](#))-this may be the best option if a student has more than 80 credits of reassessments (whether deferrals, referrals, or both). See [F31](#) for referral credit limits.
 - In exceptional circumstances, allow the student to carry forward up to 20 credits (see [section H](#) on carrying forward failed credit).
 - Consider reassessment, where there is further approved and verified mitigation (see [mitigation policy and procedure](#) for full details).
- 13 The Examination Board has the right to refuse assessment or reassessment/referred assessment and exit a student from the programme if the Board has documented evidence that, (a) a student's work, attendance or engagement has been unsatisfactory, as outlined in the Programme Handbook, and (b) the student has been formally warned of the unsatisfactory work, attendance or engagement but has not shown significant improvement acceptable to the Board. *See Regulation XX – Work and Attendance of Students and the Policy on Recording and Monitoring Attendance (<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=20846>).*
- 14 Schools may have alternative progression and assessment regulations where these are required by Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). However, should students fail to meet PSRB standards, but have succeeded in achieving University standards then a 'non-accredited' alternative award must be awarded by an Examination Board (see [J44](#)).
- 15 Students progressing to the final year (level 7) of an Integrated Masters must achieve an average of at least 50% across level 6 in order to progress. Schools must specify if they have additional criteria

for progression to the final year of an Integrated Masters. These additional criteria must be approved by the Faculty and clearly stated in the programme handbook.

- 16 Undergraduate students must pass a minimum of 40 credits on the first attempt at each level (see [F31](#) for referral details), in order to progress. Schools must stipulate in the unit specification which of their compulsory¹ units must be passed on the first attempt. When a student fails to pass the minimum number of credits on the first attempt, they will have failed the level (see [section I](#) on repeating the level or [section J](#) on exit awards).
- 17 Undergraduate students progress by accumulating credit in line with the programme requirements. Students can progress once they have accumulated enough credit, as specified in the programme handbook at each level of their programme.
- 18 When progressing from one level of study to the next, the progression rules [D12](#), [D16](#), and [D17](#) apply except when progressing to the final year (level 7) of an Integrated Masters degree (see [D15](#)).
- 19 Students cannot choose to progress onto an Ordinary degree². This is only as a result of a decision made by a School or Faculty misconduct committee/discipline panel, which is then confirmed by an Examination Board.

E Compensation

Note: 'Compensation' is when an Examination Board awards the credit for a unit that is below the pass mark providing the unit mark falls within the Compensation Zone (known as a 'compensated pass' see [E20](#)) to allow the student to progress or exit with an award without retaking the unit. This is known as a unit being 'compensable'.

- 20 Decisions on compensation for eligible units are made by Examination Boards (see [D11](#)). Schools can specify when a unit is not compensable or when PSRB/ESFA rules take precedence. Compulsory units cannot be compensated. This must be made clear to students in advance of commencing the unit, in the Programme and Unit Specifications.
- 21 The compensation zone at FHEQ levels 4, 5 and 6 is defined as marks between 30 and 39. The compensation zone at level 7 of an Integrated Masters programme is defined as marks between 40 and 49.
- 22 A maximum of 40 credits, per level, can be compensated at Level 4 and 5 of an undergraduate programme. This applies to any credits that have been taken at a higher or lower FHEQ level.
- 23 Compensated units will keep the original mark which is used in the weighted average for the calculation of the final classification/award.
- 24 Referred assessment is compensable provided the number of compensated credits allowed has not been exceeded (see [F31](#) for details of referred assessment).

¹ Further information about compulsory units can be found in the [Taught Degree Regulations Glossary of Terms](#)

² An Ordinary Degree is a degree awarded without Honours. Ordinary Degrees do not have a classification.

F Reassessment

Note: Reassessment as a result of a fail is known as a 'Referral'. Reassessment on the original attempt as a result of approved and verified mitigating circumstances are known as 'Deferrals'. Deferrals may also be referred to as a 'first-sit'.

- 25** When compensation cannot be applied to a failed unit, either because the overall unit mark is below the compensation zone or the maximum amount of compensation has been exceeded, reassessment may be taken. This is unless the student is in the final year (level 6) of a Bachelors degree or the final years of an Integrated Masters (level 6 or 7) (for exceptions to this, see [section K](#)).
- a) As a minimum, the reassessment must be designed to assess the achievement of the same intended learning outcomes as the original failed assessment but does not need to be the same format as the original assessment. The reassessment will normally take place in the same academic year as the original assessment to enable the students to progress as originally intended. Schools are responsible for publishing dates of reassessment periods to students in an accessible place.
- 26** In their academic judgement, if the Examination Board deems that reassessment is not in the student's best interests, based on academic grounds, the Board has the right to refuse reassessment if it will cause a student's registration to exceed the maximum period for completion of a Degree Programme (see also [A3](#)).
- 27** An Examination Board may allow a student one attempt at reassessment per unit (for exceptions to this, see [F31](#)). This principle does not apply to attempts with approved and verified mitigating circumstances. Deferrals are considered a first attempt and no cap is applied to the unit mark (see [section G](#)).
- 28** Referral pass marks will be capped at the lowest compensable mark for undergraduate students, unless the previous mark was within the compensation zone, in which case the original mark will stand. The capped mark is applied to the unit level mark, not the failed element.
- 29** When a student is referred and fails the referral, if the unit cannot be compensated, the first mark stands (see [section H](#) on carrying forward failed credit).
- 30** When a student fails to obtain the required credit after referred assessment, the Examination Board may decide to allow them one more opportunity to take the whole course unit again, in attendance, where possible. This is subject to teaching capacity not being exceeded (see [section H](#) for full details).
- 31** Undergraduate students can be offered referrals in up to 80 credits per level (see [D11](#)) except level 6 and 7 (see [K47](#) for exceptions relating to PSRBs). This applies to any credits that have been taken at a higher or lower FHEQ level. The authority to decide which units are referred rests with the Examination Board.
- 32** The Examination Board must specify the minimum circumstances to enable the student to progress and any action required by the student.

G Treatment of Deferral Marks

- 33** Where a student has taken a deferral (a reassessment as a first attempt, also known as a 'first sit', due to approved mitigating circumstances), their original mark is annulled. The mark gained at the subsequent deferral is the mark that is taken forward, whether that is lower or higher than the original mark, unless:
- The student fails the deferral and the original mark was a pass, in which case the mark will be capped at the pass mark for undergraduate students.
 - The student fails the deferral and the original mark was in the compensation zone, in which case the original mark will stand.

Deferrals are to be treated in the same way as any other 'first sit' and the Regulations applied accordingly.

H Carrying forward failed credit on Undergraduate Programmes

- 34** Where a student has not passed the required number of credits after compensation or referrals, an Examination Board may exceptionally allow a student to progress to the next level whilst carrying forward up to 20 failed credits (see [D12](#)). This means a student could have three attempts in total: an original unit first sit, a referral, and then one carried credit attempt. This decision will be based on academic judgement, considering a student's previous results. The student should be reassessed, in attendance where possible, at the next available opportunity subject to teaching capacity not being exceeded (i.e. consideration given to the number of students being taught within the course unit). Reassessment without attendance is not normally permitted as students are more likely to succeed by attending. There may be restrictions imposed on programmes which have PSRB accreditation.
- 35** Credit for compulsory units cannot be carried forward to subsequent levels of study.
- 36** When carrying credit, whole units must be repeated in attendance, with assessment taken in full. Marks for carried credit will contribute towards the weighted average of the level they have been carried over from. In cases of referral, marks will be capped to the lowest compensable mark.
- 37** After compensation or consideration of mitigation has been exhausted, students can only have one attempt at obtaining credit carried forward to a subsequent level (see [K53](#)). If they fail to obtain the credit, they will be considered for an exit award.
- 38** Optional units can be substituted where the programme allows but a replacement unit should not be considered a first sitting, and there will be no further opportunities to regain the credit if the unit is failed after assessment/ reassessment.
- 39** Students must be advised by the Examination Board that if they fail the carried credit, then they may not qualify for an Honours degree. Because 'carrying' extra units imposes a significant additional workload on the student, the Examination Board should give permission only where it judges that the student is likely to be able to manage adequately, in the light of previous results.

I Repeating the Level (120 Credits)

- 40 Examination Boards are allowed to decide whether or not a student is academically suitable to repeat the entire level of study in light of previous results and provided the circumstances outlined in [A3](#) and [F26](#) are met. The outcome of this decision is also subject to teaching capacity not being exceeded. When repeating the level, any marks from a previous attempt at the level will be annulled. Tuition fee implications for repeating a level are outlined in the Student Terms and Conditions.
- 41 Normally an undergraduate student can repeat either level 4 or level 5 (but not both) once throughout the entirety of the degree. Exceptions may be allowed in cases of mitigating circumstances.
- 42 If a student has failed credits after repeating an entire level, they cannot carry forward the failed credits into a subsequent year.
- 43 Schools may seek approval for alternative arrangements where professional body requirements take precedence. Professional Bodies might stipulate extra conditions or may not allow students to repeat any part of the programme.

J Exit Awards

- 44 Once a student has exhausted all the opportunities for referred assessment, they will be given an exit award in accordance with [Table 1](#), [A3](#), and as defined in the Programme Specification.
- 45 If a student decides to withdraw, they will automatically be awarded the relevant exit award in accordance with [Table 1](#) and as defined in the Programme Specification.
- 46 All programmes must have approved exit awards at each level of study.

K Final year of an Undergraduate (including Integrated Masters) Programme

Note: Special compensation is compensation given for unit(s) failed in the final year of a Bachelors degree programme, or levels 6 and 7 of an Integrated Masters programme. This is to recognise that referral/reassessment is not normally permitted in the final year. [K49-K55](#) outline the credit allowances and rules for applying special compensation. Special compensation is for credit only.

- 47 There will be no reassessment at level 6, and level 7 (of an Integrated Masters programme) unless it is a requirement of a Professional, Statutory, Regulatory Body (PSRB) or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) if a programme does not allow compensation or special compensation. This will be approved by the Faculty and be specified clearly by the School (for example in programme handbooks). In such cases, a student who has not satisfied the requirements of the intended University award may be reassessed in some units. The expectation is that these marks will be capped at the equivalent of the lowest compensable mark, or as required by the PSRB/ESFA and the School/Faculty, to determine the class of degree awarded to the student.

- a) In year three (level 6) of a four-year Integrated Masters programme, reassessment can also be considered at the discretion of the Examination Board based on the academic suitability of the student, in light of previous results, and/or mitigating circumstances.
- 48 In order to qualify for an award, students must meet the credit criteria as stated in Table 1 and passed assessment as specified in the Unit/Programme Specifications.
- 49 When considering classifications for classes 1st, 2:1 or 2:2, an Examination Board may award special compensation³ for any failed unit (for up to 40 credits) at level 6 of a Bachelors degree programme, or up to a total of 40 credits across levels 6 or 7 of an Integrated Masters, providing they meet the following criteria:
- a) Has passed at least 80 credits at the level of the award.
- 50 When considering classifications for classes 1st, 2:1 or 2:2, an Examination Board may award special compensation for any failed unit (for up to 60 credits) at level 6 of a Bachelors degree programme, or up to a total of 60 credits across levels 6 or 7 of an Integrated Masters, providing they meet the following criteria:
- a) Has passed at least 60 credits at the level of the award. A penalty will be applied if more than 40 credits (and up to a maximum of 60 credits) have been failed. This penalty will be a reduction in classification to the classification below that which would have been awarded on the basis of the weighted average for the programme.
- 51 When considering classifications for a third-class degree, an Examination Board may award special compensation for up to 60 credits at level 6 of a Bachelors degree programme for any failed unit, providing they meet the following criteria:
- a) Has passed at least 60 credits at the level of the award.
- 52 Where special compensation is given, this is for credit only and the original unit marks are recorded and used to calculate the degree classification.
- 53 Credits that have been carried forward to the final year of a programme cannot be considered for special compensation.
- 54 Ordinary Degrees can be awarded at the end of a programme of study where a student has obtained 300 credits, 60 of which must be at the level of the qualification (FHEQ level 6). Special compensation does not apply to Ordinary degrees.
- 55 Integrated Masters students may request that their final year of study be disregarded in order to receive a Bachelors qualification, subject to there being no penalty applied due to academic misconduct in the final year. Such applications must be made in writing to the Chair of the Examination Board within 20 working days of the conferment of the higher award. Details of how to apply for a rescindment must be included in programme handbooks. This should be done in accordance with the University's Principles on Rescinding (see Appendix to the [Guidance on Examination Boards](#)).

³ Information about special compensation can be found in the [Taught Degree Regulations Glossary of Terms](#).

L Classification of Integrated Masters Degrees

Note: 'Borderline' classifications refer to when a student's overall weighted average degree falls within the boundary zone. See [Appendix A](#) for further details.

- 56 Decisions with regards to 'borderline' classifications for individual students should be resolved using the mechanisms outlined in [Appendix A](#).
- 57 Integrated Masters classifications will be decided using weighted total points for four-year degrees. Schools can choose to implement either of the following options unless there are alternative requirements for external accreditation, (see [Appendix A](#) for boundaries for classification and the boundary zone):

Table 2: Integrated Masters Classification Weightings

Option 1			Option 2		
Year	FHEQ Level*	Weighting	Year	FHEQ Level*	Weighting
1	4	0.0	1	4	0.06
2	5	0.2	2	5	0.19
3	6	0.4	3	6	0.375
4	7	0.4	4	7	0.375

*Where credits have been taken at a higher or lower level, they will contribute to the weighted average for the academic year in which they were studied (see A4).

- 58 Five-year Integrated Masters degrees including a year, or equivalent, studying abroad or on Placement will be classified using [L57](#) as a guide. Programme Handbooks must specify how/ if the year abroad/ on placement is assessed and credit weighted.

M Classification of Bachelors Degrees

Note: 'Borderline' classifications refer to when a student's overall weighted average degree falls within the boundary zone. See [Appendix A](#) for further details of the boundary zones.

- 59 Decisions with regards to 'borderline' classifications for individual students should be resolved using the mechanisms outlined in [Appendix A](#).
- 60 In order to achieve the award of a Bachelors Degree, a student must have accumulated the minimum credits listed in [Table 1](#), and as specified in the Unit/Programme Specifications. Students who have not obtained the minimum credit requirement for an Honours degree will be awarded an Ordinary degree in accordance with [Table 1](#) or an appropriate exit award.
- 61 Bachelors degree classification will be decided using weighted total points for three-year degrees. Schools can choose to implement either of the following options:

Table 3: Bachelors Classification Weightings

Option 1			Option 2		
Year	FHEQ Level*	Weighting	Year	FHEQ Level*	Weighting
1	4	0.0	1	4	0.1
2	5	0.33	2	5	0.3
3	6	0.67	3	6	0.6

**Where credits have been taken at a higher or lower level, they will contribute to the weighted average for the academic year in which they were studied (see A4).*

- 62 Four-year Bachelors degrees including a year, or equivalent, studying abroad or in Placement will be classified using [M61](#) as a guide. Programme Handbooks must specify how/ if the year abroad/ on placement is assessed and credit weighted.
- 63 Four-year taught Bachelors degrees will be classified using [M61](#) as a guide. Programme Handbooks must specify how the degree is weighted.

N Posthumous and Aegrotat Awards

- 64 Information about the award of posthumous or aegrotat degrees can be found in the [Procedures for the Award of Posthumous and Aegrotat Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Degrees](#).

O Examination Board Arrangements

- 65 Within each academic year there are normally three available assessment opportunities: January, May/June, and August/September. It is expected that all reassessment will take place in the academic year in which the assessment was first attempted.
- 66 There must be an opportunity at the end of every assessment period to make decisions regarding students' attainment on completed units. This is usually known as a Moderation Board (see [Guidance on Examination Boards](#) for further details).
- 67 Examination Boards will take place at appropriate points in each academic year, overseen by an External Examiner. Exceptions can be made for programmes with 'non-standard' assessment cycles.

Appendix A Undergraduate Degree Classification Scheme

This scheme should be used in conjunction with Table 1: Credit and Award Framework (see [section A](#)). Table 1 has been extracted from the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, and students must meet the credit requirements of [Table 1](#), prior to the classification being calculated, using the weightings, thresholds and boundaries below:

The Undergraduate Degree Classification Scheme is based upon weighted average using a 0-100 mark range calculated to one decimal place, where marks for individual course units are recorded as whole numbers.

Weightings

Bachelors degree classification will be decided using a weighted average for three-year degrees (see [M61](#)). These weightings will also be used as a guide for four-year Bachelors programmes and those which also include a study abroad year or placement, unless there are alternative requirements for external accreditation by a PSRB (see [M63](#)).

Integrated Masters programmes will be classified using the weightings in [M61](#); unless there are alternative requirements for external accreditation by a PSRB.

Stage 1: Classification Thresholds and Boundaries Bachelor Degree classification using 0-100 mark range and 120 credits

The following boundaries inform classification when the weighted average falls below a classification threshold.

Table A1 Bachelors degree classification and boundary zone using weighted average with mark range 0-100:

Bachelors Degree classification weighted to 120 credits	Classification thresholds: weighted average (0 to 100 mark range)	Boundary zone weighted average
First class	70.0	68.0 to 69.9
Upper Second class	60.0	58.0 to 59.9
Lower Second class	50.0	48.0 to 49.9
Third class	40.0	37.0 to 39.9

Consideration of Bachelor Degree students within the boundary zone by mark distribution

The following process applies to reach decisions on borderline cases:

After allowances have been made for mitigating circumstances, a student whose weighted average at the first assessment is within a boundary zone specified in Table A1, must be awarded the higher degree classification as long as the following is satisfied (see also notes on AP(E)L):

- two thirds of the credits¹ taken in the awarding academic year are equal to/higher than the final award (for example if the student is in the boundary between a 2.1 and a first, two thirds of the credits must be at 70% or higher to fulfil this criteria and award the students a first class degree). The two thirds credit may include credit at level 5 or 6.

Integrated Masters Degree classification using 0-100 mark range and 120 credits

The following boundaries inform classification when the weighted total average falls below a classification threshold.

Table A2 Integrated Masters degree classification and boundary zone using weighted average with 0-100 mark range:

Integrated Masters classification-based on 120 credits	Classification thresholds: weighted average (0 to 100 mark range)	Boundary zone weighted average
First class	70.0	68.0 to 69.9
Upper Second class	60.0	58.0 to 59.9
Lower Second class	50.0	48.0 to 49.9
Fail	Below 49.9	

Consideration of Integrated Masters students within the boundary zone by mark distribution

After allowances have been made for mitigating circumstances, a student whose weighted average at the first assessment is within the boundary zone specified above, must be awarded the higher degree classification as long as the following is satisfied (see also notes on AP(E)L):

- 75 credits out of 120 in the final year (level 7) are equal to/or higher than the final award (for example if the student is in the boundary between a 2.1 and a first, 75 out of 120 credits must be at 70% or higher to fulfil this criteria and award the student a first class degree).²

Stage 2: Classification Review

Note: Classification review is a process that introduces a level of academic judgement to determine a student's final degree classification when their weighted average at the first assessment falls within the boundary zone, but they do not automatically meet the criteria to be awarded the higher classification. Guidance and examples for applying classification review appropriately can be found in the Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations.

If a student is in the boundary zone and does not satisfy the additional criteria, Schools may apply a further stage of 'Classification Review', with decisions supported by an External Examiner. The process of 'Classification Review' should not change unit marks and can only influence the classification awarded. Further guidance on Classification Review can be found in the [Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations](#).

¹ Excluding AP(E)L and non-numeric pass/fail units; where there are AP(E)L or non-numeric pass/fail courses, mark distribution should be calculated based on two thirds of the remaining credits for Bachelors degrees and 75 out of 120 for Integrated Masters degrees.

Version amendment history: Undergraduate Degree Regulations		
Version	Date	Reason for change
2.0	September 2012	Creation of 'New Degree Regulations'.
2.1	February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation that referral marks will be capped at the lowest compensable level unless the previous mark was within the compensation zone, in which case the original mark will stand. • Clarification that students can progress onto an Ordinary degree on the basis of decisions made by a School or Faculty misconduct committee/discipline panel or equivalent.
2.2	September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor updates for clarification and grammar changes.
2.3	April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional section (section M) has been added regarding the use of aegrotat degrees. • Clarification provided regarding the treatment of students within the boundary zone for Bachelor and Integrated Masters students using mark distribution. The original wording stated that students whose "weighted average at the first assessment is within the boundary zone specified...must be considered for the higher award" now amended to state that students must be "awarded the higher degree classification" as long as the specified requirements are satisfied. • Amendment made to the number of a paragraph referenced in paragraph J 43. Instead of the reference being to paragraph F 32, it now reads 'F 28'.
2.4	September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph F29: clarification that marks would be capped at the pass mark in cases where students are required to be reassessed in some units in the final year in order to achieve higher marks required by a relevant professional, statutory or regulatory body. • Addition of the Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate in Table 1: Credit and Award Framework. • Confirmation that students cannot <i>progress onto</i> an Ordinary degree, unless it is as a result of a decision made by a School or Faculty misconduct committee/discipline panel. • The changing of the term 'mark review' to 'classification review' throughout, for clarity.
2.5	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Refusing assessment/referred assessment</u>, paragraphs D13 and F23: clarification that Examination Boards can refuse assessment, as well as referred assessment, on the grounds of a student's work and attendance. • <u>Rescinding Degrees</u>, paragraph J54: a new paragraph was added to confirm that Integrated Masters students may request that their final year of study be disregarded in order to receive a Bachelors qualification, subject to certain conditions. • Section M on Aegrotat Degrees updated to reference both 'Aegrotat' and 'posthumous' degrees. • An amendment was made to Appendix A: <i>Consideration of Bachelor Degree students within the boundary zone by mark distribution</i> regarding the criterion for increasing classifications in the boundary. This now clarifies that units <i>at level 5 and 6</i> can be used within the two thirds credit calculation, to increase classification within the boundary.

2.6	February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to paragraphs F30 and J45 in relation to the treatment of marks where reassessment is permitted in final year/year 6 or 7 as a requirement of PRSBs. • Paragraphs J48 and J49 have had the word “across” added to confirm that special compensation may be awarded for up to 40 credits (J48) or 60 credits (J49) <i>across levels 6 or 7</i> of an Integrated Masters, and not 40 credits at <i>both</i> levels. • Confirmation that, when considering students within the boundary zone by mark distribution, AP(E)L and non-numeric pass/fail units should not be included in the two thirds of the remaining credits for Bachelors degrees or the 75 credits out of 120 in final year/Level 7 of an Integrated Masters programme. • References to Viva Voce have been removed as vivas should now no longer be a standard part of assessment and most areas of the University have moved away from using them. • An addition was made to the disclaimer printed in the footnote of all pages to state that Degree Regulations variances may be in place in order to comply with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), in cases relating to Degree Apprenticeships (in addition to PSRBs). • June 2020 – updated link to General Regulation in paragraph B4.
2.7	October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to section M: Posthumous and Aegrotat Degrees, to refer to new Procedures for the Award of Posthumous and Aegrotat Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Degrees.
2.8	October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a new section G: Treatment of deferral marks. • Subsequent renumbering of sections and paragraphs.
3.0	October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive review and restructure. • The note that Table 1 is only applicable to awards and not progression has been removed. This is to ensure course unit selection is compatible with the exit award at each level of study. • Introduction of a maximum period of registration of two years beyond the standard programme duration- see A3 and F26. • Introduction of a new Section B, Title of Taught Awards’. This information was previously held in the Guide to the Taught Degree Regulations. • C7 outlines that half of the number of credits for the award that can be considered for Accreditation of Prior (and Experiential) Learning. This has increased from one-third in previous regulations. • Standardisation of pass marks at level 7 (see Note in Section D). The pass mark for Level 7 of an Integrated Masters programmes has been raised from 40 to 50. The pass mark for levels 4, 5 and 6 of an Integrated Masters programme remains 40. • Introduction of D11 that states when a student exceeds the compensation allowance, the Examination Board must determine which units will be compensated and which will be referred. • Amendment to D12 to suggest that when a student has more than 80 credits of reassessment (either deferrals or referrals) over the summer, retaking the level may be a more appropriate option. This remains at the discretion of the Examination Board. • Update to D14 to stipulate that students who do not meet the requirements of a professionally accredited degree but do meet University standards must be awarded a non-accredited degree. • D15 has been clarified to state that students must achieve an average of at least 50% across Level 6 of an Integrated Masters to progress. • Introduction of K53 which stipulates that special compensation cannot be applied to carried credit. • Further clarification added to H34 that reassessment without attendance is not normally permitted.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wording of H39 has been amended to state that Examination Boards must give advice to students that if they fail carried credit they may not qualify for an honours degree. • Stipulation added to J46 that all programmes must have approved exit awards at each level of study. • Removal of information about fee waivers for mitigating circumstances. This information will now be held in the Student Terms and Conditions.
3.1	March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor amendment to clarify G33, the treatment of deferral marks, and to bring in line with the treatment of referral marks. Students who originally passed the assessment but subsequently fail the deferral will have their mark capped at the lowest compensable mark. For students who fail the deferral, but the original mark was in the compensation zone, the original mark will stand. • Minor amendments to Section B, Title of Taught Awards, to clarify that the award title "X with Y" should be used for distinct subjects, and "X(with Y)" or "X(Y)" should be used when Y is a related specialist subject of X.

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Related Statutes, Ordinances, General Regulations / Policies	Postgraduate Taught Regulations
Related Procedures and Guidance:	Guide to Taught Degree Regulations and Taught Degree Regulations Glossary of Terms
Policy owner:	Head of Student and Academic Services
Lead contact:	Teaching and Learning Manager Taught Programme Enhancement, Division of SAS <i>For any queries or questions relating to this document, please direct your email to teaching-policy@manchester.ac.uk</i>