LTC12D099

Title:	**Proposals for an Algorithm for Borderline candidates on Integrated Masters programmes in the NAM**
Author:	Dr Adam Longcroft (Academic Director of Taught Programmes)
Circulation:	Learning & Teaching Committee – 20 March 2013
Agenda:	LTC12A004
Version:	Final
Status:	Open

Issue
Proposals from the Academic Director of Taught Programmes on an Algorithm to be used to calculate outcomes for 'borderline' candidates on Integrated Masters (IM) programmes under the New Academic Model. This paper was considered at TPPG on 13 March 2013.

Recommendation
LTC members are asked to consider and formally approve the recommendations contained in the paper.

Resource Implications
Many of the recommendations contained in the report will have resource implications for the University. LTS is aware of the contents of the paper on the IM Algorithm and is confident that the recommendations, if approved, can be effectively implemented. Exam Boards Chairs for IM programmes have had an opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Risk Implications
Many of the recommendations contained will have a 'risk' element for the University in the sense that decisions about policy issues will have an impact on processes and outcomes for students, and the student experience. However, the risks involved in this paper are minimal. If approved they are likely to result in a small positive change in the classification outcomes for IM borderline candidates.

Equality and Diversity
It is not envisaged that any of the recommendations contained in the report will impact on groups with protected characteristics.

Timing of decisions
This paper on contains recommendations for approval by LTC at its 20 March 2013 meeting. They will be implemented for the NAM, with the Algorithm being applied for first time in summer 2017.

Further Information
Contact: Dr Adam longcroft, Academic Director of Taught Programmes, UEA 01603 592261
a.longcroft@uea.ac.uk

Background
TPPG is an advisory group which provides guidance and advice to the Academic Director of Taught Programmes on issues relating to UEA policy and teaching/pedagogy in general. TPPG is not a decision-making body and has no executive powers – it is a body with cross-University membership which puts forward recommendation to LTC for the latter to consider and/or approve.

Discussion
The paper is for discussion and contains recommendations for approval.

New Academic Model:
Classification Algorithm for Integrated Masters degrees

1) Introduction

Integrated Masters programmes (IMs) are four year programmes of study and are only offered within the Science Faculty. They are unlike normal Masters Degrees in the sense that they combined UG and Masters level modules and use a classification system identical to that on standard UG degree programmes (1st class, 2(1), 2(2), 3rd, Fail). The UG modules conform to normal CCS regulatory requirements (e.g. pass mark is 40%) whilst Masters level modules are run in accordance with Common Masters Framework (e.g. pass mark is 50%). Some IM programmes have professional accreditation and lead to professional recognition. For example, the MChem programme is accredited as satisfying eligibility, in terms of Academic Requirements, for RSC's designation 'Chartered Chemist' (CChem). Some IM programmes also include a third year which is spent abroad or in industry. On IM programmes students normally complete a research project in their final year, providing them with the opportunity to gain greater insight into a particular subject area, and hone effective investigative skills. That on the MPharm, for instance, carries 50 M level credits. At present the alignment between Stage and credit level of modules is not always consistent – this will be addressed within the NAM. Also, at present, the weightings of Stage 2, 3 and 4 vary. This will be addressed within the NAM, with a consistent weighting of 20/30/50 for stages 2, 3 and 4.

At this stage in the development of the regulations for the New Academic Model we have an opportunity to consider the development of an Algorithm which will calculate outcomes for 'borderline' candidates – e.g. those whose aggregate degree mark places them within 2% of a classification boundary.

LTC agreed the specifics of the New Academic Model for UG and IM programmes in April 2011. It was agreed that an Algorithm would be used within the NAM to address the variance in practice which currently exists in the treatment of borderline UG and IM candidates at Exam Boards. At the meeting of LTC on 24 October 2012 the ADTP gave advance notification that he would be bring some detailed proposals to LTC on 5 December 2012 relating to the development of an Algorithm that will be used to calculate outcomes for UG 'borderline' candidates at Exam Boards (i.e. those falling within 2% of a classification boundary). **Detailed proposals were approved by LTC on 5 December 2012.** The proposals were based on extensive research into existing practice in the University, and into practices in other HEIs. Julia Jones, as NAM Project Officer, undertook a thorough 'modelling' exercise which involved comparing the actual outcomes (decisions made by Exam Boards last year) for nearly 400 students across a number of schools, and the outcomes which would be produced by an Algorithm which used different combinations of 'rules'. At the 30 January LTC the ADTP indicated that he would be bring a similarly detailed analysis and proposals for approval to the 20 March meeting of LTC. **These proposals are set out in the current paper.**

For reasons of fairness and consistency, the Algorithm used on IM courses does need to reflect that which has been approved for UG awards. This principle is supported by IM Course

Directors. In the current paper, the recommendations put forward by the ADTP reflect this important principle.

2) Conventions currently used by UEA Schools

Table 1: Upgrade conventions for IM degrees used in UEA Schools

School	Faculty	Criteria used for upgrading borderline students	Comment from ADTP
BIO	SCI	N/A to date	
CHE	SCI	CHE does not use an algorithm for upgrading borderline students. Upgrading is only possible through a successful viva. All students within 2% of the borderline or who have sufficient extenuating circumstances to be brought within the borderline are considered for a viva. In this consideration attention will be paid to whether the student has the majority of their credits at the higher degree classification and whether the student has failed any modules. CHE has not used a formal algorithm in this deliberation.	Vivas will disappear within the NAM. Another method is required, therefore, to determine award outcomes for borderline candidates.
CMP	SCI	The procedure used in CMP is broadly as follows: For those students within 2% of the decision boundary, the chair makes an algorithmic recommendation so that the board discussion starts from a consistent state for all students within a cohort and from one year to the next. The recommendation is made according to the following criteria: (i) If the student's final year project mark is clearly in the higher category, the recommendation is to promote. (ii) If the student's final year project mark is also near the borderline, then the recommendation is to promote if exit velocity is greater than 1. (iii) If the student's final year project mark is clearly in the lower category the recommendation is leave the student where they are. However, the final decision remains with the board. Generally the board tends to agree with the recommendation; where there is disagreement it is usually in favour of promotion.	These criteria seem to be clear and fair – but differs markedly from practice in ENV. This could produce inconsistent outcomes for borderline students within the same Faculty.
ENG	SCI	N/A to date	
ENV	SCI	ENV uses the same algorithm for IM students as for other UG students (see below)	It is good to see the same principles and criteria being applied for UG and IM students. This is entirely in keeping with notions of fairness

School	Faculty	Criteria used for upgrading borderline students	Comment from ADTP
			and consistent treatment of students. However, the ENV algorithm is complex and difficult to understand.
MTH	SCI	In MTH, we consider the trajectory and number of M-level modules at the higher class, but that's not particularly specific to the MMath. We don't have fixed conventions about this (the cohort of MMath students is not large and the modules change from year to year so some flexibility is needed). The Externals will have reviewed scripts and projects of borderline candidates and their opinions carry a great deal of weight with the Board.	Drawing on the experience of external examiners is, of course, something that Boards are always encouraged to do. However, this also means that the particular views of different externals may produce inconsistent decisions between courses and from year to year.
NATSCI	SCI	NatSci uses a suitably adapted (for 360 credits instead of 240 credits) version of the algorithm for BSc students. Details are all in the ENV algorithm below.	Same issue applies re the complexity of the ENV algorithm.
PHA	SCI	PHA has a policy for BSc students only. Currently MPharm students have a viva if they are in the 2% borderline.	Vivas will disappear within the NAM. Another method is required, therefore, to determine award outcomes for borderline candidates.

ENV

Algorithm for classifying borderline candidates and awarding starred firsts
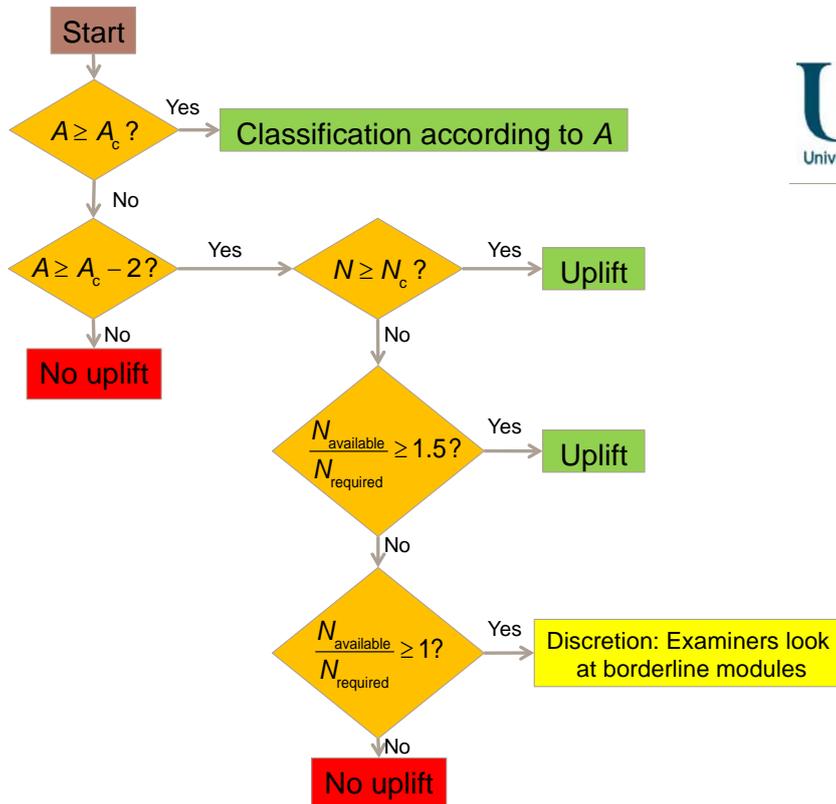
Overview

- An algorithm is used to classify borderline candidates in ENV for BSc and MSci degrees.
- The algorithm considers both aggregate marks and credits (i.e., profiling).

Symbols and definitions

- *A* = aggregate mark (percentage from 0 to 100 %)
- A_c = critical aggregate mark at class boundary
    - 1st/2i borderline: A_c = 70.00 %
    - 2i/2ii borderline: A_c = 60.00 %
    - 2ii/3 borderline: A_c = 50.00 %
    - 3/fail borderline: A_c = 40.00 %
- *N* = number of weighted credits in and above the uplift class
    - "uplift" class is the class above the borderline, e.g., at 2i/2ii borderline, "uplift" class is 2i
    - for BSc:
        - N_2 = number of credits in and above uplift class in stage 2
        - N_3 = number of credits in and above uplift class in stage 3
        - $N = 2 \times (0.4\ N_2 + 0.6\ N_3)$
    - for MSci:
        - N_4 = number of credits in and above uplift class in stage 4
        - $N = 3 \times (0.2\ N_2 + 0.3\ N_3 + 0.5\ N_4)$
    - Example: A BSc student at 2i/2ii borderline has N_2 = 100 and N_3 = 40 credits in 2i and 1st combined, so N = 2 × (0.4 × 100 + 0.6 × 40) = 128 weighted credits in and above the uplift class
- N_c = critical number of weighted credits needed for uplift
    - 1$^{s/}$-2i borderline: N_c = 120
    - 2i/2ii borderline : N_c = 140
    - 2ii/3 borderline : N_c = 140
    - 3/fail borderline : N_c = 160
- $N_{required} = N_c - N$, is the number of credits required to attain the critical number needed for uplift
    - Example: A 2i/2ii borderline candidate has N = 128 credits in 2i and above. N_c = 140, hence $N_{required}$ = 140 – 128 = 12.
- $N_{available}$ = number of credits that are available for uplift, i.e., in the borderline
    - Example: A 2i/2ii borderline candidate has 40 credits that are in the range 58.00-59.99%, hence $N_{available}$ = 40

Algorithm

- The algorithm is illustrated by the following flow diagram. Basically, any candidates with $N \geq N_c$ or $N_{available} / N_{required} \geq 1.5$ are awarded the "uplift" classification. Someone with $N_{available} / N_{required} \geq 1$ will be considered for uplift at the discretion of the examiners.
- Any allowances for candidates with extenuating circumstances will be made within the framework of the classification algorithm.

Start

$A \geq A_c$? — Yes → Classification according to A

No ↓

$A \geq A_c - 2$? — Yes → $N \geq N_c$? — Yes → Uplift

No ↓ (from $A \geq A_c - 2$?) → No uplift

No ↓ (from $N \geq N_c$?)

$\dfrac{N_{available}}{N_{required}} \geq 1.5$? — Yes → Uplift

No ↓

$\dfrac{N_{available}}{N_{required}} \geq 1$? — Yes → Discretion: Examiners look at borderline modules

No ↓

No uplift

ENV Starred firsts

- In addition to the standard classifications detailed before, the examiners may also consider the award of a starred first to exceptional candidates.
- The usual criteria for a starred first are
    - An aggregate of 75% or above, AND
    - 200 weighted credits of first class modules

3) Conventions used in other Universities

The NAM project team has acquired information on classification regulations in a number of other Universities, particularly those in the 1994 group.

Table 2: Upgrade conventions used in a range of UK Universities

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
Anglia Ruskin	**(H) Classification of Awards** 8.41 Algorithms for determining the classification for all awards which apply to all courses are detailed in Regulations 8.42 - 8.71 below. 8.42 When determining a degree or award classification the arithmetic mean is rounded to the nearest integer, i.e. less than 0.5 is rounded down and greater than or equal to 0.5 is rounded up. *Integrated Taught Masters Degree (MDes, MEng, MLaw, MOst)* 8.70 If a student is eligible for one of the above Integrated Taught Masters Degrees, the award classification is determined by calculating the credit weighted arithmetic mean of

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	module results totalling 240 credits. The calculation must include the results for all Level 7 modules and the highest results from the appropriate number of Level 6 (and, if necessary, Level 5) modules to achieve the required total of 240 credits. [NB: Any AP(E)L credit at Level 7 is included in the 240 credits and is not substituted by an increased volume of Level 6 (and, if necessary, Level 5) credit – see Regulation 8.34 above]. 8.71 The following classifications are determined by the above calculation: Distinction 70%+ Merit 60% - 69% Pass 40% - 59% Fail 0% - 39%
Bath (1994 group until October 2012)	After satisfactory completion of Part 3 of a first degree programme leading to Bachelor awards with honours or to Master of Architecture with honours or an integrated first degree programme leading to classified Master awards with honours, the following award criteria will be used in sequence: a. Class I (First class honours) will be awarded to a student who: • Has passed all units in Part 3, and has an overall programme average of at least 70.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 48 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 70.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 24 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 70.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 48 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 68.00%, and gained at least 70% in each of a number of units in Part 3 worth at least 30 credits, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 24 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 68.00%, and gained at least 70% in each of a number of units in Part 3 worth at least 15 credits. b. Class II.i (Second class honours first division) will be awarded to a student who: • Has passed all units in Part 3, and has an overall programme average of at least 60.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 36 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 60.00%, or Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 18 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 60.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 36 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 58.00%, and gained at least 60% in each of a number of units in Part 3 worth at least 30 credits, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 18 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 58.00%, and gained at least 60% in each of a number of units in Part 3 worth at least 15 credits. c. Class II.ii (Second class honours second division) will be awarded to a student who: • Has passed all units in Part 3, and has an overall programme average of at least 50.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 36 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 50.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 18 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 50.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 36 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 48.00%, and gained at least 50% in each of a number of units in Part 3 worth at least 30 credits, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 18 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 48.00%, and gained at least 50% in each of a number of units in Part 3 worth at least 15 credits.

\\Ueahome3\stfcen3\k264\data\Documents\Becky's Docs\COMMITTEES\2012-13\LTC\docs\20 mar 2013\ltc12d099 divider f Algorithm app.doc

Page **6** of **28**

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	d. Class III (Third class honours) will be awarded to a student who: • Has passed all units in Part 3, and has an overall programme average of at least 40.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 30 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 40.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 15 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 40.00%. e. Unclassified (Unclassified honours) will be awarded to a student who: • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 60-credit Part 3 worth at least 30 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 38.00%, or • Has passed all designated essential units, and has passed units in a 30-credit Part 3 worth at least 15 credits, and has an overall programme average of at least 38.00%.

Bristol	**Honours grading – but you cannot get an IM with a third class (or an ordinary)**
	
	Classification regulations for all UG honours degrees:
	
	Bands of marks for use in final degree classification in undergraduate modular programmes are as follows:
	First Class Honours - 70 and above
	Second Class Honours, First Division - 60-69
	Second Class Honours, Second Division - 50-59
	Third Class Honours - 40-49
	Fail - 39 and below
	
	Primary Rule for calculating the final programme mark and degree classification:
	
	• First year (undergraduate) marks will not contribute to the calculation of the final programme mark and/or degree classification. Additionally, units in any year of study that are pass/fail only will be disregarded in this calculation.
	• All units taken in the years of study that contribute to the final programme mark and/or degree classification will count towards the weighted average final mark. Where students are given exemption from units, due to accredited prior learning, see annex 21.
	• The weightings apply to years of study, not to the level of the units taken by a student within the year.
	• The default position is that within each faculty a single weighting rule for the years of study will apply, unless a faculty is able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of Education Committee, that more than one weighting rule is required because of the major differences between subjects within the faculty and/or professional body accreditation requirements. The agreed weightings for the programmes within each of the faculties are provided in annex 20.
	• Within each year of study the weighting given to the unit mark, in relation to the mean 'year mark', will correspond to the credit point value of the unit, e.g. the mark for a 20 credit point unit would be 1/6 of the whole year mark, if the student has to achieve 120 credit points during the year.
	• For the purposes of applying the primary and secondary rules, individual unit marks are recorded to one decimal place only and not rounded to the nearest integer. However, the overall final programme mark is rounded to the nearest integer (up if 0.5 and above or down if below). This must be done PRIOR to determining whether the final programme mark is within the borderline range.
	• The honours programme classification boundary ranges are based on marks out of 100 and are:
	    o First / 2.1 equal to or more than 68 but less than 70
	    o 2.1 / 2.2 equal to or more than 58 but less than 60
	    o 2.2 / Third equal to or more than 48 but less than 50
	    o Third / Fail equal to or more than 38 but less than 40

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	If the final summative programme mark falls within the range of one of these classification boundaries, the secondary rule will apply. **Secondary Rule** • **If the final summative programme mark falls within the range of one of the classification boundaries, the higher degree classification will only be awarded if 50% or more of the recorded individual unit marks, weighted by credit point value and year of study, which contribute to the degree classification are achieved at the higher class, otherwise the lower class will be awarded.** • It is the responsibility of the School Examination Board to consider and determine between classifications on the basis of the secondary rule.
Brunel	**Completion of Final Level and recommendation for Award** A. A profile of grades and a grade-point average will be prepared for each student, derived from the marks or grades assigned by the assessors and assured by the relevant Panel of Examiners for each assessment block. The weighting applied to each assessment block in the profile and grade-point average shall be derived from the credit values of the assessment blocks (as specified in the Outline of each assessment block) and the weighting assigned to that Level of the award.

B. To be eligible for the award of an integrated masters degree the maximum volumes of credit permitted at grades below D- in a student's profile for each class of award will be:

Maximum credit volume of assessment blocks containing core assessments below D-
Maximum (non-weighted) credit volume of non-core Grade Band E (E+,E,E-)
Maximum credit volume of non-core Grade F

	Level 2 + 3	Level 2	Level 3	Level 2 + 3	Level 2	Level 3
1st	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.1	0	20	0	20	0	0
2.2	0	40	20	40	0	0

Maximum credit volume of assessment blocks containing core assessments below C-
Maximum (non-weighted) credit volume of non-core Grade Band D (D+,D,D-)
Maximum credit volume of non-core Grade E/F

	Masters Level	Masters Level	Masters Level
1st	0	0	0
2.1	0	20	0
2.2	0	40	0

C. For an integrated masters degree, the weighting of Levels in the profile of grades and grade-point average for the determination of award and classification shall be:
Level 1: no weighting;
Level 2: 1/5;
Level 3: 2/5;
Masters Level: 2/5.

D. Where a student's profile of grades does not exceeded the maximum volumes of credit permitted at grades below D- and s/he has met any associated conditions for the successful completion of the programme, s/he will be will be eligible for the highest class of award for which they fulfil one or more of the following sets of criteria:

Class

	1st	2.1	2.2
Volume of grades (weighted) in Class or better	Minimum weighted GPA		
At least 33% of grades (weighted) in Class or better	14.5	11.5	8.5
At least 41% of grades (weighted) in Class or better	13.5	10.5	7.5
At least 50% of grades (weighted) in Class or better	12.5	9.5	6.5

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	At least 58% of grades (weighted) in Class or better 11.5 8.5 5.5 At least 66% of grades (weighted) in Class or better 10.5 7.5 4.5 E. A Board of Examiners may, in exceptional circumstances, exercise discretion in determining the class of degree to be recommended, when it recognises that equity of treatment of students and / or confidence in standards will be protected by the exercise of discretion. Discretion may not be exercised in determining whether to recommend the award of a 2.2 class degree. The reasons for discretionary recommendations shall be individually recorded by the Board of Examiners.
Cardiff (Russell group)	(The award rules below are to be implemented from 2013/14 onwards) In the first instance the classification of awards will be determined using the following rule set: First Class Honours: A final mark of 70 or above Second Class Honours, Division I (2:1) A final mark between 60 and 69 Second Class Honours, Division II (2:2) A final mark between 50 and 59 Third Class Honours A final mark between 40 and 49 Fail A final mark of 39 and below Secondary Rule Subsequent to the above the following rules will apply to candidates who achieve a final mark within 2% of the higher band. Marks achieved within a Year of Experiential and/or Professional Learning shall be excluded from the Secondary rule. For Four or Five Year Integrated Masters Programmes Candidates who achieve a final mark of 68 or 69 will be awarded a first class degree provided that: - they have achieved a mark of 70 or above in modules at level 5, 6 or 7 to the value of at least 180 credits; and - at least 60 of these credits were achieved at level 7. Candidates who achieve a final mark of 58 or 59 will be awarded a 2:1 provided that: - they have achieved a mark of 60 or above in modules at level 5, 6 or 7 to the value of at least 180 credits; and - at least 60 of these credits were achieved at level 7. Candidates who achieve a final mark of 48 or 49 will be awarded a 2:2 provided that: - they have achieved a mark of 50 or above in modules at level 5, 6 or 7 to the value of at least 180 credits; and - at least 60 of these credits were achieved at level 7. Candidates who achieve a final mark of 38 or 39 will be awarded a third class degree provided that: - they have achieved a mark of 40 or above in modules at level 5, 6 or 7 to the value of at least 180 credits; and - at least 60 of these credits were achieved at level 7.
Durham (Russell group)	Honours grading used for IM degrees Use weighted arithmetic average only. 70 = 1st, 60 = 2.1, 50 =2.2, 40 = 3 However, they do still permit discretion within the 2% boundary, and beyond that where there are extenuating circumstances

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
Exeter (Russell group)	"Awards are determined by the Examiners exercising their judgment of the class which best represents the candidate's achievement based on the overall level of performance. A Board of Examiners may, where it decides there are adequate grounds and in appropriate and fully documented circumstances recommend raising a classification beyond that indicated by the profile of the marks. This would either be in a case where the mitigation committee request such consideration by the Examination Board or where an unexplained preponderance (at least 150 credits) of marks in a higher class appear to the Board to outweigh the normal requirements regarding the credit weighted average."

First
 • A final weighted mark greater than or equal to 68.00% and modules to the value of at least 50% of stage weighted credits with a module mark greater than or equal to 69.50%
or
• A final weighted mark greater than or equal to 69.50%

Upper second • A final weighted mark greater than or equal to 58.00% and modules to the value of at least 50% of stage weighted credits with a module mark greater than or equal to 59.50%
or
• A final weighted mark greater than or equal to 59.50%

Lower second
• A final weighted mark greater than or equal to 48.00% and modules to the value of at least 50% of stage weighted credits with a module mark greater than or equal to 49.50%
or
• A final weighted mark greater than or equal to 49.50%

Third • A final weighted mark greater than or equal to 39.50% |
| **Hull** | Borderline candidates (Honours and Integrated Masters degrees)

1.   For Honours and Integrated Masters Degrees candidates must be awarded the classification represented by the weighted average of the stages relevant to classification as stated in the approved programme specification.
2.   Candidates who have not met the weighted average requirement but whose weighted average (expressed as the arithmetic mean) is no greater than two (38, 48, 58, 68) below the classification threshold (after rounding) must be considered as 'borderline'. A candidate who is borderline must be awarded the higher classification in the following cases
•   where more than 50% of the credits counting towards classification are in the higher classification (or above);
or
For Bachelor's degrees:
•   where more than 50% of the credits in the Diploma and Honours stages are in the higher classification (or above);
or
•   where exactly 50% of the total credits in the Diploma and Honours stages counting towards classification are in the higher classification (or above) and more than 50% of credits in the final stage are in the higher classification (or above);
or
For Integrated Masters degrees:
•   where more than 50% of the credits in the Honours and Masters stages are in the higher classification (or above);
or
•   where exactly 50% of the total credits in the Honours and Masters stages counting towards classification are in the higher classification (or above) and more than 50% |

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	of the credits in the final stage are in the higher classification (or above). Candidates not meeting one of these requirement cases must not be awarded the higher classification.
Lancaster (1994 group)	For all students on integrated masters programmes, where a student falls into a borderline then the higher award should be given where half or more of the credits from Part II are in the higher class.

That for all students, borderline or not, Examination Boards should continue to make a special case to the Committee of Senate for any student where the class of degree recommended by the Board deviates from that derived from a strict application of the regulations. Such cases would be based around circumstances pertaining to individual students where these circumstances have not already been taken into account.

(Structure of Bachelors degree programmes and Integrated Bachelors/Masters degree programmes
.1 (R) Bachelors degrees, with the exception of Foundation degree top-ups, as well as Integrated Bachelors/Masters degrees, comprise learning across levels 4, 5, 6, and, in the case of the Masters (integrated) 7, normally with 120 credits of assessment at each level. Level 4 learning is collectively referred to as Part I and is qualificatory, i.e. successful completion is required for progression to further study but obtained credit does not contribute to final classification of awards. Learning levels 5, 6 and, as appropriate, 7 are collectively referred to as Part II and comprise all credit upon which final classification of awards is determined.) |
| **Leeds** (Russell group) | We have a significant number of integrated masters programmes in engineering, mathematics and physical sciences, earth and environmental sciences, and even one in dental surgery. We take the view that the programme is an integrated one; although the award might be MEng, BEng or MChem, BSc the whole package is classified and awarded together (i.e., we don't classify the bachelors degree separately). We use the conventional Honours (1, 2(i), 2(ii), etc) class system.

Our class boundaries are set at 50, 60 and 70: with the minimum pass grade for the programme overall being 50 it means we have no Third Class awards. Below each class boundary we define a margin of 0.5 within which examiners have the discretion to raise the classification if certain conditions, as published in each School's Code of Practice on Assessment, are met. Each School is entitled to define its own criteria, but must publish them and abide by them. In addition, we have a category of special discretion to cater for medical and other adverse circumstances, which may be applied across the whole range of marks. |
| **Leicester** (1994 group) | The following rules shall be applied in descending order, starting at the Pass/Fail threshold, so that fail students are excluded from further consideration.

Rule 1   **Pass/Fail threshold for the programme**

i) Students who fail at less than 35% modules to the value of 45 credits or less may be considered for the award of a degree under the rules below, unless the department has specifically required a pass in a given module, in which case the student will fail the programme.

ii) Students who fail modules to the value of 50 credits, or have a weighted average mark of less than 35%, will fail the programme.

Rule 2   **First Class Honours**
Modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 70% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 67%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits
OR   Weighted average mark greater than or equal to 70% |

Institution	Degree Classification Rules

	Rule 3 **Upper Second Class Honours**
	Modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 60% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 57%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits
	OR Weighted average mark greater than or equal to 60%
	OR Weighted average mark greater than or equal to 67% *and*
	        modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 70% or better, and modules to the value of 40 or 45 failed credits
	(Dropped class from 1st because of failures)]
	
	Rule 4 **Lower Second Class Honours**
	Modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 50% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 47%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits
	OR Weighted average mark greater than or equal to 50%
	OR Weighted average mark greater than or equal to 57%,
	        modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 60% or better, and modules to the value of 40 or 45 failed credits
	(Dropped class from 2.1 because of failures)]
	
	Rule 5 **Third Class Honours**
	Weighted average mark greater than or equal to 40%
	OR Modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 50% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 47%, and 40 or 45 failed credits
	        (Dropped class from 2.2 because of failures)]
	
	Rule 6 **Pass**
	Weighted average mark greater than or equal to 35%
	
	Borderline Candidates
	
	Students who fall into a borderline, as defined below, and those just below the borderline with special/mitigating circumstances will be considered by the Board of Examiners. *Viva voce* examinations may still be permitted where there is a genuine need to substantiate the information available to a Board of Examiners.
	
	The consideration of borderline students should be undertaken with a view to arriving at a positive outcome wherever this is commensurate with the application of appropriate academic standards. In reaching a judgement, Boards of Examiners are permitted to take account of whichever of the following are applicable to the discipline or to the circumstances of the student:
	
	a) the design of the curriculum and any special features
	b) the year in which the results were achieved
	c) the profile of marks, and in particular any distorting elements
	d) performance in substantial pieces of work (dissertations, projects)
	e) the outcome of vivas, where these are held
	f) mitigating circumstances
	g) the impact of marks obtained elsewhere (for example, from a year abroad).
	
	Candidates shall be considered for promotion to the next higher degree class on the following basis:
	
	First Class Honours
	Three year programmes Modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 68% or better, including modules to the value of at least 90 credits at 70% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 67%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits.

Institution	Degree Classification Rules	
	Four year integrated programmes	Modules to the value of at least 180 credits at 68% or better, including modules to the value of at least 150 credits at 70% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 67%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits.
	Upper Second Class Honours	
	Three year programmes	Modules to the value of at least 120 credits at 58% or better, including modules to the value of at least 90 credits at 60% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 57%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits
	Four year integrated programmes	Modules to the value of at least 180 credits at 58% or better, including modules to the value of at least 150 credits at 60% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 57%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits
	Lower Second Class Honours	
	Three year programmes	Modules to the value of at least 180 credits at 48% or better, including modules to the value of at least 150 credits at 50% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 47%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits
	Four year integrated programmes	Modules to the value of at least 180 credits at 48% or better, including modules to the value of at least 150 credits at 50% or better, a weighted average mark greater than or equal to 47%, and failed modules worth less than 40 credits

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
Loughborough (1994 group)	**Programme Mark** **Degree Class** 70%+ First Class Honours 60%+ Second Class Honours Upper Division 50%+ Second Class Honours Lower Division 40%+ Third Class Honours Less than 40% Pass At the discretion of the Programme Board, any or all of the Programme Mark thresholds may be lowered by not more than 3%. In such a case, the revised threshold(s) shall be applicable to all students under consideration by that Programme Board.
Newcastle (Russell Group)	At Newcastle we use the standard UG final classifications (eg 1, 2(i), 2(ii),3) but we use a different marking scale for the master's level modules.

	Summary description applicable to level 7 Degree Classification (DC) Modules	Summary description applicable to Degree Classification (DC) Modules below level 7	Summary description applicable to modules not used for degree classification
0-39	Fail	Fail	Failing
40–49	Fail	Third Class	Basic
50–59	Second Class, Second Division	Second Class, Second Division	Good

Institution	Degree Classification Rules			
	60–69	Second Class, First Division	Second Class, First Division	Very Good
	70-100	First Class	First Class	Excellent

Here is a link to the relevant regulations, with more information: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/2012.html (it appears as the fifth item under the UG regulations).

| **Nottingham** (Russell group) | **Degree Classification - Honours and Integrated Masters Degrees**

The three methods for classifying undergraduate degrees detailed below are approved for use in the University of Nottingham.

One (Model 1 "arithmetic mean") satisfies the need of those Schools/ departments which have traditionally found no difficulty in using the entire 100 marks in the percentage scale. The other two (Models 2 "ordinal scale" and 3 "thresholds") have been developed in recognition of the problems of classifying degrees, particularly first class honours, where marking conventions effectively discount the use of marks at both ends of the percentile range. This means that very good and very poor performance may be under- and over-stated respectively, or marks at the outer ends of the student's run of marks, perhaps awarded by other Schools, may have a disproportionate arithmetic impact on the classification of subject performance.

Schools offering Joint Honours courses should select a single model for classifying degrees. This requires a single programme specification for each Joint Honours course and necessitates a single weighting between Parts I, II and III.

Model 1 ("arithmetic mean")

1. Unit marks (footnote 1) are numeric.

2. Module mark is calculated from unit marks and rounded to a numeric integer

3. Module marks are weighted accordingly to the number of credits attached to the module e.g. a 20 credit module is weighted double compared to a 10 credit module.

4. The relative weightings of Part I/II/III marks are given in programme specifications.

5. A weighted numerical average is calculated using the weightings indicated in 3 and 4 above.

6. The weighted numerical average is rounded (see "Rounding" in Marking and Grading).

7. Weighted numerical average is translated into degree classification according to Table 1.

Table 1

I	=	70%+
II-1	=	60% - 69%
II-2	=	50% - 59%
III	=	40% - 49%
Pass*	=	40%+ (which can include reassessment marks from Parts I/II/III)

*ie an unclassified degree and therefore awarded without honours.

Only the following rounded marks will be regarded as "borderline":

39 Borderline III

49 Borderline II-2 |

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	59 Borderline II-1

68 or 69 Borderline I (individual Programme Specifications state whether the borderline is 68 or 69).

Model 2 ("ordinal scale")

Please note, this model only applies to students who entered pre-September 2004.

1. Unit marks (footnote 1) are literal (i.e. A, B etc.) and translate into numeric integer marks according to Table 2.

2. Module grade is calculated from median of literal grades.

3. Overall median mark calculated by assigning literal grade to each 10 credits. The total number of grades from which the final median is calculated depends on the weighting of Parts I/II set out in supplementary degree regulations. If there is a 50:50 split between Parts I and II then the calculation is a straightforward median of 24 grades. If Part II counts for twice as much as Part I the Year 3 grades are counted twice.

4. Median mark translated into degree classification according to Table 3.

Table 2

A+	78
A	75
A-	72
B+	68
B	65
B-	62
C+	58
C	55
C-	52
D+	48
D	45
D-	42
F	38
F-	32
X	25
X-	15
Z	0

Table 3

Median Mark	Degree Class
A- and above	I

Institution	Degree Classification Rules	
	B+/ A-	Borderline I
	B+ to B-	II-1
	C+/ B-	Borderline II-1
	C+ to C-	II-2
	D+/ C-	Borderline II-2
	D+ to D-	III
	D-/ F	Borderline III

When calculating the median of an even number of unit marks within a module Schools should assign the higher of the two marks that span the median, eg the median of C, C+, B, B would be a B-.

Model 3 ("thresholds") (see footnote 2)

1. Unit marks (footnote 1) are numeric.

2. Module mark is calculated from unit marks and rounded to a numeric integer.

3. Module marks are translated to points scores according to Table 4.

4. Module scores are added together and translated into a degree classification according to Table 5 .

Table 4

75%+	=	20
70% - 74%	=	18
60% - 69%	=	14
50% - 59%	=	10
40% - 49%	=	6
40% on resit	=	4
30% - 39%	=	2
0% - 29%	=	0

Table 5

I	376+ (eg a run of marks such as 12@ 18 + 10 @ 14 + 2 @ 10)
II-1	288 - 375 (eg a run of marks such as 12 @ 14 + 12 @ 10)
II-2	192-287 (e.g., a run of marks such as 12 @ 10 + 12 @ 6)

Institution	Degree Classification Rules

	III	128-191 (e.g., a run of marks such as 20 @ 6 + 4 @ 4)

Scores within 12 points of a First, II-1, II-2 and III Class threshold are defined as borderline.

Use of Borderlines

Once the External Examiner has moderated the marks for individual modules (footnote 3), the agreed algorithm is used to determine the final composite mark. If this falls within a borderline as defined above, further consideration may be given by the examiners, using the procedure set out in the programme specification (footnote 4), to determine if the classification may be raised.

Footnotes

1. "Unit mark" is the mark awarded for an individual piece of assessed work, which goes towards the computation of a module mark using a weighting formula.

2. This Model applies to courses with a 50:50 weighting between Parts I and II.

3. External Examiners will be allowed to alter marks of assessments only where they re-mark a piece of work or examination. In other words, the fruitless and misleading practice of "finding" extra marks at the final examiners' meeting is not acceptable.

4. For students registering on programmes from 2009/10 onwards, Schools should use a weighted profiling system for determining the degree class of borderline students. Profiles for students not automatically qualifying for promotion may be subject to further scrutiny by Boards of Examiners. The profiling system and any other system used by Boards of Examiners must be stated in the programme specification and made explicit and clear to students from the start of their studies through School Handbooks. Examples of profiling systems are available in the Good Practice Guide.

This does not preclude the consideration of Extenuating Circumstances of students, whether inside or outside the borderline.

Reading
(1994 group until December 2012)

The following conventions provide guidance on the award of a Bachelor's degree or an IM degree:

(i) The following conditions should be satisfied for the award indicated. **Where the conditions for a higher class have been met, the higher class should be awarded.**

First Class
80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40
and
[An overall weighted average of at least 70
or
An overall weighted average of at least 68, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark in the range 70-100
or
An overall weighted average of at least 68, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 (or for modules taken in Part 4 in the case of IM degrees) is 70 or more]

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	Second Class Division 1 80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40 and [An overall weighted average within the range 60.0-69.9 or An overall weighted average of at least 58, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 60 or more or An overall weighted average of at least 58, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 (or for modules taken in Part 4 in the case of IM degrees) is 60 or more] ***Second Class Division 2*** 80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40 and [An overall weighted average within the range 50.0-59.9 or An overall weighted average of at least 48, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 50 or more or An overall weighted average of at least 48, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 (or for modules taken in Part 4 in the case of IM degrees) is 50 or more] ***Third Class*** 80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40 and [An overall weighted average within the range 40.0-49.9 or An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 40 or more or An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 (or for modules taken in Part 4 in the case of IM degrees) is 40 or more] ***Pass*** 80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 35 and [An overall weighted average within the range 35.0-39.9 or An overall weighted average of at least 33, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 35 or more or An overall weighted average of at least 33, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 (or for modules taken in Part 4 in the case of IM degrees) is 35 or more] (ii) *Supplementary conventions relating to specified programmes* Faculty Boards of Teaching and Learning may recommend to the University Board for Teaching and Learning 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. (iii) 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

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	discretion to agree a classification at variance with the algorithm contained in the *Framework* is included as Annex 2.
Royal Holloway, University of London (1994 group)	The Stage Average is calculated from the percentage marks given for courses counting in a single stage of a programme. For the purposes of the calculation, each mark will be expressed in terms of half units: for example, a mark of 50% in a course valued at one unit will be expressed as two marks of 50%.

The Stage Average will be calculated to full arithmetic precision as follows:
sum of half unit marks counting in that stage
number of half units normally counting in that stage

In the above formula, the divisor will be reduced by one for each half unit for which the candidate has been allowed, or for which s/he has been granted exemption.

Marks counting in the first stage of programmes leading to the award of BA, BMus, BSc, BSc (Econ) and MSci will not be taken into account when classifying candidates.

For candidates for the award of BA, BMus, BSc and BSc (Econ), the Final Average will be calculated to two decimal places as follows:

2nd Stage Average + 2x(final Stage Average)
　　　　　　　　　　3

A candidate for the award of BA, BMus, BSc, BSc (Econ) or MSci who satisfies both the following criteria will be considered for raising into the next class:

(a) the Final Average must fall 2.00% or less below one of the classification boundaries in paragraph 90;
(b) at least four half unit marks counting in the final stage must be in or above the higher class.

Candidates who satisfy the above criteria shall not be raised automatically into the next class. Any recommendation to raise a candidate must be supported by the majority of members of the Sub-board of Examiners present, taking into account the views of the Visiting Examiners and giving due weight to performance in particular courses as determined in the programme specification.

70.00% or above First Class Honours
60.00%–69.99% Upper Second Class Honours
50.00%–59.99% Lower Second Class Honours
40.00%–49.99% Third Class Honours
35.00%–39.99% Pass |
| **St Andrews** (1994 group until October 2012) | The Honours Classification Algorithm uses as the primary determinant of degree classification the credit-weighted mean and median of all grades awarded in the Honours years.
There are no discretionary classification borderzones.
Only one decimal point is used in calculations of means and medians.
NB in terms of grade mark conversion for modules:

1st = 17-20; 2.1 = 14-16; 2.2 = 11-13; 3rd = 8-10; pass mark = 7; fail with right to resit = 4-6; fail with no right of resit = 0-3

Means, Medians and Outcomes for Honours Classification
| Mean | Median | Classification Outcome | |

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	16.5 or more (20 max) any value I
	16.0-16.4 16.5 or more I
	16.4 or less II.1
	13.5-15.9 any value II.1
	13.0-13.4 13.5 or more II.1
	13.4 or less II.2
	10.5-12.9 any value II.2
	10.0-10.4 10.5 or more II.2
	10.4 or less III
	7.5-9.9 any value III
	7.0-7.4 7.5 or more III
	7.4 or less Not of Honours standard
	6.9 or less any value Not of Honours standard

Consideration of Special Cases

"SCB" refers to the University's Special Classification Board.

Students who are S-coded *[i.e for extenuating circumstances]* do not need to be brought to SCB, so long as the S-coding does not cover more than 25% of the total Honours credits for a degree programme (or 50% of the total credits for the taught component of a Postgraduate Masters degree). These cases should be dealt with by School Examination Boards, which will make the decision about the classification of a degree after running the results through the algorithm twice: once with the S-coded modules included; once without the S-coded modules included. Whichever result produces the higher classification of degree should be approved by the School Examination Board.

Only exceptional cases should be referred to the SCB. These exceptions include the following types of case:-

- students who are marginally short of the required number of credits for a degree;
- students who have been S-coded for more than the maximum number of credits stated above;
- any other anomalies.

  Where anomalies are to be brought to SCB the School must provide a minute of the discussion held at the School Examination Board, along with a recommendation from that Board.

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
Surrey (1994 group until December 2012)	This method of classification for undergraduate honours degrees and integrated master's degrees is by the weighted aggregate mark. The rationale for this classification method is that it recognises the consistency of the students' achievements across the breadth of their programme throughout its culminating levels or stages. First Class Honours 70 or above Second Class Honours (Upper Division) 60-69 Second Class Honours (Lower Division) 50-59 Third Class Honours (not for integrated Master's awards) 40-49 There is no mention of borderlines or any other criteria for classifying awards. Weighting: 35%:65%
Sussex (1994 group)	**Borderline for degree classification** Rounding of marks at module level may result in a grand mean mark coming close to but

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	below a degree classification boundary. The PAB shall give consideration to such students falling within a borderline area of one percent below each classification boundary as follows: 69-70 Boundary for 2:1/1st and for postgraduate merit/ distinction 59-60 Boundary for 2:2/2:1 and for postgraduate pass/ merit 49-50 Boundary 3rd/2:2 and for Masters borderline fail 39-40 Borderline fail for undergraduate The PAB shall enable external examiners to review an individual student profile for all stages of study contributing to the award to provide further guidance for the Board on the treatment of students falling within the borderline zone. In considering whether to raise a student to the higher class the PAB should consider the preponderance of credit for which the higher class has been obtained as the borderline grand mean may have occurred as a result of exceptional performance in a heavily weighted component of assessment which does not reflect performance overall. Whilst the PAB has discretion regarding the preponderance of credit in the higher class for undergraduate candidates, the PAB is guided to consider cases where at least 50% of the credit that contributes to classification was in the higher class. In relation to postgraduate students the PAB has discretion to consider borderline candidates who have achieved 50% of the credit in the higher class. Mitigating evidence does not provide grounds for reclassification of an award as adjustments will have already been made to lateness penalties on the mark array under scrutiny and students will have previously been offered a sit to retrieve their performance as a result of their circumstances.
Trinity College Dublin	We have two integrated Masters programmes – in each case the student receives a BA/BAI which is classified according to 1st, 2(I), 2 (II) etc, and then receives an MSc with Distinction, Merit etc. Decisions on borderline cases are at the discretion of the court of examiners.
University College London	**Classification Calculation** Your degree classification is calculated on the basis of a weighting of 1:3:5 for your First, Second and Third Year marks for 3-year degrees, and a weighting of 1:3:3:5 for 4-year degrees. Only the highest mark equivalent of 1 Course Unit of your first year counts towards your final classification - so, either the average of two half-year units or a full-year unit mark. In order to take account of the fact that you may be taking full- and half-year courses, calculations are based on the MEDIAN of 66 marks. How to figure out your classification: Step 1: Take the top one unit (or average of two half-units) mark from your First Year and list it once. (NB: For all students beginning study in 2011, this can be HIST1001/HIST1004; for all other students, it must be another course. For Ancient History & Egyptology students, this also excludes ARCL1005, ARCL1009, ARCL1011 and ARCL1013). Step 2: List marks for all your full-year second year courses six times. List all marks for your half-year second year courses three times. Step 2a: History with a European Language and History with a Year Abroad students only: Repeat step 2 with your third year results. Step 3: List marks for all your full-year final year courses ten times. List all marks for your half-

Institution	Degree Classification Rules
	year final year courses five times. Step 4: Arrange your list in descending order from highest to lowest marks. Step 5: You should now have a list of 66 marks (90 marks for HwEL and HwYA students). The median of these marks determines your degree classification. This is the middle number - that is, the average of the 33rd and 34th number in your list (45th and 46th for HwEL/HwYA students). If this is a borderline case, the Board of Examiners take account of the candidate's performance in the following order: i. the distribution and preponderance of class marks across the units selected; ii. the mean of class marks across the units selected; iii. the results achieved in the final year of study.
York (Russell group)	Classification will be determined by the position of this mark on the University scale unless it lies in the borderline region, defined as the two points below a classification boundary. Honours degrees are usually weighted 2:3 and Integrated Masters 2:3:3 In borderline cases, the next higher classification will be awarded if, and only if, the mark, rounded to the nearest integer, with the credit-weighted total marks for stages 2 and 3 weighted in the ratio 1:1 OR 1:2 (for Bachelors Programmes) and 1:1:1 OR 1:2:2 (for Integrated Masters Programmes) lies in a higher classification band. No further second order conditions will be applied.

4) Analysis of UEA Integrated Masters classification borderlines

In preparation of this report to TPPG, a 'modelling' exercise was undertaken to see what impact different algorithms would have on a 'real' cohort of students from different parts of the University. The UEA Planning Office supplied data on 74 students who had achieved an award mark within 2% of a classification boundary (e.g., the 1st / 2:1 boundary students had an award mark of 68.00% - 69.99%). (The placing of the borderline at 2% below the boundary appears to be the accepted norm at many Universities, though some will consider students within 3% of the boundary).   This data was used to investigate what the Boards of Examiners <u>actually</u> decided (in the way of student outcomes), and also what would happen <u>if</u> we applied various new rules in SITS.

The data table is appended (Table 5, Appendix 1); lilac fill indicates where the rule being tested indicates an upgrade, and yellow fill indicates no upgrade. Green fill indicates an upgrade by means of the rounding of award marks, i.e. award marks within 0.5% of the boundary are 'rounded up'.

Award: Indicates the type of degree

Award Mark: For integrated Masters degrees, the award mark is derived from the Level 2, 3 and 4 weighted averages, adjusted according to the degree weighting. The table shows the award mark for each student.

Confirmed classification: The classification agreed upon by the Board of Examiners.

ALGORITHM TESTS

Test 1: 180 credits across Stages 2, 3 and 4 in the higher classification including borderline module marks

To meet the requirements of this rule, a student must have at least 180 credits in the higher classification <u>or</u> in the boundary of the higher classification (i.e. with the <u>module</u> mark for the credits being within 2% of the boundary, so that, e.g., at the 1st class boundary, a module mark of 68.0% or above would take the credits for that module into the higher category). The 180 credits must be achieved across Stages 2, 3 and 4 (i.e. across all the 'counting' years). When this test is applied 1 student gets a higher classification than in Test 2.

Test 2: 120 credits across Stages 3 and 4 in the higher classification including borderline module marks

To meet the requirements of this rule, a student must have at least 120 credits in the higher classification <u>or</u> in the boundary of the higher classification (i.e. with the <u>module</u> mark for the credits being within 2% of the boundary, so that, e.g., at the 1st class boundary, a module mark of 68.0% or above would take the credits for that module into the higher category). The 120 credits must be achieved across Stages 3 and 4 (i.e. the final 2 years of the course). When this test is applied 8 students get a higher classification than in Test 1.

Analysis:

Test 2 produces more 'positive' outcomes (in terms of the number of students 'upgraded' to the higher classification). However, Test 2 <u>doesn't</u> take account of marks achieved in Stage 2. This is arguably unfair since students achieving high marks in this Stage would be disadvantaged. As previously suggested, there are good reasons to ensure that the IM Algorithm for borderline students is closely aligned with that used on UG Bachelors degrees, and this would mean taking into account marks achieved in all counting years (e.g. Stages 2, 3 and 4). Even though Test 1 produces fewer 'upgrades' than Test 2, the number of students who would have been upgraded under the criteria for Test 1 is greater than the actual number of upgrades which occurred as a result of Exam Board decisions. 36 students were upgraded by Exam Board decisions – of these, 14 would have been upgraded by rounding under new rounding rules.

5) Differences in mark tested on 400 students

The Table below shows that in the majority of cases, the 20:30:50 weighting which will become the norm within the NAM, advantages rather than disadvantages students on three IM programmes – in the sense that their aggregate award mark is higher than in the original weighting applied. These are highlighted in <mark>yellow.</mark> In only one case (MPHARM) is the aggregate slightly lower using the 20:30:50 weightings. This is shown highlighted in <mark>grey</mark>. In two cases, (MSCI and MNATSCI) the weighting are already 20:30:50 so aggregate marks are unaffected.

Original Weighting		20:30:50 weighting		No of students
MPHA (15:35:50)	64.14	**MPHA**	64.10	303
MSCI (20:30:50)	67.21	**MSCI**	67.21	13
MMTH (25:25:50)	73.83	**MMTH**	73.85	26
MCHE (25:25:50)	68.02	**MCHE**	68.13	52
MCOMP (25:25:50)	64.53	**MCOMP**	64.56	4
MNATSCI (20:30:50)	71.66	**MNATSCI**	71.66	2
Average Mark Original weighting	*65.42*	*Average Mark 20:30:50 weighting*	*65.40*	*400*

6) Recommendations

The ADTP's recommendations to LTC are as follows:

- Award marks within 0.5% of the classification band should be rounded up and the students affected automatically upgraded (e.g., all students with an award mark of 69.5% or above would be awarded a first class degree)
- **Test 1** should be adopted, i.e. students within the 2% borderline of a higher classification, with at least 180 credits over the three counting years in the higher classification or in the borderline for the higher classification, should be upgraded (e.g. all students with 180 credits with a mark of at least 68% AND an award mark of at least 68% should be awarded a first class degree). This most closely mirrors the Bachelors degree algorithm, although it doesn't give the best result in terms of numbers upgraded.

NB Students with extenuating circumstances will be given special consideration and the procedure for this is currently being considered by the Extenuating Circumstances Review Group.

Dr Adam Longcroft (ADTP) and Julia Jones (New Academic Model Project Coordinator, LTS)
3 March 2013

Appendix 1

Table 5: Integrated Masters finalists within 2% of a classification borderline

Academic Year	Award	Confirmed Classification	Original Award Mark	20:30:50 Weighted Award Mark	Test 1 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 180 credits in Stages 2/3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification	Test 2 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 120 credits in Stages 3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification
2011/2	MPHA	II(2)	59.87	59.37	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MCHE	II(1)	68.41	68.02	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	II(2)	59.53	59.55	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MPHA	II(1)	58.34	58.20	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MPHA	II(2)	59.93	59.98	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MPHA	I	68.04	68.27	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	I	69.24	69.49	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	II(1)	68.42	68.14	I	I
2011/2	MMTH	I		69.59	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	II(1)	69.10	69.13	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	II(1)	59.92	59.75	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MMTH	I		68.64	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	II(2)	59.23	59.14	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MMTH	I		69.35	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	II(1)	59.92	59.86	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MPHA	II(2)	59.99	59.98	II(1)	II(1)
2011/2	MPHA	II(1)	69.29	69.64	I	I
2011/2	MMTH	I		69.09	I	I
2011/2	MPHA	II(1)	69.42	69.40	I	I

	Original Results			20:30:50 Weighted Award Mark	Test 1 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 180 credits in Stages 2/3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification	Test 2 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 120 credits in Stages 3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification
Academic Year	Award	Confirmed Classification	Original Award Mark			
2011/2	MPHA	I	68.52	68.84	I	I
2011/2	MCHE	II(1)	68.97	69.29	II(1)	I
2011/2	MCOMP	I		69.70	I	I
2011/2	MCHE	II(2)	58.13	58.54	II(2)	II(2)
2011/2	MSCI	I	69.43	69.43	I	IU
2010/1	MCOMP	II(1)	59.63	59.58	II(1)	II(1)
2010/1	MPHA	II(2)	59.14	59.19	II(2)	II(1)
2010/1	MPHA	II(1)	59.77	59.75	II(1)	II(1)
2010/1	MPHA	I	69.90	69.27	I	I
2010/1	MCHE	II(1)	69.25	68.99	I	I
2010/1	MPHA	II(1)	67.81	68.08	I	II(1)
2010/1	MMTH	I		69.29	I	I
2010/1	MPHA	I	68.73	68.34	II(1)	I
2010/1	MPHA	I	68.32	68.53	I	I
2010/1	MMTH	II(1)	68.78	68.55	I	I
2010/1	MPHA	II(2)	59.69	59.86	II(1)	II(1)
2010/1	MPHA	I	69.12	69.06	I	I
2010/1	MPHA	I	68.54	68.77	I	I
2010/1	MCOMP	II(1)	59.54	59.54	II(1)	II(1)
2010/1	MPHA	II(1)	69.58	69.22	I	I
2010/1	MPHA	II(2)	59.29	58.78	II(1)	II(1)
2010/1	MPHA	II(1)	58.61	58.42	II(2)	II(1)

	Original Results			20:30:50 Weighted Award Mark	Test 1 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 180 credits in Stages 2/3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification	Test 2 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 120 credits in Stages 3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification
Academic Year	Award	Confirmed Classification	Original Award Mark			
2009/0	MPHA	II(1)	59.69	59.67	II(1)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	I	69.77	69.58	I	I
2009/0	MCHE	I	69.55	69.97	I	I
2009/0	MPHA	II(2)	58.58	58.43	II(2)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	II(2)	58.52	58.56	II(2)	II(2)
2009/0	MPHA	II(2)	58.89	59.22	II(1)	II(1)U
2009/0	MPHA	II(1)	68.03	68.04	II(1)	II(1)
2009/0	MMTH	I	69.01	68.91	II(1)	I
2009/0	MMTH	II(1)	59.15	59.09	II(1)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	I	69.78	69.56	I	I
2009/0	MPHA	I	70.36	69.86	I	I
2009/0	MPHA	I	70.01	69.93	I	I
2009/0	MPHA	I	68.99	68.59	II(1)	I
2009/0	MPHA	II(2)	59.60	59.47	II(1)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	I	68.23	68.24	I	I
2009/0	MPHA	I	68.79	68.45	II(1)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	II(2)	58.41	58.37	II(1)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	II(2)	58.41	58.48	II(2)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	II(1)	59.02	59.17	II(1)	II(1)
2009/0	MPHA	II(2)	57.93	58.15	II(1)	II(1)
2008/9	MMTH	I	68.04	68.01	II(1)	II(1)
2008/9	MPHA	II(2)	59.63	59.77	II(1)	II(1)

	Original Results			20:30:50 Weighted Award Mark	Test 1 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 180 credits in Stages 2/3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification	Test 2 - Students within 2% of a classification borderline with 120 credits in Stages 3/4 in the higher classification or in the borderline of the higher classification
Academic Year	Award	Confirmed Classification	Original Award Mark			
2008/9	MPHA	II(2)		59.87	II(1)	II(1)
2008/9	MMTH	I	69.72	69.62	I	I
2008/9	MPHA	I	68.55	68.55	I	I
2008/9	MPHA	II(2)	59.00	59.05	II(1)	II(1)
2008/9	MPHA	II(1)	69.18	69.43	I	I
2008/9	MCHE	I	69.47	69.50	I	I
2008/9	MPHA	II(1)	58.82	58.89	II(1)	II(1)
2008/9	MPHA	II(2)		59.29	II(1)	II(1)
2008/9	MPHA	II(1)	59.51	59.01	II(1)	II(1)
2008/9	MPHA	I	69.66	69.70	I	I
2008/9	MPHA	I	68.00	68.11	I	I
	• **36 students where the available data indicates that students were upgraded by the Examiners** • **(14 would have been upgraded by rounding if the rounding rule had been applied to these students; these plus a further 22 were upgraded by the Board)**				• **23 students upgraded by rounding** • **38 students upgraded by test 1** • **13 students remaining in the lower classification**	• **23 students upgraded by rounding** • **45 students upgraded by test 2** • **6 students remaining in the lower classification**