Your classification – Masters Degree

For postgraduate programmes that award module marks

If you have passed or been condoned in all modules, we will calculate your classification in two ways.

In both cases, to achieve a masters with Merit or Distinction, your dissertation mark must be within 2% of either classification.

1.   Average Percentage Mark (APM)

Your APM is a mean average of all marks, taking different credit weightings into account. For example, a 60 credit dissertation has three times weight of a 20 credit taught module.

Your APM is classified as follows:

APM	Classification band
70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
40-59%	Pass

For example:

Example A							
Module	1	2	3	4	5	6	Dissertation
Credits	20	20	20	20	20	20	60
Mark	63	62	61	60	56	55	61

- As the APM is 60%, and the dissertation is at Merit standard, the classification is Merit

2.   Your profile of marks

If you miss a classification using the APM calculation, we will consider you for the higher classification based on your profile of marks, provided you meet the following conditions:

- at least half your credits are in the higher band, *and*
- your APM is **within 2%** of the higher band

For example:

Example B							
Module	1	2	3	4	5	6	Dissertation
Credits	20	20	20	20	20	20	60
Mark	65	62	60	56	53	52	61

- As the APM is 59% it is in the Pass classification band
- However, at least half of the credits and the dissertation are in the Merit classification band, and the APM is within 2% of a Merit, a Merit is awarded.

Please note:

Award boards have the discretion to condone failure in up to 20 credits at level 7, but this only applies to non-core modules where the module mark is at least 35%. Condonement is discretionary – please do not rely on it.

If you need more information, please contact the Assessment & Awards Teams