

**UNIVERSITY of  
STIRLING**



## **Determination of Honours Degrees Classification Policy**

### **VERSION CONTROL STATEMENT**

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## General Principles

1. Honours degree students follow either the standard structure of modules specified in the approved degree programme information, or an approved variant route through the programme for an individual student.
2. A student's Honours degree classification is based on their performance in the modules specified for years 3 and 4 (or equivalent for part time) of the programme (standard or variant route). These are referred to as countable modules.
3. All Honours degree classifications are determined through the approved institutional methodology as set out in this policy. The methodology is based on a weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) and the concept of predominance and is provided in paragraph 5.
4. All Honours degrees are classified at the highest classification for which the student is eligible under the University's methodology.

## Methodology

5.
  - a) The marks for the countable modules and the credit value associated with each mark are used to calculate a weighted grade point average (GPA). The GPA is therefore derived by calculating the mean of marks for countable modules, weighted by the number of credit points for each module, taking points b) to h) into account as appropriate to the student.
  - b) The GPA calculation does not differentiate between compulsory and option modules.
  - c) The dissertation (or equivalent) must be included in the GPA calculation.
  - d) Where a student's mark profile includes modules with no marks attributed to them, these modules count towards the credit volume achieved by the student but are discounted within the GPA calculation. Reasons for a student having credit with no marks attributed may include e.g. entry credit, placement modules, pass/fail assessed modules, and study abroad credit.
  - e) The lowest marked 20 credits (including modules with a fail mark or that have had compensation applied) is discounted. The GPA is then based on all of the remaining credits with attributed marks.
  - f) If a student has more than 240 credits from years 3 and 4 with attributed marks, the lowest marked 20 credits (including modules with a fail mark or that have had compensation applied) is discounted and then all of the remaining credits are included in the calculation.
  - g) If a student has a total of 120 credits or less with marks attributed, the GPA must be based on all available credits with attributed marks, i.e. no modules may be discounted.
  - h) The mean mark derived from the calculation is rounded to the nearest whole number and this value represents the GPA.
  - i) The classification thresholds are as follows:
    - i. First class 70
    - ii. Upper second class 60
    - iii. Lower second class 50
    - iv. Third class 40
  - j) Where a student's GPA meets a classification threshold, they are granted that classification.
  - k) Where a student's GPA meets one classification threshold but is within 2 marks of the next higher classification threshold, and there is predominance in that their mark profile has at least

50% of all the credits (before the lowest grade has been removed from the calculation) at or above the next higher classification threshold they are granted the next higher classification.

6. In summary this means that:

- a. A student is eligible for first class where either: their GPA is at least 70; or their GPA is at least 68 and at least 50% of their countable modules with marks attributed to them have marks of 70 or above.
- b. A student is eligible for upper second class where either: their GPA is at least 60; or their GPA is at least 58 and at least 50% of their countable modules with marks attributed to them have marks of 60 or above.
- c. A student is eligible for lower second class where either: their GPA is at least 50; or their GPA is at least 48 and at least 50% of their countable modules with marks attributed to them have marks of 50 or above.