



**UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

University College Birmingham Classification Scheme

(2020/2021 cohort onwards)

Approved by Academic Regulations Committee

3 December 2020

Reviewed by Academic Regulations Committee January 2025

1. Introduction

This classification scheme is applicable to Bachelors' cohorts with a first registration from September 2020/2021. Bachelors' cohorts with a first registration before September 2019 should refer to the relevant University Classification Scheme.

2. Degree Classifications and Calculations

(a) The University Classification Scheme operates under the following conditions:

(i) The starting point of the system is the credit-weighted arithmetic mean mark, for each relevant stage of study, averaged with the same mark for other relevant stages of study in a prescribed proportion;

(ii) When the final average falls within a prescribed band below the minimum for achieving a given classification on average alone (the 'borderline'), attention is given to the profile of the relevant marks. (This principle ensures that consideration can only be given to the median when the less successful module outcomes do not fall below an acceptable level.)

(iii) Where there are marks available for all modules required to be attempted under the programme requirements.

(iv) Where there is a greater proportion, after credit-weighting, of marks in the class above the relevant borderline. (The purpose of this scheme is to recognise the prevailing character of a candidate's performance on the basis of judgements of the class to which each module outcome belongs. In this way, recognition is given to the fact that a Student may have more weighted module marks, which lie above the degree classification indicated by the arithmetic mean.)

b) Calculation of the Stage Mark

(i) The stage mark is the weighted mean mark, weighted for credits, for a stage of a degree programme. For UG programmes this applies to the stage 2 (level 5) and stage 3 (Level 6) weighted mean marks.

(c) Calculation of the Overall Mark

(i) The overall mark is the mark calculated from the stage marks that contribute to the Student's degree result using the appropriate stage weightings.

(ii) The overall mark is calculated with the maximum available precision and then rounded to an integer. An (overall) mark of less than n.5 (unrounded) is rounded down.

2.1 Step One: The Arithmetic Mean

In accordance with Academic Regulations Part 2 (1.3.1 d). where candidates are eligible for the award of a classified first degree, the class will be determined initially on the basis of the weighted arithmetic mean (to take account of the credit rating of a module) using the weighting between stages:

70+ = 1st;

60-69 = 2i;

50-59 = 2ii;

40-49 = 3rd.

2.2 Step Two: Identifying Borderline Cases

(a) Those candidates with a weighted arithmetic mean, as shown below, will be 'borderline cases' and eligible for a classification as set out below.

68,69 = eligible for consideration as a borderline 1st;

58,59 = eligible for consideration as a borderline 2i;

48,49 = eligible for consideration as a borderline 2ii;

38,39 = eligible for consideration as a borderline 3rd.

2.2.1 First Class

The candidate shall normally be required to obtain either:

- a) An Overall mark of at least 70%, or
- b) Have attempted all credits on which the classification is based and have an Overall mark of at least 68% and a mark of at least 70% in modules with a combined value of at least 80 credits (from level 6) or
- c) An Overall mark of at least 68% and a mark of at least 70% in modules with a combined value of at least 60 credits (from all final year modules), and 60 credits from level 5.

2.2.2 Second Class, Upper Division

The candidate shall normally be required to obtain either:

- a) An Overall mark of at least 60%, or
- b) Have attempted all credits on which the classification is based and have an Overall mark of at least 58% and a mark of at least 60% in modules with a combined value of at least 80 credits (from all final year modules) or
- c) An Overall mark of at least 58% and a mark of at least 60% in modules with a combined value of at least 60 credits (from level 6), and 60 credits from level 5.

2.2.3 Second Class, Lower Division

The candidate shall normally be required to obtain either:

- a) An Overall mark of at least 50%, or
- b) Have attempted all credits on which the classification is based and have an Overall mark of at least 48% and a mark of at least 50% in modules with a combined value of at least 80 credits (from level 6) or
- c) An Overall mark of at least 48% and a mark of at least 50% in modules with a combined value of at least 60 credits (from level 6), and 60 credits from level 5.

2.2.4 Third Class

The candidate shall normally be required to obtain

- a) An Overall mark of at least 40% and have attempted all credits on which the classification is based.

Direct Entries/Top-Up Students

For students who start at level 5 or above, only those credits studied at UCB will be considered when calculating degree classifications or eligibility for fallback awards. Students who have not studied all credits from level 4 to 6 must achieve full 120 credits at level 6 in order to be awarded.