Quality Handbook

Worked Example of Postgraduate Degree Classification Calculations

All degree classifications are calculated using the Academic Regulations

1) Any modules which are not given a percentage mark (for example, pass/fail modules) will not be included in the calculation (modules that are marked but which receive a mark of 0% are included). The calculation will use the credits available, even if these fall below 180. In that case the credit-weighting stage divides by the number of credits used (e.g. the totalled marks are divided by 150, rather than 180).
2) SITS will round the final total to two decimal places. There will be no rounding during the earlier calculations.
3) As specified in the Academic Regulations (section 6.4.1(c)), borderline marks are those final calculations which lie within 2% of the next highest classification boundary, i.e. 58-59.99%, and 68-69.99%). There are no borderlines to borderlines.

The classification bands

70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
40-59%	Pass

Calculation Process

A Masters Degree is awarded for the achievement of 180 credits. A classification is awarded on the **weighted mean average of the module marks for all credits obtained.**

Weighted Mean Average 180 credits

DEGM01 (30 credits)	DEGM05 (30 credits)	DEGM09 (30 credits)	DEGM08 (30 credits)	DEGM03 (60 credits)
68%	66%	65%	67%	71%
30 credits	60 credits	90 credits	120 credits	180 credits

Finding the Mean average
1. Each module mark is multiplied by the number of credits for that module, and the results added together:
2. (30x68)+(30x66)+(30x65)+(30x67)+(60x71) =12240
3. That total is then divided by 180 (the total number of credits) to give the **weighted mean average**:

   12240/180 = 68.00 **weighted mean average**

The Postgraduate Degree classification

The final classification result is 68.00%
This is a Merit classification.

70-100%	Distinction
60-69%	Merit
40-59%	Pass

What are 'borderlines'?
A final classification is 'borderline' if it is within 2% of the classification boundary, i.e:

> 58.0%-59.99%
> 68.0%-69.99%

What happens to borderlines?
It means that the Assessment Board will move the student into the higher classification if the student's dissertation or project mark is at the higher level (i.e 70% or higher for a Distinction, 60% or higher for a Merit). Where there is no project or dissertation component, or where it is fewer than sixty credits, sixty credits (including, where applicable, the smaller project or dissertation) should be designated in the programme regulations that will be determining credits for borderline purposes.

Using the above calculation methodology you can see that final classification result is 68.00, which falls into the borderline classification. The student scored in the higher classification level with a mark of 71% (distinction) in their dissertation or major project DEGM03 (60 Credits). Therefore they satisfy the criteria for conferment of a higher award classification of Distinction.

What does the Board consider?
- Designated modules from the programme regulations if there is no major project or dissertation (see above)
- The overall profile of module results, including the range and spread of both higher and lower marks
- Any module of particular significance, e.g. a project or professional placement
- Any professional body requirements.