

Worked Example of Undergraduate 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 100. In that case the credit-weighting stage divides by the number of credits used (e.g. the totalled marks are divided by 90, rather than 100).
- 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 7.3), borderline marks are those final calculations which lie within 2% of the next highest classification boundary, i.e. 48-49.99%, 58-59.99%, and 68-69.99%). There are no borderlines to borderlines

The marks for the best 100 credits obtained at Stage 2 are averaged (weighted by module size – e.g. 20 credits get twice the weight of 10), and the same is done for the best 100 credits obtained at Stage 3.

These are combined so that the Stage 3 average carries more weight than the Stage 2 average (it counts four times more: 80% of the classification; Stage 2 is 20%). This final figure determines the degree classification.

Stage:

Programmes are made up of Stages which equate to one year of full-time study. A typical BA or BSc with Honours has three Stages, with Stage 3 being the 'final year'.

The classification bands

70-100%	first class
60-69%	upper second class (a '2:1')
50-59%	lower second class (a '2:2')
40-49%	third class

Calculation Process

The best 100 credits are taken at Stages 2 and 3 (see later for sandwich degrees)

A credit-weighted average is found for each Stage.

These averages are then weighted so that Stage 3 is more important.

These weighted averages are added together to give a final mark which determines the classification.

First, the 'best 100' credits at each of Stage 2 and Stage 3 are found.

These are the highest scoring modules.

Pass/fail modules, or other modules which don't lead to a mark aren't counted.

Modules which are marked, where the mark is 0, are counted.

A module may end up spanning the 100 credit boundary, as in the example below. DEG204 is a 40 credit module which falls both inside and outside the best 100 credits, as it spans the

student's lowest 81-120 credits. In this example, when we perform the credit weighting, we only use **the first 20** credits worth of the 40 credit module (i.e. the credits that lie within the best 100). NB Do not attempt to disaggregate the elements of assessment in DEG204 – the final module mark is used, but only for the value of 20 credits.

1. DEG203 62 20 credits
2. DEG202 62 20 credits
3. DEG206 61 20 credits
4. DEG209 61 20 credits
5. **DEG204 60 40 credits**
6. Credit weighting: $(62 \times 20) + (62 \times 20) + (61 \times 20) + (61 \times 20) + 60 \times 20$

Stage 2 best 100 credits

DEG203 (20 credits)	DEG202 (20 credits)	DEG206 (20 credits)	DEG204 (20 credits)	DEG201 (20 credits)	DEG205 (20 credits)
67%	59%	58%	57%	60%	50%
20 credits	40 credits	60 credits	80 credits	100 credits	NOT USED

Module DEG205 is taken out of the calculation

Stage 3 best 100 credits

DEG302 (20 credits)	DEG301 (40 credits)	DEG309 (20 credits)	DEG305 (20 credits)	DEG303 (20 credits)
58%	61%	60%	58%	50%
20 credits	60 credits	80credits	100 credits	NOT USED

Module DEG303 is taken out of the calculation

Finding the average for Stage2

1. First each module mark in the best 100 credits is multiplied by the number of credits for that module, and the results added together:
2. $(20 \times 67) + (20 \times 59) + (20 \times 58) + (20 \times 57) + (20 \times 60) = 6020$
3. That total is then divided by 100 (the number of credits) to give the **credit-weighted average** for that Stage:
 $6020/100 = 60.20$ credit-weighted Stage average

Finding the average for Stage 3

1. First each module mark in the best 100 credits is multiplied by the number of credits for that module, and the results added together:
2. $(20 \times 58) + (40 \times 61) + (20 \times 60) + (20 \times 58) = 5960$
3. That total is then divided by 100 to give the **credit-weighted average** for that Stage:
 $5960/100 = 59.60$ credit-weighted Stage average

The last step is to make Stage 3 carry more weight in the final classification. Stage 2 does influence the final classification, but Stage 3 has more influence.

The Stage 2 credit-weighted average is multiplied by 20%:

$$60.20 \times 20\% = 12.04$$

The Stage 3 credit-weighted average is multiplied by 80%:

$$59.60 \times 80\% = 47.68$$

The totals are added to give the FINAL RESULT:

$$12.04 + 47.68 = 59.72\%$$

The degree classification

The final classification result is 59.72%

This is a lower second (a '2:2').

70-100%	first class
60-69%	upper second class (a '2:1')
50-59%	lower second class (a '2:2')
40-49%	third class

Sandwich years

Where a placement is an additional year of study:

- Stage 2 will count for 10% of the classification
- Stage 3 (the sandwich year) will also count for 10% of the classification
- Stage 4 (the final year of study) will remain at 80% of the classification.

What are 'borderlines'?

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

48.0%-49.99%

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 sixty or more credits at stage 3 fall into the higher classification level.

Using the above calculation methodology you can see that final classification result is 59.72, which falls into the borderline classification. The example modules which the student scored in the higher classification level were DEG301 (40 Credits) and DEG309 (20 Credits).

Therefore as the student received 60 credits in the higher classification level, they satisfy the criteria for conferment of a higher award classification upper second class (a '2:1').

What does the Board consider?

- 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.