



Academic Regulations for Taught Awards – 2017/18

Please direct any queries to Faculty Registrars

Item	Description
Document Reference:	PL.0018-v002
Document Name:	Academic Regulations for Taught Awards 2017/18
Review Date:	May 2018
Last Reviewed:	May 2017
Commencement Date:	September 2017
Approving Authority:	Student Learning and Experience Committee / Academic Board
Date Approved:	22 June 2016 / 5 April 2017 & 5 July 2017
Department Responsible for maintenance & review	Academic Registry, Quality and Teaching Excellence
Contact:	ar.qte.regs@northumbria.ac.uk



Note for students

This edition of the Academic Regulations, including Assessment Regulations, supersedes previous versions and applies to all students of the University enrolling or re-enrolling on taught programmes in the 2017/18 academic year. All regulations related to assessment are available from the web [here](#).

Students are expected to be familiar with all Academic Regulations. Separate regulations apply to full-time and part-time programmes. All new and continuing students should be aware which regulations relate to their programme of study.

If you have any difficulties in understanding the regulations you should consult your Programme Leader, Personal Tutor, [Ask4Help](#) team or Help and Support on [MyNorthumbria](#) at Student Central (*locations: Library, CCE1 & CLC*). You may also seek independent advice and support from the Students' Union Advice & Representation Service (su.advice@northumbria.ac.uk).

Procedures for students who wish to appeal against assessment decisions, or against the University withdrawing them for unsatisfactory progress, are defined in [the Handbook of Student Regulations](#), which is also available from [MyNorthumbria](#).

Maggie New
Academic Registrar
September 2017

Notification of Log of Key Changes to Assessment Regulations

The Northumbria University Assessment Web Pages have been updated and are now accessible for viewing [here](#).

The following is the log of changes for 2017-18. The relevant approval committee is indicated in brackets where endorsement was required. Academic Board (AB) and Student Learning and Experience Committee (SLE).

The agreed changes to the assessment regulations take effect from 1 September 2017 in the academic year 2017/18.

Changes are as follows:

Academic Regulations for Taught Awards 2017-18:

1. Incomplete Rule / Non-synoptic re-assessment - (AB – 5 April 2017)

The removal of the ‘incomplete’ rule. Provided students have passed the module overall, there will no longer be a requirement to attempt all assessment components (section 1.10.2).

A move to non-synoptic re-assessment. In modules where there is more than one assessment component the student will only be re-assessed in the individual failed module components of assessment, except where PSRB requirements do not permit (see sections 1.10.2 / 2.1.2 / 2.1.3 / 2.1.4 / 3.4 & 4.4).

2. Regulations in respect to the calculation of classification at UG and PGT – (AB – 5 April 2017)

The change to the calculation of classification of UG and PGT to include the capped pass mark for the module after re-sit at the award stage in the classification calculation. (see sections 2.1.4 / 3.1.4 / 3.4.6 / 4.4.5).

3. Change of Circumstances (SLE – 21 June 2017)

This has been updated for clarity (see section 1.19).

Additional Regulatory Policy Change(s):

4. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) - (AB - 5 July 2017)

This policy was previously known as Accreditation of Experiential Prior Learning (APEL). The policy has been revised and become a standalone policy (see section 1.5.1). The full policy is available [here](#)

5. Academic Misconduct Policy - (SLE – 21 June 2017)

There are minor changes to this policy to clarify the penalties applied. (see section 1.11). The full policy is [here](#).



6. **Penalties applicable to assessed work** - *(AB - 5 July 2017)*

Revisions have been made to the Word Limit Policy (see section 1.13.2). The full policy is available [here](#).

7. **Modified and alternative forms of assessment for disability or unforeseen medical circumstances** - *(SLE – 21 June 2017)*

This has been updated to provide clarity. The policy is [here](#).



Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1. Status	1
1.2. Awards of the University offered by other institutions	1
1.3. Compliance with the national frameworks and guidelines	1
1.4. Framework for academic awards	2
1.5. Flexible Learning	2
1.6. Individual Learners	3
1.7. Award regulations of the University	4
1.8. Titles of awards	5
1.9. Information for students	7
1.10. Responsibilities of students	8
1.11. Academic Misconduct	8
1.12. Conduct of examinations and assessments	8
1.13. Penalties applicable to assessed work	8
1.14. Marks and results	9
1.15. Communication of results	9
1.16. Language of instruction	9
1.17. Linked awards	9
1.18. Lower level awards	9
1.19. Programme transfers, interruptions and withdrawals (Change of circumstances)	10
1.20. Posthumous awards	10
1.21. Student's right of appeal	10
1.22. Review of the Assessment Regulations	11
2. Pass Mark	11
2.1. General	11
2.2. Undergraduate modules	11
2.3. Postgraduate modules	12
2.4. Pass/fail modules	12
2.5. Compensation	12
2.6. Variation Orders	12



3. Progression and award: full-time programmes.....	12
3.1. Principles of progression and award on a full-time programme.....	12
3.2. Progression at an intermediate stage of a full-time programme	13
3.3. Compensation for module failure on a full-time programme.....	13
3.4. Referral on a full-time programme	15
3.5. Failure on a full-time programme.....	16
4. Progression and award: part-time programmes	16
4.1. Principles of progression and award on a part-time programme	16
4.2. Progression at an intermediate stage of a part-time programme	17
4.3. Compensation for module failure on a part-time programme	17
4.4. Referral on a part-time programme.....	18
4.5. Failure on a part-time programme	19
5. Distinction/Commendation	19
5.1. General principles	19
5.2. Distinction.....	20
5.3. Commendation	20
6. Full-time awards and their classification.....	21
6.1. Foundation Certificate (full-time).....	21
6.2. Foundation Diploma (full-time).....	21
6.3. Certificate (full-time)	21
6.4. Certificate of Higher Education (full-time)	22
6.5. Diploma (full-time)	22
6.6. Diploma of Higher Education (full-time)	22
6.7. Foundation Degree (full-time)	23
6.8. Advanced Diploma of Higher Education (full-time).....	23
6.9. Advanced Diploma (full-time).....	24
6.10. Ordinary Degree (full-time)	24
6.11. Honours Degree (full-time)	26
6.12. Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (full-time).....	28
6.13. Graduate Certificate (full-time).....	28
6.14. Graduate Diploma (full-time).....	29
6.15. Master of Architecture (full-time).....	29
6.16. Integrated Master Degree (full-time)	30
6.17. Postgraduate Certificate in Education (full-time)	32
6.18. Postgraduate Certificate (full-time)	33



6.19. Postgraduate Diploma (full-time)	33
6.20. Masters Degrees (full-time)	33
6.21. Master of Fine Art (full-time)	35
6.22. Professional Doctorate Programmes (full-time)	35
6.23. Completion Awards (full-time).....	36
7. Part-time awards and their classification	36
7.1. Foundation Certificate (part-time)	36
7.2. Foundation Diploma (part-time)	37
7.3. Certificate (part-time).....	37
7.4. Certificate of Higher Education (part-time).....	38
7.5. Higher National Certificate (part-time)	38
7.6. Diploma (part-time).....	39
7.7. Diploma of Higher Education (part-time).....	39
7.8. Foundation Degree (part-time)	40
7.9. Advanced Diploma of Higher Education (part-time)	40
7.10. Advanced Diploma (part-time)	41
7.11. Ordinary Degree (part-time).....	41
7.12. Honours Degree (part-time).....	41
7.13. Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (part-time)	44
7.14. Graduate Certificate (part-time)	44
7.15. Graduate Diploma (part-time)	45
7.16. Master of Architecture (part-time)	45
7.17. Integrated Masters Degree (part-time).....	46
7.18. Postgraduate Certificate in Education (part-time)	48
7.19. Postgraduate Certificate (part-time).....	49
7.20. Postgraduate Diploma (part-time).....	49
7.21. Masters Degrees (part-time).....	49
7.22. Master of Fine Art (part-time).....	50
7.23. Professional Doctorate Programmes (part-time).....	50
7.24. Completion Awards (part-time)	52

1. Introduction

1.1. Status

- 1.1.1. These assessment regulations are the standard regulations which apply to all the University's academic programmes delivered in the UK or overseas (including under franchise arrangements), and by distance learning, unless variations for individual modules or programmes have been specifically approved by, or on behalf of, Academic Board.
- 1.1.2. Where programmes of study lead to qualifications of a Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB), or exemptions from the PSRB's own qualifications, full account is taken of the regulations and requirements of the PSRB in respect of assessment, but any variations to these University regulations require the approval of the Education Committee. Such exceptions are to be detailed in the programme documentation.
- 1.1.3. In exceptional cases, an Examination Board has the right to exercise discretion in the interpretation and applications of these regulations. An example of where discretion should be carefully considered is unusual patterns of delivery including periods of study abroad.
- 1.1.4. Any student who has had a break in his / her programme and returns to the University to complete the programme will be governed by the regulations in force at the time of re-entry to the University. Where a student resumes within a two-year period, the University will make all reasonable efforts to enable the student to continue their original programme (or pre-agreed transfer). However, students should be aware that the University cannot guarantee that any programme will continue to be available following a break in study or whether variations may have been made to the original programme during their break in study.

1.2. Awards of the University offered by other institutions

Where other institutions deliver Northumbria University awards with the authority of Academic Board, those institutions are bound by these regulations, subject to any variations specified by the particular agreement and approved by Academic Board.

1.3. Compliance with the national frameworks and guidelines

Northumbria awards are defined in terms Quality Assurance Agency [Framework for Higher Education requirements](#), specifically:

The QAA's Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

- The FHEQ is aligned with the overarching Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA), allowing mapping of Northumbria's awards to their European equivalents.

- The Higher Education Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements indicates how much learning is expected to be undertaken for the main HE qualifications referenced in the FHEQ.

Northumbria also has awards that are defined as level 3 in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Table 1 below shows how Northumbria awards at each level map to the FHEQ/NQF and the corresponding cycle of the FQ-EHEA.

Typical higher education qualifications within each level	FHEQ/ NQF level	Corresponding FQ-EHEA cycle
Doctoral degrees e.g. PhD, Professional Doctorates	8	Third cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Masters degrees e.g. MPhil, MRes, MA, MSc	7	Second cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Integrated Masters degrees e.g. MEng, MChem, MSci, MLaw, MNurs		
Postgraduate Diplomas		
Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)		
Postgraduate Certificates		
Bachelor's degrees with Honours e.g. BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), LLB (Hons)	6	First cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Bachelor's degrees e.g. BA, BSc		
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)		
Graduate Diplomas		
Graduate Certificates		
Foundation degrees (Fd)	5	Short cycle (within or linked to the first cycle) qualifications
Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)		
Higher National Diploma (HND)		
Higher National Certificates (HNC)	4	
Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)		
Foundation Diploma/Certificate (FDip/FCert)		

1.4. Framework for academic awards

The Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards is available [here](#). The Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards applies to all programmes except those for Flexible Learning and Individual Learners detailed below:

1.5. Flexible Learning

- 1.5.1. **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** Prior Learning and HE Credit may be used to gain entry to a Northumbria programme or to gain exemption from Modules or Levels within a Northumbria programme. Full details of the

maximum exemptions are given in the University framework. In line with the sector, Northumbria recognises three types of prior learning:

- **Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL):** Prior experiential learning relates to informal prior learning that is at an appropriate level but was not previously formally assessed and has not led to the gaining of credits rated at a particular level within the UK Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications. The recognition of prior experiential learning involves an assessment process by Northumbria University staff that leads to recognition of achievement of learning outcomes and the award of University Credit. The essential feature of this process is that it is the learning gained through experience which is being assessed, not the experience itself.
- **Recognition of Prior Certified Learning (RPCL):** Prior certified learning relates to formally certificated prior learning (e.g. professional development awards, employment-based or vocational awards) that is at an appropriate level but has not led to the gaining of credits rated at a particular level within the UK Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (*UK FHEQ*). The recognition of prior certified learning (RPCL) involves either a process of assessment or, in some cases, an evaluation of equivalency (where the standards of the award and of the awarding body are known and appropriate) by Northumbria University staff that leads to recognition of achievement of learning outcomes and the award of University Credit.
- **Recognition of HE Credit (RHEC):** The recognition and transfer of HE credit involves an evaluation of equivalency of achieved Learning Outcomes and Level, together with a mapping of grade scales where appropriate, by Northumbria University staff and leads to recognition of achievement of learning outcomes and the award of University Credit.

(The RPL Framework can be accessed [here](#))

- 1.5.2. Any arrangements for student exchange programmes, including on a semester-based 60 credit point basis or a year-long 120 credit point basis, should be specified in the programme structures. (Guidelines for the Study Abroad Framework are available [here](#))

1.6. Individual Learners

The term '*Individual Learners*' covers students who study either one or several modules which may or may not eventually equate to an award or who study for open awards. Modules cannot be offered to individuals in a mode that has not been previously validated (e.g. an individual learner cannot take a module by distance learning that has not been validated as such).

- 1.6.1. The Open Award Scheme applied where a student wishes to study a unique combination of modules leading to an award, which is not available in the standard academic programme. It does not apply to students studying an existing programme in a different mode, or for students who have been referred in a number of modules, or for students who have failed.
- 1.6.2. The Flexible Study Programme is for students who wish to enrol on a single module or a combination of modules that is not intended to lead to an award ab

initio. However, students on this scheme would be able to have the credit recognised at a later date if they wish to either enroll for an existing or bespoke award.

- 1.6.3. Assessment Regulations for Taught Awards (ARTA) and the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Framework apply to individual learners.
- 1.6.4. Faculty Education Committees are responsible for approving generic Programme Specifications for Open Awards. Generic degrees will be awarded (e.g. BA, BA (Hons) Arts, BSc, and BSc (Hons) Science etc.) and the transcript will denote the range of subjects studied. Students on the Open Award are not awarded qualifications with individual titles.
- 1.6.5. Faculty Education Committees are responsible for approving programmes of study that are intended to lead to an award ab initio and for scrutinising the profiles of students who have accumulated enough credit to receive an award and recommending/approving the award.
- 1.6.6. Students on such modules/programmes are managed at Faculty level – where a student is studying a number of modules across different Faculties – the Faculty, which owns the majority of modules, will be the home Faculty. Module marks and student profiles of marks will be considered at the appropriate assessment board/s.
- 1.6.7. Faculty Education Committees are responsible for ensuring that appropriate support mechanisms are in place for such students – e.g. personal tutors, access to facilities etc.
- 1.6.8. Faculty Education Committees are responsible for ensuring that appropriate external examining arrangements are in place.

1.7. Award regulations of the University

- 1.7.1. Academic Board has overall responsibility for the standards of the University's awards and their alignment to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and other elements of the QAA academic infrastructure. The Education Committee operates under delegated authority from Academic Board and has responsibility for overseeing the development and operation of the Quality Assurance Framework for taught programmes. Academic Board approves the awards of the University.
- 1.7.2. Academic Board may approve such new awards as it considers appropriate and in doing so has regard to:
 - the proposed new award in the context of the whole range of the University's awards, their relationship to each other and to the awards of other bodies
 - the characteristics and level of the proposed awards in relation to existing awards and the FHEQ
 - the suitability of existing awards for the proposed programme of study
 - the likely demand for, and recognition of, the proposed award by institutions, students and employers

A range of different University awards may be available as a typical higher education qualification defined in the FHEQ e.g. Masters level. Academic Board has approved a number of different award titles as indicated in section 1.8.

- 1.7.3. Higher doctorates are awarded by the University to candidates who satisfy the criteria for the award, in accordance with separate regulations available [here](#).
- 1.7.4. The University awards of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) are governed by separate regulations available [here](#).
- 1.7.5. Aegrotat awards do not carry any classification or Distinction/Commendation. The Aegrotat degree is an unclassified degree.
- 1.7.6. The Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law (DCL) is awarded to persons of distinction who have earned national/international recognition and standing in the field/activities within education, business, culture, the professions, creative work or public service. The award cannot be conferred in absentia, except where the award is posthumous.
- 1.7.7. Abbreviated titles are established for awards in accordance with the practice in Higher Education. The holders of such awards are entitled to use the titles in accordance with academic convention.

Recipients of honorary degrees may use the approved designatory letters after their names, but may not use the title 'Dr' in front of their name unless they are entitled to do so by virtue of any other award or qualification they possess.

- 1.7.8. Academic Board may approve the discontinuance of any of the University's awards, as it may deem appropriate.
- 1.7.9. Students are admitted to programmes leading to awards of the University based on meeting entry requirements specified in its prospectus in the individual Programme Specifications.

1.8. Titles of awards

- 1.8.1. The Foundation Certificate (FCert) is awarded to students on access programmes meeting the credit requirements for the award.
- 1.8.2. The title of Foundation Degree (Fd) is used irrespective of subject specialism. The distinctive features of this award are specified in the [Foundation Degree Qualification Benchmark](#)
- 1.8.3. Programmes of study leading to the BA or BSc will normally have a title, which gives a more specific indication of the subjects studied. The title of Bachelor of Arts (BA) is used where the subject is substantially in art and design, the arts and humanities, and in appropriate areas of social or business studies. The title of Bachelor of Science (BSc) is used where studies are substantially based on science or mathematics and their applications, and in appropriate areas of social or business studies.

- 1.8.4. The title of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) denotes programmes of specialised study in law. Programmes where legal and other studies are combined will lead to the award of the BA or, where appropriate, the BSc.
- 1.8.5. The title of Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) denotes programmes, which provide a technologically broad education with an emphasis on engineering applications, primarily those programmes that may lead to registration with the Engineering Councils.
- 1.8.6. The title of Bachelor of Education (BEd) is reserved for programmes of teacher education, which include a substantial element of teaching practice. The award normally provides Qualified Teacher status.
- 1.8.7. The title of Bachelor of Medical Science (BMedSci) denotes a programme that covers the breadth of science necessary to underpin the education, training and further career development of healthcare scientists fit for future roles in the National Health Service.
- 1.8.8. The titles Master of Engineering (MEng), Master of Maths (MMath), Master of Chemistry (MChem), Master in Science (MSci), Master in Law (MLaw), Master in Nursing (MNurse), Master of Computing (MComp), Master of Geography (MGeog) and Master of Physics (MPhys) denote Integrated Masters programmes of study in those disciplines.
- 1.8.9. Programmes of study leading to the MA or MSc will normally have a title, which gives a specific indication of the subject studied. The title Master of Arts (MA) is used for subjects in art and design, the arts and humanities and in other areas of study where a more specialised title is not appropriate. The title Master of Science (MSc) is used where studies are substantially based on science or mathematics and their applications, and in appropriate areas of social or business studies.
- 1.8.10. The title Master of Business Administration (MBA) is for programmes, which focus on the general principles and functions of management and the development of management skills.
- 1.8.11. The title Master of Education (MEd) is for programmes focused on education and professional practice in teaching. All entrants should have appropriate professional experience, either prior or concurrent.
- 1.8.12. The title Master of Laws (LLM) is for programmes of specialised study in law at Master's level.
- 1.8.13. The title Master of Public Administration (MPA) is for programmes, which focus on the context, theories, principles and management of public sector organisations and the services they provide.
- 1.8.14. The title Master of Public Health (MPH) is for programmes providing a multi-disciplinary approach to population health and well-being for graduates and/or experienced professionals from the broad field of public health.
- 1.8.15. Programmes of study leading to Master of Clinical Practice (MCPract) support new roles in health care for non-medical professionals. The focus is on aspects such as clinical life science, clinical theory and practice skills, and success is

contingent on assessment of clinical competence and assessment of *'fit for role'*. A minimum of 60 credits have competence-based skills, learning and assessment. The dissertation is related to practice and evaluation of emerging and existing practice roles.

- 1.8.16. The title Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) denotes a practice-based programme that gives teachers the opportunity to develop their professional skills and specialist expertise in the workplace with the support of a trained in-Faculty coach as well as a tutor from a higher education institution.
- 1.8.17. The title of Master of Fine Art (MFA) is a terminal degree addressing the need for a concentrated period of (Fine Art) practice-based study, providing a challenging environment for ambitious artists seeking to achieve excellence in their professional practice, through the production, distribution and interpretation of contemporary art.
- 1.8.18. The title Master of Research (MRes) is for taught programmes providing postgraduate level training in methods and practice of research, and relevant transferable skills not normally offered in conventional taught Masters programmes in any discipline. All programmes will bear the title Master of Research (to indicate that they are research oriented). The subject may be specified in the award title and, where this is the case, the named subject must be at an appropriate level (for example, a recognised high-level discipline or approved research grouping). Titles for any embedded lower level awards must be specified in the Programme Specification. At least 50% of the award must be the research component with the taught element comprising research techniques (circa 20-30%) and transferable/personal skills (circa 20%).
- 1.8.19. The Professional Doctorate is a doctorate level qualification for professionals working in a particular field, which aims to aid the dissemination, development and management of a range of professional practice and policy development. The research component is equivalent to PhD standard (Level 8) and results in a substantial and original thesis or portfolio, which makes an original contribution to knowledge (either theoretical or applied to professional practice) and contains publishable elements. The taught component is primarily at Level 7 and provides the theoretical foundation and application of theory for the attainment of knowledge and skills necessary for understanding and interpreting critically a wide variety of research. The award title is limited to the broad, high level discipline or professional area of field. Specialisms within that area are possible depending on the mix of modules and emphasis of the research component. This is recorded on the degree parchment by indicating the area of specialism or the thesis title.
- 1.8.20. The Advanced Diploma is for undergraduate entry; the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma are for graduate entry.
- 1.8.21. For most awards the subject of the award will also be specified in the award title e.g. Master of Science in Chemistry.

1.9. Information for students

A student is entitled to have access to full details of his/her programme, relevant assessment regulations and specific information about the assessments for the programme.

1.10. Responsibilities of students

- 1.10.1. It is the responsibility of the student to attend scheduled classes and carry out prescribed learning activities for the programme on which they are registered. The student is also expected to know when work is due to be submitted and when and where examinations are scheduled.
- 1.10.2. In modules where there is more than one assessment component, Students are **not** required to complete all assessment components if an overall Pass Mark (40% UG, 50% PGT) has been achieved. The only permitted exception will be in cases where the University is prevented from doing so by a PSRB requirement. In the case of PSRB requirements, a variation order will be required from the regulations.
- 1.10.3. Where a marker cannot decipher a student's handwriting, a second academic member of staff should attempt to do so. In the event that neither party can, read the script, the student's work should be forwarded to the Faculty Registrar (or nominee) to review. If after scrutiny, the answers are still deemed illegible, the indecipherable sections will not be marked. Marks will not be awarded for any sections that could not be interpreted.

1.11. Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to observe University regulations, which define and proscribe cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. They are also required to take reasonable precautions to guard against unauthorised access by others to their work. (See the University's Policy on Academic Misconduct [here](#)).

1.12. Conduct of examinations and assessments

- 1.12.1. Students are expected to observe University regulations for the conduct of examinations and assessments.
- 1.12.2. Exceptionally, a student may request an alteration to assessment arrangements under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010¹. Consideration of such a request, which should be submitted to the Faculty Registrar, will take account of the need to ensure that defined learning outcomes of the programme are met and that competence standards are not compromised. Any alteration to an assessment arrangement under this provision must be authorised by the Chair of the Faculty Education Committee.

1.13. Penalties applicable to assessed work

- 1.13.1. If a student fails to meet the agreed assessment deadline, and has not been granted an extension of time, the work submitted will be subject to a penalty. (See the University's Policy on Late Submission of Work [here](#)).
- 1.13.2. If a student exceeds the permitted word limit for an assessment, the work submitted will be subject to a penalty. (See the University's policy on Word Limits [here](#)).

¹ See [Equality Act 2010](#)

1.14. Marks and results

Recommended marks awarded to the student for a summative assessment will be communicated individually to the student as and when the mark has been internally moderated and recorded. Definitive marks and results are agreed at the end of stage/year Programme Assessment Board (PAB) after any external moderation has taken place. Definitive marks will be released to the student within three weeks of the meeting of the Examination Board.

1.15. Communication of results

- 1.15.1. Students will be informed of the method and date by which results will be communicated to them. Confidentiality of marks will be observed at all times. Rights of access and provision for disclosure relate to an individual's own data only.
- 1.15.2. Information on assessment results may be made known to sponsors, but cannot be made available to other external organisations or individuals without the consent of the student. Only overall results, following notification to the student, may be given to external organisations or individuals who are not sponsors without prior consultation with the student.
- 1.15.3. Students may request historical marks. Requests should be made to the [Ask4Help](#) team at Student Central and will be dealt with in accordance with the University procedure for requesting information under the Data Protection Act 1998.

1.16. Language of instruction

All modules contributing to a Northumbria award will be taught and assessed in English except where:

- the award is at level 3 or level 4 when at least half the qualifying credits must be taught and assessed in English or
- the subject area of the award or specified modules is another language

1.17. Linked awards

Programmes of study may incorporate linked awards, each with distinct learning outcomes, e.g. Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters degree. Each linked award is treated as separate and distinct, with assessment based on current learning for the individual award.

1.18. Lower level awards

If a student fails to complete an award, a lower level award may be given if the credit requirements and learning outcomes for that award, as specified at validation, have been met. At the discretion of the Programme Assessment Board (PAB), higher-level credit can substitute for missing lower level credit to meet the requirements for the lower level award. A minimum of 60 credit points of current learning is normally required for a lower level award.

- 1.18.1. All learning can be accredited i.e. assigned a number of credits at a particular level. Credit is awarded to a learner in recognition of designated learning outcomes at a specified level. This includes prior, work-based and experiential learning, which can contribute to a current programme as general or specific credit or be used to gain entry to a programme.
- 1.18.2. Credit attained and recognised by an award cannot be used a second time to gain an equivalent or lesser award, other than as a validated entry point.
- 1.18.3. A student may enter a completion award with existing qualifications or prior learning (section 6.23 and 7.24).

1.19. Programme transfers, interruptions and withdrawals (Change of circumstances)

- 1.19.1. Any student who wishes to request a programme transfer, interruption or withdrawal must do so via the online portal. Information about this process is available [here](#).
- 1.19.2. Specific requirements may apply to some professional programmes and normally relate to Professional Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) requirements. Details of such requirements are available in the Programme Handbook.
- 1.19.3. Students who request a programme transfer are expected to continue attending and engaging with their current programme until their transfer request has been formally approved via the online portal.
- 1.19.4. Students are not normally permitted to transfer to a different programme if, at the point at which they request to transfer:
 - they have missed the enrolment deadline for their target programme, and
 - they have missed more than three weeks of teaching on their target programme
- 1.19.5. A student may be permitted to interrupt their study and return to re-enroll normally within a maximum period of two years to complete their programme (see also section 1.1.4). Re-enrolment after a period of two years is at the discretion of the Programme Leader.
- 1.19.6. Students who complete the withdrawal process will be recorded as withdrawn rather than having their assessments recorded as failed.

1.20. Posthumous awards

Any award of the University may be conferred posthumously. This may be an Aegrotat award or classified where there is sufficient evidence of the student's attainment.

1.21. Student's right of appeal

A student has a right of appeal against examination/assessment decisions in accordance with the University's appeals procedures, which are described in

the '[Handbook of Student Regulations](#)' (accessible from the General Information / Academic Links section of [MyNorthumbria](#) web page).

1.22. Review of the Assessment Regulations

The Assessment Regulations are reviewed annually to reflect: major changes approved by Academic Board; changes informed by feedback from appropriate staff, students and external examiners; other editorial and minor changes.

2. Pass Mark

2.1. General

- 2.1.1. In order to gain credit for a module students are required to achieve an overall pass mark for the module (40% UG, 50% PGT). Module marks are rounded to the nearest percentage as are all average marks used in the assessment of a student's overall performance.
- 2.1.2. In modules, where there is more than one assessment component and an overall pass mark has been achieved, students are **not** required to attempt or pass all assessment components. (section 3.4 and 4.4). The only permitted exception will be in cases where the University is prevented from doing so by a PSRB requirement. In the case of PSRB requirements, a variation order will be required from the regulations.
- 2.1.3. In modules, where there is more than one assessment component and an overall pass mark has **not** been achieved, Students will be eligible for a referral* in the individual failed module and/or not attempted component(s) of assessment. (section 3.4 and 4.4).

** In all programmes the reassessment of all dissertations/final year major projects should, where appropriate, be a second attempt at the original assessment by the same method (e.g. dissertation) and the same task (e.g. the same dissertation title) as the first attempt. In all other modules the reassessment should, where appropriate and as determined by the Module Leader, be by the same method (e.g. essay) but may be with a different task (e.g. a different essay title) or with the same task (e.g. the same essay title) as indicated in the Module handbook.*

- 2.1.4. A student who passes a module after referral will be awarded the module pass mark. This mark (40% for modules at level 6 and below; 50% for level 7 modules) will be used for the calculation of level averages and final classification.

2.2. Undergraduate modules

The pass mark for undergraduate modules (up to and including level 6) is 40% unless a higher mark has been specified and approved on the grounds of professional (PSRB) requirement.

2.3. Postgraduate modules

- 2.3.1. The pass mark for level 7 modules is 50%.
- 2.3.2. Postgraduate Certificate awards may include 20 credits at level 6; other postgraduate awards may include up to 30 credits at level 6.

2.4. Pass/fail modules

- 2.4.1. Modules can be designated at validation as pass/fail modules. Whilst a pass must be achieved, the module does not contribute to the calculation of the overall mark required for progression or for classification of an award.
- 2.4.2. The credit points awarded for pass/fail modules will contribute to progression and to the award.
- 2.4.3. For an award to be classified (with Honours or Distinction/Commendation) at least 50% of the credits at the level of the award must be graded, i.e. must have a percentage mark.

2.5. Compensation

Compensation limits for module failure on full-time programmes are defined in section 3.3 and for part-time programmes in section 4.3. Modules can be determined as non-compensatable at validation to a maximum of 40 credits per level. Additional non-compensatable modules must be approved by the Education Committee through a variation order.

2.6. Variation Orders

For particular programmes, the Education Committee will consider Variation Orders to allow exemption from the programme framework and from the Academic Regulations for Taught Awards (ARTA) from Northumbria Awards. Faculties must submit cases prepared to the agreed guidelines and provide written evidence for the exemption, which would normally be based on Professional Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) requirements.

3. Progression and award: full-time programmes

3.1. Principles of progression and award on a full-time programme

- 3.1.1. To attain an award on a full-time programme a student is required to progress through one or more levels of study by achieving a specified number of credits. The credit requirements for progression and award for full time programmes are specified in section 6.
- 3.1.2. Each module successfully completed will contribute a number of credits at a particular level as determined at validation.



- 3.1.3. On completion of a level of study or at a progression point, the Programme Assessment Board (PAB) will consider overall performance determined by the average of individual module marks weighted by the number of credits each module contributes to the level of study. Pass/fail module/s do not contribute to the calculation of the level average. Marks for any level 6 modules taken as part of a level 7 postgraduate programme are excluded from the level average calculation.
- 3.1.4. Failed module/s may be compensated (section 3.3). Credit is awarded where module failure has been compensated. Following compensation, the module pass mark (40% for modules at level 6 and below; 50% for level 7 modules) will be used for the calculation of level averages and final classification.
- 3.1.5. Failed module/s may be referred (section 3.4). A student referred in a module will be reassessed in that module and, if successful, will be awarded the pass mark for the module.
- 3.1.6. A student who has completed the requirements for a named award cannot re-register for the same award to improve the classification attained.

3.2. Progression at an intermediate stage of a full-time programme

- 3.2.1. A student must meet the specified credit requirements for a level to progress to the next higher level. Only in exceptional circumstances may a Programme Assessment Board (PAB) permit a student to trail a module, i.e. to progress to the next level still needing to complete all the credit requirements for the current level, including placement and professional elements.
- 3.2.2. For undergraduate programmes and Integrated Masters degrees, progression requires the award of a specified number of credits and an average of at least 40% across all qualifying modules at the first attempt, except at levels 3 and 4 where an average of at least 30% across all qualifying modules is required at the first attempt.
- 3.2.3. Where there are more than 120 credits in the level, an additional progression point after 120 credits may be determined and approved by the Education Committee.
- 3.2.4. For Masters Degrees with a progression point after 120 credits, progression requires the award of a specified number of credits and an average of at least 45% across all qualifying modules at the first attempt. Where the programme includes level 6 modules, the marks attained for these modules are excluded from the level average calculation but the credit points awarded contribute to progression.

3.3. Compensation for module failure on a full-time programme

- 3.3.1. Compensation for module failure is permitted at intermediate and award stages of a full-time programme. Non-discretionary rules apply:
 - i. Compensation cannot be applied to a 60 credit award.
 - ii. The number of failed credits must not exceed the maximum number of compensatable credits (section 3.3.3).

- iii. All assessment component/s do not have to be completed at the first and/or referral attempt providing that the overall pass mark has been achieved (section 2.1.2).
- iv. Compensation is applied at the end of the level of study or at an approved progression point.
- v. The required level average across all graded modules must be met at the first attempt (sections 3.1.3 and 3.3.2).
- vi. The module mark must be at least 30%; a failed pass/fail module cannot be compensated.
- vii. Compensation should not be used where personal extenuating circumstances have been approved.
- viii. Compensation should not be used for modules determined as non-compensatable at validation, to a maximum of 40 credits per level.
- ix. Module/s failed due to academic misconduct cannot be compensated.

3.3.2. Level average requirements at the first attempt are as follows:

- i. Levels 3 and 4 – 30%
- ii. Levels 5 and 6 – 40%
- iii. Level 7 (Integrated Masters) – 50%
- iv. Level 7 (other postgraduate programmes) - 45%

3.3.3. The number of credits which will be compensated will depend on the number of credits of current learning at that level, as indicated below:

	Number of credits of current learning in level	Maximum number of credits that can be compensated
Undergraduate programmes and Integrated Masters degrees	≤60	0
	>60 and <100	10
	≥100 and ≤120	20
	>120	Compensation applied pro-rata: 20 credits, plus 10 for each additional 60 credits of study over 120 credits
Other Postgraduate programmes	≤60	0
	>60 and <100	10
	≥100 and ≤120	20
	180 (taught credits only)	40

3.3.4. When a failed module is compensated, credit is awarded for the module and the module pass mark is recorded.

3.4. Referral on a full-time programme

- 3.4.1. Failed modules will be referred provided any necessary level average is attained at the first attempt, unless all failed credits can be compensated (section 3.3). There is no limit to the number of modules, which can be referred.
- 3.4.2. The required level average across all graded modules (section 3.1.3) at the first attempt is as follows:
- i. Levels 3 and 4 – 30%
 - ii. Levels 5 and 6 – 40%
 - iii. Level 7 (Integrated Masters) – 50%
 - iv. Level 7 (other postgraduate programmes) - 45% (taught modules only)
- 3.4.3. Modules may also be referred where:
- i. the module has been failed due to academic misconduct (section 3.3.1 x).
 - ii. a variation order is in place (e.g. for PSRB requirements) for the module pass mark to be attained but where an assessment component/s has not been completed (section 2.1.2).
 - iii. the module pass mark has been attained but failed assessment component/s must be referred to meet specified programme requirements (section 2.1.3).
- 3.4.4. The referral opportunity will normally take place after the end of level Programme Assessment Board (PAB).
- 3.4.5. There is one opportunity to re-sit a failed Masters dissertation/project irrespective of the overall average attained at the first attempt.
- 3.4.6. A student who passes a module after referral will be awarded the module pass mark. This mark (40% for modules at level 6 and below; 50% for level 7 modules) will be used for the calculation of level averages and final classification.
- 3.4.7. Any student who is eligible for referral but not able to take this opportunity will be permitted to resit at the next scheduled sitting of the module assessment. This will normally entail suspension of progression on the programme until the level has been successfully completed and the student is eligible to proceed.
- 3.4.8. Where there are Professional Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) requirements and the normal sequence for resits impedes a student's employment, with the authority of the Chair of the Programme Assessment Board (PAB), programmes may arrange for resits to take place before the result has been confirmed. This is on the understanding that it may have been unnecessary (for example, if the module is subsequently compensated), or there is no ultimate entitlement to a referral (for example, if level progression is not achieved) and the early resit has to be discounted.

3.5. Failure on a full-time programme

- 3.5.1. At an intermediate level, a student who has not met the level average requirement for referral (section 3.4.1 and 3.4.2) will have failed the level. If at least 50% of the credits at that level have been passed, a student who has not already repeated the level will normally be offered an opportunity to repeat the level. The student may also be permitted to re-register for the failed module/s and repeat them as if for the first time. A student may be permitted to retrieve such failure with or without attendance. The mark gained at that attempt will be awarded in full; a referral opportunity is available.
- 3.5.2. A student, who fails at an intermediate level of the programme after referral, will normally be allowed one further attempt by re-registering for the failed module/s and repeating them as if for the first time. A student may be permitted to retrieve such failure with or without attendance. The mark gained at that attempt will be awarded in full; a referral opportunity is available. The student may also be permitted to repeat the full level of study with attendance.
- 3.5.3. Progression on the programme will be suspended until the student has successfully completed the level and is eligible to proceed. On full-time Masters Degrees, with a progression point after the taught component, progression to the Masters dissertation/project will be suspended.
- 3.5.4. A student, who fails at the award level, either initially or after referral if applicable, cannot re-register for the original award to have a further attempt to attain that award unless permitted due to approved extenuating circumstances.
- 3.5.5. A student who fails to complete an award for which s/he is registered will, if qualified, be granted a lower level award (section 1.18).

4. Progression and award: part-time programmes

4.1. Principles of progression and award on a part-time programme

- 4.1.1. To attain an award on a part-time programme, a student is required to achieve a specified number of credits. The credit requirements for each award are specified in section 7.
- 4.1.2. Each module successfully completed will contribute a number of credits at a particular level as determined at validation (section 7).
- 4.1.3. Programmes are structured with a specified number of credits in each stage. The stage may be the standard academic year or a calendar year but is completed on or before the anniversary of the programme start date. Where there is more than one stage, progression to the next stage requires the award of the specified number of credits across all qualifying modules in the current stage either initially or following referral (section 4.4).
- 4.1.4. The level average is used to determine award classification but not to determine eligibility for progression. It is calculated from the average of qualifying module marks weighted by the number of credits each module contributes to the level of study for the particular award (section 7). Pass/fail module/s do not contribute to the calculation of the level average. Marks for any level 6 modules

taken as part of a Masters programme are excluded from the level average calculation.

- 4.1.5. Failed module/s may be compensated at the award stage only (section 4.3.1). Credit is awarded where module failure has been compensated.
- 4.1.6. Otherwise, failed module/s will be referred (section 4.4). A student referred in a module will be reassessed in that module and, if successful, will be awarded the pass mark for the module.
- 4.1.7. A student who has completed the requirements for a named award cannot re-register for the same award to improve the classification attained.

4.2. Progression at an intermediate stage of a part-time programme

- 4.2.1. The requirements for progression on part-time programmes are specified in section 7.
- 4.2.2. A student may be permitted at the Programme Assessment Boards (PAB) discretion to trail up to 60 credits at the same level following their unsuccessful re-sit attempt. A student may only be permitted to trail more than 20 credits subject to academic counselling.
- 4.2.3. Failed module/s will be referred (section 4.4).

4.3. Compensation for module failure on a part-time programme

- 4.3.1. Compensation for module failure is permitted at the award stage of a part-time programme. It is only permitted at an intermediate stage if a student exits with a lower level award or is on a Masters degree when all taught modules have been completed and the award stage comprises the Masters dissertation/project only. The following non-discretionary rules apply:
 - i. Compensation cannot be applied to a 60 credit award.
 - ii. The number of failed credits must not exceed the maximum number of compensatable credits (section 4.3.2).
 - iii. All assessment component/s must have been completed at the first and/or referral attempt (section 2.1.2).
 - iv. The module mark must be at least 30%; a failed pass/fail module cannot be compensated.
 - v. Compensation should not be used where personal extenuating circumstances have been approved.
 - vi. Compensation should not be used for modules determined as non-compensatable at validation, to a maximum of 40 credits per level.
 - vii. Modules/failed due to academic misconduct cannot be compensated.



4.3.2. The number of credits which will be compensated will depend on the number of credits of current learning at the level of the award as indicated below. This may include credits at the award level attained at an intermediate stage of the programme. Section 7 specifies the level of each award.

	Number of credits of current learning in level	Maximum number of credits that can be compensated
Undergraduate programmes and Integrated Masters degrees	≤60	0
	>60 and <100	10
	≥100 and ≤120	20
Other Postgraduate programmes	≤60	0
	>60 and <100	10
	≥100	20
	180 (taught credits only)	40

4.3.3. When a failed module is compensated, credit awarded for the module and the module pass mark is recorded.

4.4. Referral on a part-time programme

4.4.1. At the end of an intermediate stage of a part-time programme, a student will be referred in all failed modules.

4.4.2. At the award stage of a part-time programme, if all failed modules cannot be compensated, the student will be referred.

4.4.3. Modules will also be referred where:

- i. the module has been failed due to academic misconduct (section 4.3.1 viii).
- ii. a variation order is in place (e.g. for PSRB requirements) for the module pass mark to be attained but where an assessment component/s has not been completed (section 2.1.2).
- iii. the module pass mark has been attained but failed assessment component/s must be referred to meet specified programme requirements (section 2.1.2).

4.4.4. The referral opportunity will normally take place after the end of stage the Programme Assessment Board (PAB).

4.4.5. A student who passes a module after referral will be awarded the module pass mark (40% for modules at level 6 and below; 50% for level 7 modules). This mark will be used for the calculation of level averages and final classification.

4.4.6. Any student who is eligible for referral but not able to take this opportunity will be permitted to resit at the next scheduled sitting of the module assessment. This will normally entail suspension of progression on the programme until the stage has been successfully completed and the student is eligible to proceed.

4.4.7. Where there are Professional Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) requirements and the normal sequence for resits impedes a student's employment, with the authority of the Chair of the Programme Assessment Board (PAB), programmes may arrange for resits to take place before the result has been confirmed. This is on the understanding that it may have been unnecessary (for example, if the module is subsequently compensated), or there is no ultimate entitlement to a referral (for example, if level progression is not achieved) and the early resit has to be discounted.

4.5. Failure on a part-time programme

4.5.1. A student who fails at an intermediate stage of the programme after referral will normally be allowed one further attempt by re-registering for the failed module/s and repeating them as if for the first time. A student may be permitted to retrieve such failure with or without attendance. The mark gained at that attempt will be awarded in full; a referral opportunity is available.

4.5.2. Progression on the programme will be suspended until the student has successfully completed the stage and is eligible to proceed. On part-time Masters degrees with a progression point after the taught component, progression to the Masters dissertation/project will be suspended.

4.5.3. A student who has exhausted reassessment opportunities is not eligible for progression and will have failed the programme.

4.5.4. A student who fails at the award stage after referral cannot re-register for the original award to have a further attempt to attain that award unless permitted due to approved extenuating circumstances.

4.5.5. A student who fails to complete an award for which s/he is registered will, if qualified, be granted a lower level award (section 1.18).

5. Distinction/Commendation

5.1. General principles

5.1.1. The BTEC Higher National Certificate (section 7.5) is available with Distinction and Merit. Distinction and Commendation are available to all other taught awards except Honours and Integrated Masters classified degrees (sections 6 and 7).

5.1.2. For postgraduate programmes, level 6 credits are excluded from the overall average calculation for classification of distinction or commendation (see also section 2.3.2).

5.1.3. With the exception of the Honours degree where this is a lower level award from an Integrated Masters degree (section 6.16 and 7.17), a lower level award (section 1.18) is available with distinction and commendation if it comprises a sub-set of prescribed modules defined in the Programme Specification. A 60 credit lower level award comprising non-specific taught modules will be unclassified.

5.1.4. In line with the classification of the Honours degree and Integrated Masters, the lowest 20 credits will also be discounted from the calculation of the award of

Merit, Commendation and Distinction at undergraduate level. Thus, the “*qualifying Modules*”, in such cases will not include the lowest 20 credits.

5.2. Distinction

5.2.1. A distinction will be awarded to a student who has attained an overall average of 70% or more from the qualifying credits at the first attempt.

5.2.2. The marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the overall average at the first attempt is 67-69%. A student will be awarded a distinction if:

- the overall average at the first attempt is 69% and a mark of 70% or more has been attained in at least half of the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules).
- The overall average is 67/68% and a mark of 70% or more has been attained in the majority of the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules).

5.3. Commendation

5.3.1. A commendation will be awarded to a student who has attained an overall average of 60-69% from the qualifying credits at the first attempt.

5.3.2. On undergraduate programmes, the marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the overall average at the first attempt is 58/59%. A commendation will be awarded if:

- The overall average at the first attempt is 59% and a mark of 60% or more has been attained in at least half the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules).
- The overall average is 58% and a mark of 60% or more has been attained in the majority of the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules).

5.3.3. On postgraduate programmes, a commendation will be awarded if an average of 59% has been attained across level 7 modules at the first attempt and a mark of 60% or more has been attained in half of the graded level 7 credits.

6. Full-time awards and their classification

The regulations for Northumbria Awards, their qualification level², standard credit requirements, progression and available lower level awards are specified below. Programmes may be approved with some lower or higher level credit in accordance with the Higher Education Credit Framework for England guidance³ and the Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards⁴.

6.1. Foundation Certificate (full-time)

Award level	Level 3
Credit required	60 credits. Maximum 20 at level 2; minimum 40 at level 3
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.2. Foundation Diploma (full-time)

Award level	Level 3
Credit required	120 credits at level 3
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Foundation Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.3. Certificate (full-time)

Award level	Level 4
--------------------	---------

² as specified in the 'Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland' (FHEQ), available [here](#).

³ <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/academic-credit>

⁴ for approved variations see section 9.15 "Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits" of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

Credit required	60 credits. Maximum 20 at level 3; minimum 40 at level 4
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.4. Certificate of Higher Education (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 4
Credit required	120 credits at level 4 ⁵
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.5. Diploma (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	60 credits at level 5
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.6. Diploma of Higher Education (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5 ⁵
Progression	A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4. An overall level 4 average of at least 30% at the first attempt is required.

⁵ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

	Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% on all level 5 modules at the first attempt. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of the award.

6.7. Foundation Degree (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5 ⁶
Progression	A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4. An overall level 4 average of at least 30% at the first attempt is required. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% on all level 5 modules at the first attempt. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of award.

6.8. Advanced Diploma of Higher Education (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	300 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 60 at level 6 ⁶
Progression	A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4, and to level 6 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 5. An overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt is required at level 4. An overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt is required at level 5. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.

⁶ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



Award	To achieve the award a student must attain 300 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% on all level 6 modules at the first attempt. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.4). No credits can be compensated at the 60 credit award level.
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of the award.

6.9. Advanced Diploma (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	60 credits at level 6
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.10. Ordinary Degree (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	300 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 60 at level 6 ⁷
Transfer from Honours	Regulations permitting transfer to the Ordinary degree after failure on an Honours degree were phased out in 2007/08.
Progression	A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4, and to level 6 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 5. An overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt is required at level 4. An overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt is required at level 5. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 300 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% on all level 6 at the first attempt. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.4). No credits can be compensated at the 60 credit award level.

⁷ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of the award.



6.11. Honours Degree (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6	
Credit required	360 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 120 at level 6 ⁷	
Progression	<p>A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4, and to level 6 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 5. An overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt is required at level 4. An overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt is required at level 5.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.</p>	
Award	<p>To achieve the award the student must attain the 360 credits and obtain an average of at least 40% at level 6 at the first attempt.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.</p>	
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education	
Classification	Classification is determined as follows:	
	First Class Honours	Average mark of 70% or above
	Second Class Honours Upper Division	Average mark of at least 60% but less than 70%
	Second Class Honours Lower Division	Average mark of at least 50% but less than 60%
	Third Class Honours	Average mark of at least 40% but less than 50%
	Where an overall average of at least 40% has not been achieved at level 6, a Pass degree will be awarded if at least 60 level 6 credits have been attained.	
Calculation of Classification	<p>The Honours degree classification is computed based on the most favourable outcome to the student using the averaged mark of either the qualifying modules in levels 6:5 weighted 60:40 or the qualifying modules in level 6 only.</p> <p>NOTE. From May 1 2016, “<i>qualifying modules</i>” is defined as the best 100 percentage graded credits per level. This means that the lowest scoring 20 credits per level (passed, referred or compensated) do not contribute to the calculation of the overall mark for classification of an award. Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived from whole module marks without using more than 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are already excluded from consideration for classification (section 2.4). As a result, on programmes containing 20 credits or more of pass/fail modules per level classification will be based on all percentage graded credits.</p>	



<p>Borderline Classification</p>	<p>The marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the average mark of the qualifying modules is not more than 2% below a boundary between classes of degree with the exception of the boundary between Second Class Honours Upper Division and First Class Honours where the margin is 3%. The higher class of degree is awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if an average mark of 69%, 59% or 49% has been attained and half of the graded credits at level 6 lie on or above the appropriate boundary (i.e. all graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) • if the majority of graded credits at level 6 lie on or above the appropriate boundary (i.e. U graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) <p>If this is not the case, the lower class of degree is awarded.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are excluded from consideration of borderline classification.</p> <p>The borderline classification rules apply to all Honours degree classifications, however calculated, except at the fail/third class boundary (where the 40% level 6 average minimum requirement cannot be met).</p>
<p>Classification for Honours programmes containing more than 240 level 5/6 qualifying credits</p>	<p>Where a programme includes additional level 5 and 6 percentage graded modules (e.g. 480 credit Honours programmes) then the marks from all such modules will contribute towards classification. The contribution of such additional modules to the classification is based on a pro rata application of the 60:40 weighting or on all level 6 credits as outlined under '<i>Calculation of classification</i>' above.</p> <p>The pro rata application of the 60:40 weighting of a programme which has 240 level 5 credits and 120 level 6 credits will be as follows:</p> $\frac{((240 \times 0.4 \times \text{level 5 average}) + (120 \times 0.6 \times \text{level 6 average}))}{((240 \times 0.4) + (120 \times 0.6))}$ <p>NOTE. From May 1 2016 the lowest scoring 20 percentage graded credits per level (passed, referred or compensated) will not contribute to the calculation of the overall mark for classification of an award.</p>
<p>Classification for Honours programmes containing additional level 5 credits gained through Placement or Study Abroad</p>	<p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year-long 120 credit Level 5 work placement module the placement is <u>not weighted</u> in the classification average.</p> <p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year of Study Abroad there are two alternative assessment schemes ("<i>not weighted</i>" or "<i>weighted</i>") and the Programme Specification will make clear which scheme applies:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Not weighted”: In most cases, a period of study abroad <u>is not weighted in the classification average</u> and the relevant credits are zero-weighted • “Weighted”: In <u>some rare cases</u> (where a Programme determines there is sufficient comparability of the student experience and assessment standards) periods of study abroad <u>may count towards</u> classification. Where a full additional year is spent abroad at level 5 the contribution of study abroad modules to the classification is based on a pro rata application of the current weighting of level 5 credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On a 4 Year Honours programme with 240 level 5 credits classification is based on either the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 6:5:5 weighted 60:20:20 or the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 6 (whichever benefits the student)
--	---

6.12. Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	120 credits at level 6
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award all modules must be passed and the assessments associated with professional competence must be completed to a satisfactory standard. The requirements for reassessment of failed modules are specified in programme documentation. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Graduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.13. Graduate Certificate (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	60 credits at level 6
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)



6.14. Graduate Diploma (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	120 credits at level 6 ⁸
Progression	Not applicable
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits and obtain an overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Graduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.15. Master of Architecture (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 6; 120 at level 7
Progression	A student will progress to level 7 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 6. An overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt is required at level 6. Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.4
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits, and obtain an overall average of at least 45% at level 7 at the first attempt to be eligible for referral. Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.4. Any referred modules must be passed. Compensation rules (section 3.3) apply to the lower level award of Graduate Diploma only.
Lower level award	Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average at the final level of the award

⁸ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

6.16. Integrated Master Degree (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7	
Credit required	480 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 120 at level 6; a minimum of 120 at level 7 ⁹ .	
Progression	<p>A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4, to level 6 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 5 and to level 7 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 6. An overall average of at least 30% at the first attempt is required at level 4. An overall average of at least 40% at the first attempt is required at levels 5 and 6.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.</p>	
Award	<p>To achieve the award a student must attain the 480 credits and obtain an average of at least 50% at level 7 at the first attempt.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.</p>	
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, Honours Degree, Postgraduate Certificate.	
Classification	Classification is determined as follows:	
	First Class Honours	Average mark of 70% or above.
	Second Class Honours Upper Division	Average mark of at least 60% but less than 70%.
	Second Class Honours, Lower Division	Average mark of at least 50% but less than 60%.
	Where an overall average of at least 50% has not been achieved at level 7, a Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded if at least 60 level 7 credits have been attained. The relevant Bachelor's degree will also be awarded based on current learning, classified in accordance with the principles for Honours degree programmes.	
Calculation of Classification	<p>There are two methods of classification:</p> <p>i. For students assessed at Programme Assessment Boards (PABs) before May 1 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Honours degree classification is computed on the basis of the most favourable outcome to the student using the averaged mark of either the qualifying modules in levels 7:6 weighted 60:40 or the qualifying modules in level 7 only 	

⁹ for approved variations see section 9.15 "Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits" of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



	<p>ii. For students assessed at Programme Assessment Boards (PABs) after May 1 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Honours degree classification is computed on the basis of the most favourable outcome to the student using the averaged mark of either the qualifying modules in levels 7:6:5 weighted 60:20:20 or the qualifying modules in levels 7:6 weighted 60:40 or the qualifying modules in level 7 only <p>NOTE: From May 1 2016, “<i>qualifying modules</i>” is defined as the best 100 percentage graded credits per level. This means that the lowest scoring 20 credits per level (passed, referred or compensated) do not contribute to the calculation of the overall mark for classification of an award.</p> <p>Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived from whole module marks without using more than 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are already excluded from consideration for classification (section 2.4). As a result, on programmes containing 20 credits or more of pass/fail modules per level classification will be based on all percentage graded credits.</p>
<p>Borderline Classification</p>	<p>The marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the average mark of the qualifying modules is not more than 2% below a boundary between classes of degree with the exception of the boundary between Second Class Honours Upper Division and First Class Honours where the margin is 3%. The higher class of degree is awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• if an average mark of 69%, 59% or 49% has been attained and half of the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) at level 7 lie on or above the appropriate boundary• if the majority of graded credits (i.e. all graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) at level 7 lie on or above the appropriate boundary <p>If this is not the case, the lower class of degree is awarded.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are excluded from consideration of borderline classification.</p> <p>The borderline classification rules apply to all Honours degree classifications, however calculated, except at the fail/third class boundary (where the 40% level 6 average minimum requirement cannot be met).</p>



<p>Classification for Integrated Masters programmes containing additional level 5 credits gained through Placement or Study Abroad</p>	<p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year-long 120 credit Level 5 work placement module the placement is not weighted in the classification average.</p> <p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year of Study Abroad there are two alternative assessment schemes (“<i>not weighted</i>” or “<i>weighted</i>”) and the Programme Specification will make clear which scheme applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Not weighted”: In most cases, a period of study abroad <u>is not weighted in the classification average</u> and the relevant credits are zero-weighted • “Weighted”: <u>In some rare cases</u> (where a Programme determines there is sufficient comparability of the student experience and assessment standards) periods of study abroad <u>may count</u> towards classification. Where a full additional year is spent abroad at level 5 the contribution of study abroad modules to the classification is based on a pro rata application of the current weighting of level 5 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On a 5 Year Integrated Masters Honours programme with 240 level 5 credits classification is based on either the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 7:6:5:5 weighted 60:20:10:10; or the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 7:6 weighted 60:40; or marks of the best 100 credits in level 7 (whichever benefits the student)
---	---

6.17. Postgraduate Certificate in Education (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	120 credits, maximum 80 at level 6; minimum 40 at level 7
Progression	Not applicable
Award	<p>To achieve the award all modules must be passed and the assessments associated with professional competence must be completed to a satisfactory standard. The regulations for reassessment of failed modules are specified in programme documentation.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.</p>
Lower level award	Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, Postgraduate Certificate, Graduate Certificate.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

6.18. Postgraduate Certificate (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	60 credits, maximum 20 at level 6; minimum 40 at level 7.
Progression	Not applicable.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits and obtain an overall average at level 7 of at least 45%. Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.4. Any referred modules must be passed. No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

6.19. Postgraduate Diploma (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	120 credits at level 7 ¹⁰ .
Progression	Not applicable.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits and obtain an overall average at level 7 of at least 45%. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

6.20. Masters Degrees (full-time)

Includes Master of Research; excludes Master of Fine Art	
FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	180 credits at level 7 ¹⁰ .
Progression	Only applicable where a progression point has been approved after 120 credits have been completed (sections 3.2.3 and 3.2.4). A student will progress to the dissertation/project on the attainment of 120 credits. An overall level 7 average of at least 45% at the first attempt is required. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 180 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.3 and 3.4.
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma.

¹⁰ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).
-----------------------	---

6.21. Master of Fine Art (full-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	240 credits at level 7.
Progression	<p>There is a progression point after 120 credits have been completed (sections 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4).</p> <p>Compensation is not available at this stage, as it comprises 30 credit modules (section 3.3.3).</p> <p>Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.4.</p>
Award	<p>To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits.</p> <p>No credits can be compensated at the award stage, as it comprises modules of more than 30 credits (section 3.3.3).</p> <p>Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.4.</p>
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate in Fine Art Practice, Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art Practice.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

6.22. Professional Doctorate Programmes (full-time)

See Professional Doctorate Award Regulations here:	
FHEQ level	Level 8
Credit required	540 Credits. 360 at level 8; 180 at level 7 ¹¹ .
Progression	See Professional Doctorate Award Regulations.
Award	These regulations apply to the taught component of the award. The research component is examined according to the Professional Doctorate Award Regulations.
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Masters Degree.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply to lower level awards as for taught awards (section 5).

¹¹ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

6.23. Completion Awards (full-time)

A student may enter an existing undergraduate or postgraduate programme with advanced standing, or be admitted on to a free-standing undergraduate or postgraduate completion award. The student will be assessed based on the regulations applying to the specific award as described above.

The following points apply to free-standing completion awards:

- Current learning for an award will comprise at least 60 credits
- The award and classification are based on current learning (i.e. learning undertaken on the completion award only). In the case of completion to Honours, the calculation of the Honours classification is based on the classification principles for Honours programmes (section 6.11 and 6.16), irrespective of the number of credits in the completion award
- Where current learning is 120 credits, compensation is available as described in section 3.3
- Where current learning is only 60 credits, all modules must be passed either at the first attempt or on referral: compensation is not available for 60 credit awards. Referral opportunities are described in section 3.4

7. Part-time awards and their classification

The regulations for Northumbria Awards, their qualification level¹², standard credit requirements, progression and available lower level awards are specified below. Programmes may be approved with some lower or higher level credit in accordance with the Higher Education Credit Framework for England guidance¹³ and the Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards¹⁴.

7.1. Foundation Certificate (part-time)

Award level	Level 3
Credit required	60 credits. Maximum 20 at level 2; minimum 40 at level 3.
Progression	Applicable only on programmes with an intermediate stage. Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4).

¹² as specified in the 'Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland' (FHEQ), available [here](#).

¹³ <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/academic-credit>

¹⁴ for approved variations see section 9.15 "Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits" of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



	Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. All modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.2. Foundation Diploma (part-time)

Award level	Level 3
Credit required	120 credits at level 3 ¹⁵
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.
Lower level award	Foundation Certificate.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.3. Certificate (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 4
Credit required	60 credits. Maximum 20 at level 3; minimum 40 at level 4.
Progression	Applicable only on programmes with an intermediate stage. Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

¹⁵ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



7.4. Certificate of Higher Education (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 4
Credit required	120 credits at level 4 ¹⁶ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.
Lower level award	Certificate.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.5. Higher National Certificate (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 4	
Credit required	120 credits at level 4.	
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).	
Grades	The following grades apply to all modules within programmes of study leading to BTEC/Pearson (Edexcel) awards:	
	Grade	Criteria
	Distinction (70%)	Outstanding in all major areas of the module as defined by principal objectives.
	Merit (55%)	Either significantly better than pass in all areas of the module or outstanding in some areas with pass performance in others.
	Pass (40%)	Satisfactory performance in all major areas as defined by principal objectives.
	Referred (under 40%)	Below pass standard but judged likely to succeed after a short period of further work and reassessment.
	Fail (under 40%)	Below pass standard and judged to need a repeat course of study and reassessment.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.	

¹⁶ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



Lower level award	Certificate.
Classification	Distinction rules apply (section 5). Merit is awarded if an average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at least 55% is attained; borderline regulations do not apply.

7.6. Diploma (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	60 credits at level 5
Progression	Applicable only on programmes with an intermediate stage. Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. All modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

7.7. Diploma of Higher Education (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5 ¹⁷ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education. Compensation is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of the award.

¹⁷ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

7.8. Foundation Degree (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5 ¹⁸ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education. Compensation is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of the award.

7.9. Advanced Diploma of Higher Education (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	300 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 60 at level 6 ¹⁸ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 300 credits. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). No credits can be compensated at the 60 credit award level.
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education. Compensation is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of the award.

¹⁸ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

7.10. Advanced Diploma (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	60 credits at level 6.
Progression	Applicable only on programmes with an intermediate stage. Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.11. Ordinary Degree (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	300 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 60 at level 6 ¹⁹ .
Progression	Regulations permitting transfer to the Ordinary degree after failure on an Honours degree were phased out in 2007/08.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 300 credits. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). No credits can be compensated at the 60 credit award level.
Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education. Compensation is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average of the qualifying modules (section 5.1.4) at the final level of the award.

7.12. Honours Degree (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	360 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 120 at level 6 ¹⁹ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 360 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.

¹⁹ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



Lower level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education. Compensation is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.	
Classification	Classification is determined as follows:	
	First Class Honours	Average mark of 70% or above.
	Second Class Honours Upper Division	Average mark of at least 60% but less than 70%.
	Second Class Honours Lower Division	Average mark of at least 50% but less than 60%.
	Third Class Honours	Average mark of at least 40% but less than 50% or attainment of 360 credits following compensation and referral.
	If, following compensation and referral, the student has not attained the 360 credits required for the award, a Pass degree will be awarded if at least 60 level 6 credits have been attained.	
Calculation of classification	<p>The Honours degree classification is computed based on the most favourable outcome to the student using the averaged mark of either the qualifying modules in levels 6:5 weighted 60:40 or the qualifying modules in level 6 only.</p> <p>NOTE. From May 1 2016, “<i>qualifying modules</i>” is defined as the best 100 percentage graded credits per level. This means that the lowest scoring 20 credits per level (passed, referred or compensated) do not contribute to the calculation of the overall mark for classification of an award.</p> <p>Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived from whole module marks without using more than 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are already excluded from consideration for classification (section 2.4). As a result, on programmes containing 20 credits or more of pass/fail modules per level classification will be based on all percentage graded credits.</p>	
Borderline Classification	<p>The marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the average mark of the qualifying modules is not more than 2% below a boundary between classes of degree with the exception of the boundary between Second Class Honours Upper Division and First Class Honours where the margin is 3%. The higher class of degree is awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if an average mark of 69%, 59% or 49% has been attained and half of the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) at level 6 lie on or above the appropriate boundary 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> if the majority of graded credits (i.e. all graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) at level 6 lie on or above the appropriate boundary <p>If this is not the case, the lower class of degree is awarded.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are excluded from consideration of borderline classification.</p> <p>The borderline classification rules apply to all Honours degree classifications, however calculated, except at the fail/third class boundary (where the 40% level 6 average minimum requirement cannot be met).</p>
<p>Classification for Honours programmes containing more than 240 level 5/6 qualifying credits</p>	<p>Where a programme includes additional level 5 and 6 percentage graded modules (e.g. 480 credit Honours programmes) then the marks from all such modules will contribute towards classification. The contribution of such additional modules to the classification is based on a pro rata application of the 60:40 weighting or on all level 6 credits as outlined under <i>'Calculation of classification'</i> above.</p> <p>The pro rata application of the 60:40 weighting of a programme which has 240 level 5 credits and 120 level 6 credits will be as follows:</p> $\frac{((240 \times 0.4 \times \text{level 5 average}) + (120 \times 0.6 \times \text{level 6 average}))}{((240 \times 0.4) + (120 \times 0.6))}$ <p>NOTE: From May 1 2016, the lowest scoring 20 credits per level (passed, referred or compensated) will not contribute to the calculation of the overall mark for classification of an award.</p>
<p>Classification for Honours programmes containing additional level 5 credits gained through Placement or Study Abroad</p>	<p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year-long 120 credit level 5 work placement module the placement is not weighted in the classification average.</p> <p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year of Study Abroad there are two alternative assessment schemes ("<i>not weighted</i>" or "<i>weighted</i>") and the Programme Specification will make clear which scheme applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Not weighted": In most cases, a period of study abroad <u>is not weighted in the classification average</u> and the relevant credits are zero-weighted "Weighted": In <u>some rare cases</u> (where a Programme determines there is sufficient comparability of the student experience and assessment standards) periods of study abroad <u>may count</u> towards classification. Where a full additional year is spend abroad at Level 5 the contribution of study abroad modules to the classification is based on a pro rata application of the current weighting of level 5 credits:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On a 4 Year Honours programme with 240 level 5 credits classification is based on either the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 6:5:5 weighted 60:20:20 or the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 6 (whichever benefits the student)
--	--

7.13. Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	120 credits at level 6.
Progression	<p>Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4).</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.</p>
Award	<p>To achieve the award all modules must be passed and the assessments associated with professional competence must be completed to a satisfactory standard. The requirements for reassessment of failed modules are specified in the programme documentation.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulation in sections 4.3 and 4.4.</p>
Lower level award	Graduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

7.14. Graduate Certificate (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	60 credits at level 6
Progression	<p>Applicable only on programmes with an intermediate stage. Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4).</p> <p>Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).</p>
Award	<p>To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. All modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4).</p> <p>No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.</p>
Lower level award	Not applicable.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.15. Graduate Diploma (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	120 credits at level 6 ²⁰ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.
Lower level award	Graduate Certificate.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.16. Master of Architecture (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 6; 120 at level 7.
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. Referral is subject to the regulations in (section 4.4). Any referred modules must be passed. Compensation is not applicable on this award.
Lower level award	Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate. Compensation is applicable to the lower level award of Graduate Diploma only and is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5), determined by overall average at the final level of the award.

²⁰ or approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

7.17. Integrated Masters Degree (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7	
Credit required	480 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 120 at level 6; a minimum of 120 at level 7 ²⁰ .	
Progression	<p>Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4).</p> <p>Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).</p>	
Award	<p>To achieve the award a student must attain the 480 credits.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.</p>	
Lower level award	<p>Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, Honours Degree, Postgraduate Certificate.</p> <p>Compensation is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.</p>	
Classification	Classification is determined as follows:	
	First Class Honours	Average mark of 70% or above.
	Second Class Honours Upper Division	Average mark of at least 60% but less than 70%.
	Second Class Honours Lower Division	Average mark of at least 50% but less than 60% or attainment of 480 credits following referral and compensation.
	<p>If, following compensation and referral, the student has not attained the 480 credits required for the award, a Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded if at least 60 level 7 credits have been attained.</p> <p>The relevant Bachelor's degree will also be awarded based on current learning, classified in accordance with the principles for Honours degree programmes.</p>	
Calculation of classification	<p>There are two methods of classification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. For students assessed at Programme and Assessment Boards (PABs) before May 1 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honours degree classification is computed on the basis of the most favourable outcome to the student using the averaged mark of either the qualifying modules in levels 7:6 weighted 60:40 or the qualifying modules in level 7 only ii. For students assessed at Programme and Assessment Boards (PABs) after May 1 2016: 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Honours degree classification is computed on the basis of the most favourable outcome to the student using the averaged mark of either the qualifying modules in levels 7:6:5 weighted 60:20:20 or the qualifying modules in levels 7:6 weighted 60:40 or the qualifying modules in level 7 only <p>NOTE: From May 1 2016, “<i>qualifying modules</i>” is defined as the best 100 percentage graded credits per level. This means that the lowest scoring 20 credits per level (passed, referred or compensated) do not contribute to the calculation of the overall mark for classification of an award.</p> <p>Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived from whole module marks without using more than 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are already excluded from consideration for classification (section 2.4). As a result, on programmes containing 20 credits or more of pass/fail modules per level classification will be based on all percentage graded credits.</p>
Borderline Classification	<p>The marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the average mark of the qualifying modules is not more than 2% below a boundary between classes of degree with the exception of the boundary between Second Class Honours upper division and First Class Honours where the margin is 3%. The higher class of degree is awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">if an average mark of 69%, 59% or 49% has been attained and half of the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) at level 6 lie on or above the appropriate boundaryif the majority of graded credits (i.e. all graded modules and not just the best performing 100 credits) at level 6 lie on or above the appropriate boundary <p>If this is not the case, the lower class of degree is awarded.</p> <p>Modules validated as pass/fail are excluded from consideration of borderline classification.</p> <p>The borderline classification rules apply to all Honours degree classifications, however calculated, except at the fail/third class boundary (where the 40% level 6 average minimum requirement cannot be met).</p>



<p>Classification for Integrated Masters programmes containing additional level 5 credits gained through Placement or Study Abroad</p>	<p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year-long 120 credit level 5 work placement module the placement is <u>not weighted</u> in the classification average.</p> <p>Where a Programme includes an additional Year of Study Abroad there are two alternative assessment schemes (“<i>not weighted</i>” or “<i>weighted</i>”) and the Programme Specification will make clear which scheme applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Not weighted”: In most cases, a period of study abroad is <u>not weighted in the classification average</u> and the relevant credits are zero-weighted • “Weighted”: In <u>some rare cases</u> (where a Programme determines there is sufficient comparability of the student experience and assessment standards) periods of study abroad <u>may count</u> towards classification. Where a full additional year is spend abroad at Level 5 the contribution of study abroad modules to the classification is based on a pro rata application of the current weighting of level 5 credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On a 5 Year IM Honours programme with 240 level 5 credits classification is based on either the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 7:6:5:5 weighted 60:20:10:10; or the average mark of the best <u>100 credits</u> in levels 7:6 weighted 60:40; or marks of the best <u>100 credits</u> in level 7 (whichever benefits the student)
---	--

7.18. Postgraduate Certificate in Education (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	120 credits, Maximum 80 at level 6; minimum 40 at level 7
Progression	<p>Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4).</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.</p>
Award	<p>To achieve the award all modules must be passed and the assessments associated with professional competence must be completed to a satisfactory standard. The regulations for reassessment of failed modules are specified in programme documentation.</p> <p>Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.</p>
Lower level award	Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, Postgraduate Certificate, Graduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5)

7.19. Postgraduate Certificate (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	60 credits. Maximum 20 at level 6; minimum 40 at level 7.
Progression	Applicable only on programmes with an intermediate stage. Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. All modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). No credits can be compensated in this 60 credit award.
Lower level award	Not applicable.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.20. Postgraduate Diploma (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	120 credits at level 7 ²¹ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.21. Masters Degrees (part-time)

Includes Master of Research, excludes Master of Fine Art	
FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	180 credits at level 7 ²¹ .
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 4.4) Compensation is not applicable unless all taught modules are completed at an intermediate stage and the award stage comprises the Masters dissertation/project only (section 4.3.1)

²¹ for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>

Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 180 credits Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 4.3 and 4.4.
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma. Compensation is applicable to the lower level award of Postgraduate Diploma only and is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.22. Master of Fine Art (part-time)

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	240 credits at level 7.
Progression	Progression takes place at the end of the stage if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at first attempt will be referred (section 4.4). Compensation is not applicable (section 4.3.1).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. No credits can be compensated at the award stage, as it comprises modules of more than 30 credits (section 4.3.2). Referral is subject to the regulations in section 4.4.
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate in Fine Art Practice, Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art Practice.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 5).

7.23. Professional Doctorate Programmes (part-time)

See Professional Doctorate Award Regulations here.	
FHEQ level	Level 8
Credit required	540 Credits. 360 at level 8; 180 at level 7 ²² .
Progression	See Professional Doctorate Award Regulations.
Award	These regulations apply to the taught component of the award. The research component is examined according to the Professional Doctorate Award Regulations.
Lower level award	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Masters Degree. Compensation is applicable to the lower level awards of Postgraduate Diploma and Masters degree and is subject to the regulations in section 4.3.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply to lower level awards as for taught awards (section 5).

²² for approved variations see section 9.15 “Credit Levels and Use of Lower Level Credits” of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA), available from <https://one.northumbria.ac.uk/sites/pfna/Pages/home.aspx>



7.24. Completion Awards (part-time)

A student may enter an existing undergraduate or postgraduate programme with advanced standing, or be admitted on to a free-standing undergraduate or postgraduate completion award. The student will be assessed based on the regulations applying to the specific award as described above.

The following points apply to free-standing completion awards:

- Current learning for an award will comprise at least 60 credits
- The award and classification are based on current learning (i.e. learning undertaken on the completion award only). In the case of completion to Honours, the calculation of the Honours classification is based on the classification principles for Honours programmes (sections 7.12 and 7.17), irrespective of the number of credits in the completion award
- Where current learning is 120 credits, compensation will apply as described in section 4.3
- Where current learning is only 60 credits, all modules must be passed either at the first attempt or on referral: compensation is not available for 60 credit awards. Referral opportunities are described in section 4.4