

# Northumbria University 2023/24

For students currently studying  
**Levels 5 and 6**

*How your bachelors degree is  
classified*

This is simplified explanation – for more  
detail see our [regulations](#)

# Degree Classification: Method

- The calculation for the classification Degree (Hons) Programmes is based on:
  - **Either:**
    - the average mark of the best 200 graded credits (100 at Level 6 and 100 at Level 5) in levels 6:5 weighted 60%:40%
  - **or**
    - the average mark of the best 100 credits in Level 6
- We use whichever benefits you most and to recognise 'exit velocity' – i.e. if you get better results in your final year (Level 6) your classification will be based on Level 6 marks alone.
- Module size doesn't matter, as the calculation breaks down each level of study into 1 credit 'chunks' (e.g. a 30 credit dissertation or project = 30 x 1 credit 'chunks') and removes the lowest 20 of these from each level.

# Degree Classification: Worked Example

- Your Level 4, 5 and 6 modules are graded as follows:

	Module 1 (20 credits)	Module 2 (20 credits)	Module 3 (20 credits)	Module 4 (20 credits)	Module 5 (20 credits)	Module 6 (20 credits)
Level 4	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Level 5	40%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Level 6	40%	70%	70%	70%	70%*	

- Level 4 Modules are not included in the classification calculation.
- Lowest scoring 20 credits in Level 5 and Level 6 (Module 1 in this example) are not included in the classification calculation.
- Classification is based on method 1 or method 2 (whichever benefits the student):
  - Method 1: (L6:5 weighted 60%:40%) **62%**
  - Method 2: (L6 weighted 100%) **70%**
- Classification outcome: **First Class Honours (1)**

# Degree Classification: Important Notes

- All level 5 and level 6 results are considered, whether you pass your modules/credits outright or whether you pass after a resit or are compensated. \*\*
- Even though we use the best credits for degree classification YOU MUST still complete all credits.
- Also:
  - all grades for all modules will be listed on your transcripts.
  - In borderline cases all grades will be considered to make a final classification.

\*\*Compensation is when you fail a module but, because you have passed other modules this 'compensates' for the fail and you don't have to do a resit.  
*Subject to ARTA regulations*

# Degree Classification: “Borderline” Cases

- You have to get 70%+ overall for a 1<sup>st</sup> class; 60%+ overall for a 2:1; 50%+ for a 2:2; 40%+ for a 3<sup>rd</sup>
- We look at anyone who is borderline – i.e. if your overall mark (based on the method described above) is within 2% of a class of degree class (or within 3% of a 1<sup>st</sup> class).
- You will be awarded the Higher classification:
  - if you have an average mark within 2% of a boundary and majority of the graded credits at level 6 are on or above the appropriate boundary.
  - if the majority of your marks at level 6 lie on or above the boundary.

# Questions?

If you are a current Northumbria student please direct your enquiry via articles in the Help and Support section of your [Student Portal](#), where it will route to the relevant team for resolution.

Find out more about:

[navigating Northumbria using your Student Portal.](#)