Northumbria University NEWCASTLE

Academic Regulations for Taught Awards (ARTA) 2026/27			Ref: PL077-v001
Brief Description & Purpose:	These academic regulations are the standard regulations which apply to all the University's taught 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.		
Applicable to (list cohorts):	**Staff:** All staff, including Governors and co-opted Board Committee Members	**Students:** All students	**Third Parties:** All who are in a formal relationship with the University
Effective From:	September 2026	**Last Review Date:**	June 2026
Approval Authority:	Education Committee/ Academic Board	**Approved:**	Academic Board
Executive Owner:	Executive Director of Student, Library and Academic Services	**Business Owner:**	Faculty Registrars
Next Review Date:	June 2027	**Publication External Y/N**	Y

Note for students

Please note that the Academic Regulations for Taught Awards are reviewed annually and are therefore, subject to change. Currently under review for new students entering in September 2027 is the degree algorithm. This is to ensure we are continuing to maintain academic standards and ensure our degree classifications accurately reflect student performance.

This edition of the Academic Regulations supersedes previous versions and applies to all students at levels 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 at the University enrolling or re-enrolling on taught programmes in the 2026/27 academic year. All regulations related to assessment are available from the web here.

Students are expected to be familiar with all Academic Regulations. 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 or the Support Section of your Student Portal or Contact us via the Student Central web page *(Student Central locations: Library & CLC).* You may also seek independent advice and support from the Students' Union Advice Team (mailto: 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 Handbook of Student Regulations, which is also available from the Student Portal.

Melanie Davis
Academic Registrar (Director of Quality and Academic Support)
September 2026

Notification Log of Key Changes to Academic Regulations for Taught Awards 2026/27

1. Amendment to ‘1.17 Language of Instruction’ to include the delivery in a language other than English where ratified by relevant University Approval Process.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Status

These academic regulations are the standard regulations which apply to all the University's taught 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.

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.

In exceptional cases, a Programme Assessment Board (PAB) 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.

Any student who has had a break in study 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.

Where the University awards degrees jointly with other institutions, the programme of study may be bound in whole or in part by these regulations. Variations to joint programme academic regulations will be considered by Education Committee and published as a supplement to these regulations.

1.3 Compliance with the national frameworks and guidelines

The Northumbria University Academic Regulations for Taught Awards (ARTA) are part of the Framework for Quality and Standards[1]. The Framework ensures adherence to the Office for Students (OfS) Conditions of Registration (the 'B' conditions, which cover quality, reliable standards and positive outcomes for all students). Northumbria awards are only granted to students whose knowledge and

[1] Framework for Quality and Standards

skills appropriately reflect the Office for Students (OfS) Condition B5: Sector-recognised standards[2].

Northumbria awards are defined in terms of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Framework for Higher Education (FHE) requirements[3], specifically, the QAA's *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (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 Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)[4]. Table 1 below shows how Northumbria awards at each level map to the OfS Sector-recognised standards, FHEQ/RQF and the corresponding cycle of the FQ-EHEA:

Table 1.

Typical higher education qualifications within each level	FHEQ/ RQF 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	

[2] Sector-recognised standards
[3] The Frameworks for HE Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies
[4] Regulated Qualifications Framework (Ofqual)

Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)		[redacted]
Foundation Diploma (FDip)	3	

1.4 Framework for academic awards

The Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA)[5] applies to all programmes except those for Flexible Learning and Individual Learners detailed below:

1.5 Flexible Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)[6]: 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 (UK FHEQ). 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 that 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.

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 Exchange Framework[7]).

[5] Programme Design and Approval
[6] Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and HE Credit Framework
[7] Student Exchange Framework

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).

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.

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 enrol for an existing or bespoke award.

Academic Regulations for Taught Awards (ARTA) and the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Framework apply to individual learners.

Education Committee or designated authority 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.

Education Committee or designated authority 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.

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.

Departmental Management Groups (DMGs) are responsible for ensuring that appropriate support mechanisms are in place for such students – e.g. personal tutors, access to facilities etc.

The Education Committee or designated authority are responsible for ensuring that appropriate external examining arrangements are in place.

1.7 Award regulations of the University

Academic Board has overall responsibility for the standards of the University's awards and their compliance with the OfS Condition B5: Sector-recognised standards and 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.

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 sector-recognised standards, and FHEQ e.g. Masters level. Academic Board has approved a number of different award titles as indicated in the Principles for Approval for Northumbria Awards[8].

Higher doctorates are awarded by the University to candidates who satisfy the criteria for the award, in accordance with separate regulations[9].

The University awards of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) are governed by separate regulations[9].

Aegrotat awards do not carry any classification or Distinction/Commendation. The Aegrotat degree is an unclassified degree.

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.

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.

Academic Board may approve the discontinuance of any of the University's awards, as it may deem appropriate.

[8] Principles for Approval of Northumbria Awards
[9] Academic Regulations for Research Awards

Students are admitted to programmes leading to awards of the University based on meeting entry requirements specified in its prospectus or programme information on the website.

1.8 Information for students

A student is entitled to have access to full details of their programme, relevant academic regulations and specific information about the assessments for the programme.

1.9 Responsibilities of students

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.

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.

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 relevant 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 cannot be interpreted.

1.10 Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to observe University regulations, which define and prescribe 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[10]).

1.11 Conduct of examinations and assessments

Students are expected to observe University regulations for the conduct of examinations and assessments.

Exceptionally, a student may request an alteration to assessment arrangements under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010[11]. Consideration of such a request, which should be submitted to the relevant 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 relevant Departmental Management Group (DMG).

[10] Assessment Regulations and Policies | Northumbria University
[11] Equality Act 2010

1.12 Penalties applicable to assessed work

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[12]).

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[13]).

1.13 Personal Extenuating Circumstances

Students are responsible for informing the PAB of any serious Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PECs) which they feel might have significantly affected their performance in examinations or other forms of assessment. (See the University's Policy on Personal Extenuating Circumstances[14]).

Once approved, PECs will be considered by the Programme Assessment Board and the following may be applied against the relevant assessment components:

- Where there has been no attempt at the assessment or if the module is non-compensatable, the student will be deferred. This will provide a further uncapped first sit, or if at a resit attempt, a further capped resit.

- Where the module is failed but eligible for compensation, the student will receive a module pass. This will remove the module from the level average calculation and, if relevant, awarding classification. This will be the default decision of the Board, however, a student may request by exception to retake the assessment as a deferral.

- Where the module is passed, the student will be offered the option of retaking the assessment(s) impacted by PECs as a deferral or accepting their current marks. In the event that any deferral attempt resulted in a lower mark, the previous higher mark will be retained. Once deferrals are completed, no further adjustments or discretions will be made when determining awarding classifications. If deferrals are not taken and are therefore 'unretrieved', the unretrieved PEC modules can be taken into consideration when awarding final classification.

For award classifications, where a student's average lies on the borderline of the next class and has not automatically moved up in line with borderline regulations (Section 4.2, 4.3 and 5), or the majority of modules in the awarding level(s) contain unretrieved PECs, the PAB will use discretion to consider the impact of the PECs when deciding whether to raise a classification. The following principles should normally be taken into account when considering discretion:

- If the PEC module has already been removed from the classification calculation due to it being the lowest mark, then no uplift is made.

[12] Late Submission of Work Policy
[13] Word Limits Policy
[14] Personal Extenuating Circumstances

- The Board should make its decision based on the results profile presented and consider, where available, performance across all levels and modules not impacted by PECs.

Personal supporting statements regarding students at the Board are not to be taken into account when making decisions.

Where a student's results have been impacted by PECs, the Board may apply discretion in allowing a repeat year or repeat of failed modules.

1.14 Technical Extenuating Circumstances

Technical extenuating circumstances affecting the conduct of an examination or assessment may affect individual or groups of students. They will normally be considered and resolved prior to the PAB as part of the marks confirmation process. (See the University's Policy on Technical Extenuating Circumstances[15]).

1.15 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 PAB.

1.16 Communication of results

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.

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.

Students may request historical marks. Current students should submit a request via the Help and Support section of their Student Portal; students who no longer have access to their portal should place a request using the Ask4Help form on the Contact us web page. All requests will be dealt with in accordance with the University procedure for requesting information under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Policy[16].

1.17 Language of instruction

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

[15] Technical Extenuating Circumstances Policy
[16] General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR Policy)

- 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
- the delivery of the award or specified modules in a language other than English has been ratified by relevant University Approval Process.

Where approval is granted under the third exception, the University's standard requirements for academic standards, including assessment, moderation, and external examination apply in full, adapted as necessary to the language of delivery in accordance with the approved arrangements.

1.18 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.

1.19 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.

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.

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.

A student may enter a completion award with existing qualifications or prior learning (section 5.24).

1.20 Programme transfers, interruptions and withdrawals (Change of Circumstances)

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 from the website[17].

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.

[17] Change of Circumstances process

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.

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 two weeks of teaching on their target programme

A student may be permitted to interrupt their study and return to re-enrol normally within a maximum period of two years to complete their programme (see also section 1.1). Re-enrolment after a period of two years is at the discretion of the Programme Leader.

Students who complete the withdrawal process will be recorded as withdrawn rather than having their assessment profile recorded at the next PAB as a fail.

1.21 Posthumous awards

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

1.21.2 Students who have achieved the full requirements of their intended award can be awarded with full classification as per the regulations for that award.

1.21.3 Undergraduate students who have achieved first year (level 4) credit only or no credit at all can be awarded an Aegrotat which is an unclassified award. Students who have shown evidence of attainment at level 5 and above, can be awarded with classification based on the marks achieved.

1.21.4 Postgraduate students can be awarded with classification where there is evidence of attainment. Where there is no evidence of attainment, an unclassified award can be conferred.

1.21.5 Aegrotat awards will continue to be conferred when appropriate, normally when a student is unable to continue with their studies due to ill health or other debilitating reasons.

1.22 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'[18] (accessible from the General Information / Academic Links section of MyNorthumbria web page).

[18] Handbook of Student Regulations

1.23 Review of the Academic Regulations

The Academic 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

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. Students are not permitted another attempt on assessments on a module that is passed, except where there are Personal Extenuating Circumstances (PECs) or recognition of a late Student Accessibility Plan (SAP) – see section 1.13.2.

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 3.6). 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.

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 3.6).

** 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.*

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 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

The pass mark for level 7 modules is 50%.

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

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.

The credit points awarded for pass/fail modules will contribute to progression and to the award.

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 are defined in section 3.5. 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

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

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 are specified in section 5. For students on non-integrated apprenticeship programmes, the apprenticeship End Point Assessment should be completed to attain an award.

Each module successfully completed will contribute a number of credits at a particular level as determined at validation.

On completion of a level of study (section 3.4) 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.

Failed module/s may be compensated (section 3.5). 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 final classification.

Failed module/s may be referred (section 3.6). A student referred in a module will be reassessed in that module and, if successful, will be awarded the pass mark for the module.

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

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.

Progression requires the award of a specified number of credits across all qualifying modules at the first attempt (section 3.4).

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.

3.3 Principles of progression and award on a part-time programme

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 5). For students on non-integrated apprenticeship programmes, the apprenticeship End Point Assessment should be completed to attain an award.

Each module successfully completed will contribute a number of credits at a particular level as determined at validation (section 5).

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 normally requires the award of the specified number of credits across all qualifying modules in the current stage either initially or following referral (section 3.6). For some part-time programmes (e.g. Degree Apprenticeships and Distance Learning) where the next stage follows without a break in the calendar, students will be permitted to progress to the next module only, while results are processed and considered by a PAB. In these specific circumstances, students will be allowed to continue on the module of study when they receive their results. Any suspension of progression in order to re-register for failed modules will be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

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 5). 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.

Failed module/s may be compensated (section 3.5). 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 final classification.

Failed module/s may be referred (section 3.6). A student referred in a module will be reassessed in that module and, if successful, will be awarded the pass mark for the module.

A student who has completed the requirements for a named award cannot re-register for the same award to improve the classification attained.

3.4 Progression at an intermediate stage of a part-time programme

The requirements for progression on part-time programmes are specified in section 3.3.

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.

3.5 Compensation for module failure

3.5.1 Compensation for module failure is permitted at intermediate and award stages of a full-time and part-time programme. Non-discretionary rules apply:

1. Compensation cannot be applied to a 60-credit award.
2. The number of failed credits must not exceed the maximum number of compensatable credits (section 3.5.2).
3. Compensation is applied at the end of the level of study or at an approved progression point.
4. The module mark must be within at least 10% of the pass mark (i.e. 30% and above for modules at level 6 and below and 40% and above for level 7 modules); a failed pass/fail module cannot be compensated.
5. Compensation should not be used for modules determined as non-compensatable at validation, to a maximum of 40 credits per level.
6. Module/s failed due to academic misconduct cannot be compensated.

3.5.2 The number of credits which will be compensated will depend on the number of credits of current learning at that level, as indicated below. For part-time students this may include credits attained during a previous intermediate stage of the same level.

	Number of credits of current learning in level	Maximum number of credits that can be compensated
	≤60	0

Undergraduate programmes and Integrated Masters degrees	>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

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

3.6 Referral on a programme

On a **full-time undergraduate and integrated masters programme** failed modules will be referred, unless all failed credits can be compensated (section 3.1). There is no level average requirement for referral and there is no limit to the number of modules, which can be referred.

On a **full-time postgraduate programme** at the end of an intermediate or award stage, a student will be referred in all failed modules. There is no level average requirement for referral.

On a **part-time programme** at the end of an intermediate or award stage, a student will be referred in all failed modules.

On a **full-time and part-time programme** modules may also be referred where:

i. the module has been failed due to academic misconduct (section 3.5.1 6).

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).

iii. the module pass mark has been attained but failed assessment component/s must be referred to meet specified programme requirements (section 2.1).

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

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 final classification.

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.

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 must be discounted.

3.7 Failure on a programme

3.7.1 This section regarding the eligibility to repeat after failing re-sits applies to full time undergraduate students and newly registered part time and postgraduate students in academic year 2024/25. For part time and postgraduate students who commenced their programme prior to academic year 2024/25, the regulations in force at the time they registered regarding eligibility to repeat, apply to those students.

3.7.2 At levels 5, 6 and 7, a student who has not attempted at least half of the credits in the level (ie achieved a mark of 15%+ in half of the modules), will have failed the programme and will not be offered the opportunity to repeat.

3.7.3 For **full-time and part-time programmes** a student who has not already repeated, who fails either at an intermediate level or at the award level of the programme after referral, will normally be offered one opportunity to repeat the failed modules, or the level (or stage for PT students), subject to the following criteria.

Eligibility to repeat:

- At **levels 5, 6 and 7** a student may be eligible to repeat where there is evidence of an attempt for at least half the credit in the level. An attempt is considered as achieving an overall mark of 15%+ in each module. There is no level average requirement or minimum number of credits that must be passed.

- At **levels 3 and 4**, students can repeat the level (or stage for PT students) or failed modules irrespective of attempts or credits passed.

3.7.4 Students may be permitted to re-register for failed modules, or the level (or stage), with or without attendance, subject to any specific module requirements for the programme and the following criteria:

- Where more than half the credit in the level has been passed and there is evidence of an attempt (overall mark of 15%+) in all the failed modules, students have the option of repeating **with or without attendance**. Otherwise, students must repeat **with attendance.**

- Where students are repeating the final year Project/Dissertation/Capstone Module this must be completed **with attendance**.

3.7.5 A repeat attempt at a failed modules is to complete it as if for the first time. The marks gained at that attempt will be awarded in full and referral opportunities will be offered as per sections 3.7.

3.7.6 When repeating failed modules, the repeat attempt would normally overwrite previous attempts at the module(s). However, exceptionally the PAB may grant permission for previous attempts to be considered in the event that the repeat mark is lower than the original mark.

3.7.7 When repeating failed modules, the repeat should be either with or without attendance; it cannot include a combination of both within the same semester. There may be consideration given to a change in status from one semester to another.

3.7.8 Where a student is repeating only the failed modules, they cannot also select one or more of the passed modules to also take again in an attempt to improve their classification.

4 Distinction/Commendation

4.1 General principles

Distinction and Commendation are available to all taught awards except Honours and Integrated Masters classified degrees (Section 5).

For postgraduate programmes, level 6 credits are excluded from the overall average calculation for classification of distinction or commendation (see also section 2.3).

With the exception of the Honours degree where this is a lower-level award from an Integrated Masters degree (Section 5.16), a lower-level award (section 1.19) 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.

4.2 Distinction

A distinction will be awarded to a student who has attained an overall average of 70% or more from all graded credits.

The marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the overall average is 68 or 69%. A student will be awarded a distinction if:

The overall average is 68% or 69% and a mark of 70% or more has been attained in half the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules) at the award level.

4.3 Commendation

A commendation will be awarded to a student who has attained an overall average of 60-69% or more from all graded credits.

On undergraduate programmes, the marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the overall average is 58 or 59%. A commendation will be awarded if the overall average is 58% or 59% and a mark of 60% or more has been attained in half the graded credits (i.e. all graded modules) at the award level.

On postgraduate programmes, a commendation will be awarded if an average of 58% or 59% has been attained across level 7 modules and a mark of 60% or more has been attained in half of the graded level 7 credits.

5 Awards and their classification

The regulations for Northumbria Awards, their qualification level[19], 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 guidance[20] and the Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA)[21].

5.1 Foundation Certificate

Award level	Level 3
Credit required	60 credits. Maximum 20 at level 2; minimum 40 at level 3
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation is not applicable (section 3.5)
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.6). No credits can be compensated in this 60-credit award.
Lower-level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.2 Foundation Diploma

Award level	Level 3
Credit required	120 credits at level 3
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Foundation Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

[19] As specified in the 'Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland' (FHEQ), available here

[20] Higher Education Credit Framework

[21] For approved variations see section 9.16 "Credit Levels and Use of Lower-level Credits" of Programme Framework for Northumbria Awards (PFNA) Document, available here.

Students refer to: Programme Design and Approval within the Approvals Framework

5.3 Certificate

Award level	Level 4
Credit required	60 credits. Maximum 20 at level 3; minimum 40 at level 4
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation is not applicable (section 3.5).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.6). No credits can be compensated in this 60-credit award.
Lower-level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.4 Certificate of Higher Education

FHEQ level	Level 4
Credit required	120 credits at level 4[21]
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.5 Diploma

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	60 credits at level 5
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation is not applicable (section 3.5).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.6).

	No credits can be compensated in this 60-credit award.
Lower-level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.6 Diploma of Higher Education

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5[21]
Progression FT	A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 3.6) Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Certificate of Higher Education
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4), determined by overall average of all graded credits at the final level of the award.

5.7 Foundation Degree

FHEQ level	Level 5
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5[21]
Progression FT	A student will progress to level 5 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 4. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 3.6) Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Certificate of Higher Education

Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4) determined by overall average of all graded credits at the final level of award.

5.8 Advanced Diploma of Higher Education

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	300 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 60 at level 6[21]
Progression FT	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. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 3.7) Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain 300 credits. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.6). 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 4), determined by overall average of all graded credits at the final level of the award.

5.9 Advanced Diploma

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	60 credits at level 6
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation is not applicable (section 3.5).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.6). No credits can be compensated in this 60-credit award.
Lower-level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.10 Ordinary Degree

The Ordinary Degree is a stand-alone Bachelors award without Honours. The Ordinary Degree will only be used in specific instances, where there is an agreed business and academic rationale. The most likely application will be with TNE partners in relation to a specific requirement or in-country regulation. When such opportunities are identified the business case will be considered by the Planning Committee (PC), and the academic case by Education Committee and the University Approval Panel (UAP).

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	300 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 60 at level 6[21]
Progression FT	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. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 3.6) Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award the student must attain the 300 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7. No credits can be compensated at the 60-credit award stage.
Lower-level award	Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4) determined by the overall average of the qualifying modules at the final level of the award.
Note:	The Ordinary Degree is offered only to specific and agreed partners when stipulated parameters are met.

5.11 Honours Degree

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	360 credits. 120 at level 4; 120 at level 5; 120 at level 6[21] Students enrolled on an extended degree with an integrated foundation year will have gained an additional 120 credits at level 3.
Progression FT	A student will progress to level 4 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 3 if they have enrolled on an extended degree. 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

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2">credits at level 5. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 3.6)

Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Progression PT</td><td colspan="2">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 3.6).

Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Award</td><td colspan="2">To achieve the award the student must attain the 360 credits or 480 credits if on an extended degree

Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Lower-level award</td><td colspan="2">Foundation Diploma in Higher Education, Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education</td></tr>
<tr><td>Classification</td><td colspan="2">Classification is determined as follows:</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>First Class Honours</td><td>Average mark of 70% or above</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Second Class Honours Upper Division</td><td>Average mark of at least 60% but less than 70%</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Second Class Honours Lower Division</td><td>Average mark of at least 50% but less than 60%</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Third Class Honours</td><td>Average mark of at least 40% but less than 50% or for PT students, attainment of 360 credits following compensation and referral.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2">Full-time and Part-time programmes - 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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Calculation of Classification</td><td colspan="2">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.

Qualifying modules is defined as the best 100 percentage graded credits per level. This means that the lowest scoring 20 credits per level 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.

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</td></tr>
</table>

	per level classification will be based on all percentage graded credits.
Borderline Classification	The marks profile of a student is regarded as borderline where the average mark is not more than 2% below a boundary between classes of degree. The higher class of degree is awarded where half of all graded credits at level 6 lie on or above the appropriate boundary. If this is not the case, the lower class of degree is awarded. Modules validated as pass/fail are excluded from consideration of borderline classification. 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).
Classification for Honours programmes containing more than 240 level 5/6 qualifying credits	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 as outlined under *'Calculation of classification'* above. 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: ((240 x 0.4 x level 5 average) + (120 x 0.6 x level 6 average)) ((240 x 0.4) + (120 x 0.6)) NOTE 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
Classification for Honours programmes containing additional level 5 credits gained through Placement or Study Abroad	Where a Programme includes an additional Year-long 120 credit Level 5 work placement module the placement is not weighted in the classification average. Where a Programme includes an additional Year of Study Abroad there are two alternative assessment schemes *("not weighted"* or *"weighted")* and the Programme Specification will make clear which scheme applies: ***"Not weighted":*** In most cases, a period of study abroad is not weighted in the classification average and the relevant credits are zero-weighted ***"Weighted":*** In some rare cases (where a Programme determines there is sufficient comparability of the student experience and assessment standards) periods of study abroad may count 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: On a 4 Year Honours programme with 240 level 5 credits classification is based on either the average mark of the best 100 credits in levels 6:5:5 weighted 60:20:20 or the average mark of the best 100 credits in levels 6 (whichever benefits the student

5.12 Professional Graduate Certificate in Education

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	120 credits at level 6
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
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 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Graduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.13 Graduate Certificate

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	60 credits at level 6
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation is not applicable (section 3.5).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. Any referred modules must be passed (section 3.6). No credits can be compensated in this 60-credit award.
Lower-level award	Not applicable
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.14 Graduate Diploma

FHEQ level	Level 6
Credit required	120 credits at level 6[21]
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Graduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.15 Master of Architecture

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	240 credits. 120 at level 6; 120 at level 7
Progression FT	A student will progress to level 7 on the attainment of 120 credits at level 6. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 3.6). Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.6.
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.6. Any referred modules must be passed. Compensation rules (section 3.5) 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 4), determined by overall average at the final level of the award

5.16 Integrated Master Degree

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[21]

<table>
<tr><td>Progression FT</td><td>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. Modules failed at the first attempt will be referred (section 3.6).

Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Progression PT</td><td>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 3.6).

Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Award</td><td>To achieve the award a student must attain the 480 credits.

Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Lower-level award</td><td>Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, Honours Degree, Postgraduate Certificate.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Classification</td><td>Classification is determined as follows:<table><tr><td>First Class Honours</td><td>Average mark of 70% or above.</td></tr><tr><td>Second Class Honours Upper Division</td><td>Average mark of at least 60% but less than 70%.</td></tr><tr><td>Second Class Honours, Lower Division</td><td>Average mark of at least 50% but less than 60% or for PT students attainment of 480 credits following referral and compensation.</td></tr></table>
Full-time and Part-time Programmes - 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. The relevant Bachelor’s degree will also be awarded based on current learning, classified in accordance with the principles for Honours degree programmes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Calculation of Classification</td><td>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.

Qualifying modules is defined as the best 100 percentage graded credits per level. This means that the lowest scoring 20 credits per level 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</td></tr>
</table>

	included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value. 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.
Borderline Classification	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. The higher class of degree is awarded where half of all graded credits at final award level lie on or above the appropriate boundary. If this is not the case, the lower class of degree is awarded. Modules validated as pass/fail are excluded from consideration of borderline classification. 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).
Classification for Integrated Masters programmes containing additional level 5 credits gained through Placement or Study Abroad	Where a Programme includes an additional Year-long 120 credit Level 5 work placement module the placement is not weighted in the classification average. Where a Programme includes an additional Year of Study Abroad there are two alternative assessment schemes *("not weighted"* or *"weighted")* and the Programme Specification will make clear which scheme applies: ***"Not weighted":*** In most cases, a period of study abroad is not weighted in the classification average and the relevant credits are zero-weighted. ***"Weighted":*** In some rare cases (where a Programme determines there is sufficient comparability of the student experience and assessment standards) periods of study abroad may count 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. On a 5 Year Integrated Masters Honours programme with 240 level 5 credits classification is based on either the average mark of the best 100 credits in levels 7:6:5:5 weighted 60:20:10:10; or the average mark of the best 100 credits in levels 7:6 weighted 60:40; or marks of the best 100 credits in level 7 (whichever benefits the student).

5.17 Postgraduate Certificate in Education

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	120 credits, maximum 80 at level 6; minimum 40 at level 7
Progression FT	Not applicable
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
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 regulations for reassessment of failed modules are specified in programme documentation. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, Postgraduate Certificate, Graduate Certificate.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.18 Postgraduate Certificate

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	60 credits, maximum 20 at level 6; minimum 40 at level 7.
Progression FT	Not applicable.
Progression PT	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 3.6).
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 60 credits. 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 4).

5.19 Postgraduate Diploma

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	120 credits at level 7[21]
Progression FT	Not applicable.
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.

Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 120 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Postgraduate Certificate
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.20 Masters Degrees

Includes Master of Research; excludes Master of Fine Art	
FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	180 credits at level 7[21]
Progression FT	Not applicable for 180 credit programmes. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Progression PT	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 3.6) Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 180 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.21 240 Credit Masters Degrees (with Advanced Practice/Study Abroad)

Includes Master of Research; excludes Master of Fine Art	
FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	240 credits at level 7
Progression FT	Where programmes include additional level 7 credit (e.g. 240 credit Masters programmes), progression will take place at the end of the stage/year if all modules in the stage have been passed. Modules failed at first attempt will be referred. (section 3.6) Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Progression PT	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 3.6) Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.

Award	To achieve the award a student must attain the 240 credits. Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
Lower-level award	Masters; Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).
Classification for Masters containing more than 180 level 7 credits	Where a programme includes additional level 7 modules (e.g. 240 credit Masters programmes) then the marks from all such modules will contribute towards the classification.

5.22 Master of Fine Art

FHEQ level	Level 7
Credit required	240 credits at level 7.
Progression FT	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 3.6). Compensation is not available at this stage, as it comprises 30 credit modules (section 3.5). Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.6.
Progression PT	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 3.6). Compensation and referral are subject to the regulations in sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.
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 3.5). Referral is subject to the regulations in section 3.7.
Lower-level award	Postgraduate Certificate in Arts, Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art.
Classification	Distinction/Commendation rules apply (section 4).

5.23 Professional Doctorate Programmes

See Professional Doctorate Award Regulations here:	
FHEQ level	Level 8
Credit required	540 Credits. 360 at level 8; 180 at level 7[21]
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	Compensation is applicable to the lower-level awards of Postgraduate Diploma and Masters degree and is subject to the regulations in section 3.5.
	Distinction/Commendation rules apply to lower-level awards as for taught awards (section 4).

5.24 Completion Awards

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, or lower awards, is based on the classification principles for Honours programmes (section 5.11 and 5.15), irrespective of the number of credits in the completion award
- Where current learning is 120 credits, compensation is available as described in section 3.5.
- 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 3.6.