



# THREE YEAR CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR BA/BSC DEGREES FOR STUDENTS FROM THE 2018/19 ACADEMIC YEAR

*This Classification Scheme is approved by the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees. Last updated: August 2023*

This classification scheme should be read in conjunction with the [General Academic Regulations](#) (which contains a glossary of terms used in this scheme), [Regulations for First Degrees](#), the relevant BA/ BSc programme regulations, the relevant online Undergraduate course guides, the [Code of Good Practice for Undergraduate, Diploma and Postgraduate Programmes: Teaching, Learning and Assessment](#) and the [Addendum - Regulations for 2021/22 updated in response to COVID-19](#).

## Award of Marks

1. The examiners for each course will decide a numerical mark for each course a student has taken using the following scale:

First Class Honours	70 - 100
Upper Second Class Honours	60 - 69
Lower Second Class Honours	50 - 59
Third Class Honours	40 - 49
Fail	0 - 39

## Eligibility for Award

2. A student will only be eligible for the award of a degree if they have submitted every component of assessment (which includes sitting an exam) for all courses required by the Programme Regulations, including LSE100 i.e. all summative assessments set out in the course guides must be completed and students must have met the criteria set out in the General Academic Regulations and the Regulations for First Degree
- 2.1 Failing to attempt an assessment without an approved deferral will count as one attempt.

## Classification Marks and the Aggregate

3. The classification of each student shall be based on eighteen classification marks, comprising:
  - 3.1 the marks achieved in all eight second and third year courses with full-unit marks counted twice and half-unit marks counted once to make a total of sixteen classification marks.
  - 3.2 the seventeenth and eighteenth classification marks will use the First Year Average full unit mark counted twice.
  - 3.3 the First Year Average will be calculated using the average<sup>2</sup> of the best six out of nine marks in first year courses: All first year full unit marks will be counted twice and any half unit marks counted once to make a total of nine first year marks.
  - 3.4 for second-year direct entry students, the seventeenth and eighteenth marks will be the average of all sixteen second and third year classification marks resulting in 2 identical classification marks.
4. The aggregate for each student is the sum of the eighteen classification marks.
5. In all cases, the 'classification marks' shall be based on the marks obtained by the student in their latest attempt at each element of assessment for each course.
6. For students starting in the 2021/22 academic year, LSE100 will count towards the First Year Average if it is one of the best six out of nine first year marks. For students starting before the 2021/22 academic year, the mark achieved in LSE100 is not a classification mark and is not used to calculate the First Year Average or award. Regardless of when a student started, an unredeemed fail in LSE100 will not be considered for the purpose of applying any of the penalties at Paragraph 11.

## Degree Classification

7. Subject to the application of the penalty rules for failed courses<sup>1</sup> in section 11 below, the classification of an award shall be calculated as follows:
  - 7.1 For first class honours: Ten first class marks; or nine or eight first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1180.
  - 7.2 For upper second class honours: Ten upper second class marks (or above); or nine or eight upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1030.

- 7.3 For lower second class honours: Ten lower second class marks (or above); or nine or eight lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 880.
  - 7.4 For third class honours: Sixteen third class marks (or above).
  - 7.5 For a pass degree: A pass degree will only be awarded as a result of the application of the penalty rules set out in section 11 below or, despite being eligible for an award, failing to meet the criteria for a third class honours degree as set out in section 7.4 above.
- 8. Where an assessment is failed and re-taken, the overall grade for the course for which the resit assessment was taken will be capped at Pass for the purposes of calculating the final degree classification. Furthermore, a maximum mark of 40 will be used for calculating either the first year average if one of the best six first year marks, or the aggregate if a second or third year classification mark. Both the original fail mark and the new mark achieved at resit will be shown on the transcript.
  - 9. Students are permitted three attempts to pass a first year paper<sup>1</sup> and two attempts to pass a second year paper<sup>1</sup> and two attempts to pass a third year paper<sup>1</sup> subject to the application of section 10 below.
  - 10. A student will be awarded a degree at the first point at which they become eligible. Students eligible for award with unredeemed failed papers<sup>1</sup> will not be given the opportunity to resit any failed assessments.

#### Penalty Rules

- 11. The classification of an award for a student with an unredeemed fail in any course taken in fulfilment of the programme regulations shall be calculated as follows (n.b. section 11.3 will not apply to second-year direct entry students):
  - 11.1 a drop of one class in the award classification shall result where a student has unredeemed fails in more than one course i.e. more than one full-unit or two-half units.
  - 11.2 the degree shall be capped at 'Pass' where a student has unredeemed fails in three courses i.e. three full-units or six half-units.
  - 11.3 any unredeemed fail(s) in a first year course or courses, with the exception of LSE100, will be taken into account under sections 11.1 and 11.2.

#### General Proviso

- 12. It is also open to a Sub-Board of Examiners to recommend to the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees any departure from this Scheme if, in their judgement, this would be equitable for any individual student as a direct result of a [formal Exceptional Circumstances submission](#) to the Student Services Centre. Such circumstances need appropriate supporting evidence, must fall outside of the normal assessment process and apply to that student only. The following conditions also apply:
  - 12.1 that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary i.e. within 3 marks in a single course which has been used for classification i.e. one full-unit or two half-units; or, 10 marks on aggregate using the criteria determined in section 4; and
  - 12.2 that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and
  - 12.3 that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and
  - 12.4 that the student's performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.
- 13. All marks and classification awards are subject to any penalties that might be applied under the School's [Regulations on Assessment Offences](#) and/or any failure to obtain ethics approval, where required for research undertaken in dissertations or equivalent assessments<sup>3</sup>.



## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Under the programme regulations for all of the School's three year BA/BSc degrees, students have to complete four 'papers' in each of their three years of study. Second year direct entry students have to complete four 'papers' in each of their second and third years of study. Each 'paper' represents a full-unit course or two half-unit courses.

<sup>2</sup>Where marks are averaged, the resulting average will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole mark.

<sup>3</sup>Failure to undertake a review of the ethical implications of research or failure to apply reasonable care in assessing the likely ethical implications of a research project, may constitute research misconduct under the School's research misconduct policy and procedures. To ascertain whether ethics approval is required, students should refer to the bullet points listed [here](#).

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See the [Calendar](#) for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.