

# Analysis of level 4 BSc Finance and Investment results (2013-14)

Rob Hayward

July 20, 2014

The total number of students was 34. The outcomes recorded by the summer Exam Board are in Table 1.

Number of Students	
FWD	3
Pass	19
Refer	6
Withdrawal	6

Table 1: Outcome of Level 4 BSc. Finance and Investment Students

The figures show that 8.82 percent of the students failed and were asked to withdraw; 55.88 percent passed at the first attempt; 17.65 were referred and 17.65 withdrew before taking exams.

There are four issues to consider in detail: the first is the proportion of students who do not complete the first year; the second is the performance of students taken onto the course through clearing; the third is the relationship between student entry grades and the level four performance; the final issue is that of the performance of overseas students.

## Proportion of students completing level 4

Though the University counts these fail-withdrawals and withdrawal as the same, it is clear from an investigation of the student files that these are two distinct categories. The second group include two students who switched to another course and it is clear that these students did not find the course to their taste

For example, Eleanor Alabaster withdrew for “family and personal reasons”; Erikas Gringaliunas withdrew because for financial reasons, he was an

overseas student from Lithuania, had no financial support and found it too expensive in Brighton; Laura Battle withdrew because she found it impossible to keep up with the mathematical elements of Economics and had not settled in Brighton; Jack Bridges transferred out to Sport and Exercise Science; Craig O'Neill withdrew (Not sure look at notes); Samuel Peka transferred to Computer Science.

I spoke to Erikas and Laura before they left.

## Performance of clearing students

There were 6 students taken onto the course through clearing. It is clear from Table 2 that these students performed relatively well.

Number of Students	
FWD	0
Pass	4
Refer	2
Withdrawal	0

Table 2: Outcome of Level 4 BSc. Finance and Investment Students joined through clearing

Using a Boxplot to compare the grade performance of all students relative to those that came through clearing (Figure 1) it is evident that the weakest performance are not coming from those that were recruited through clearing. The box plot shows the distribution of grades; the solid black line is the median grade for all students and for clearing students respectively; the box gives the interquartile range (showing the range of half the students for each group); the whiskers extend to one-and-a-half times the interquartile range; zeros are outliers that are beyond the whiskers.

## Entry grades and performance

It is difficult to analyse the relationship between entry grades and student performance. Students have been categorised into three levels of qualification: A levels that are close to the ABB course entry requirement; Other A-levels with grades below AAB; and, non-A-level, primarily BETC qualifications. The categorisation is a little imprecise. However, unsurprisingly, there is a strong correlation between the entry grades and the end of year result.

### Grade Distribution of Student Grades

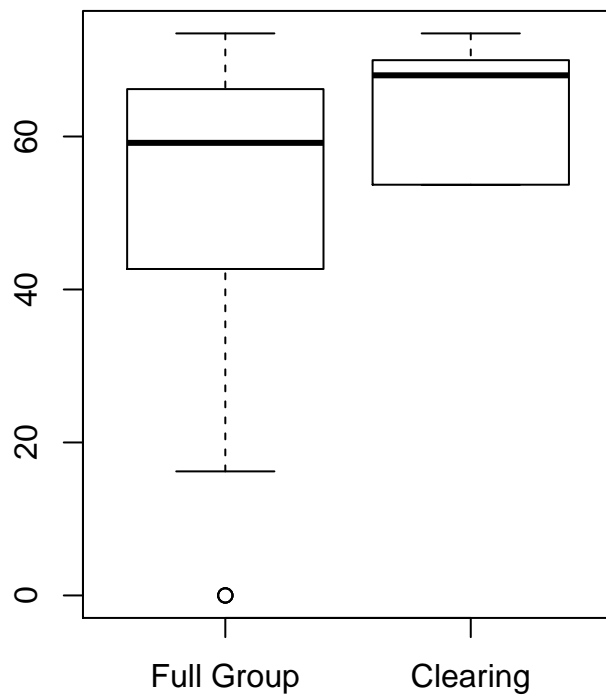


Figure 1: Comparison of total and clearing grades

## Grade distribution and entry grades

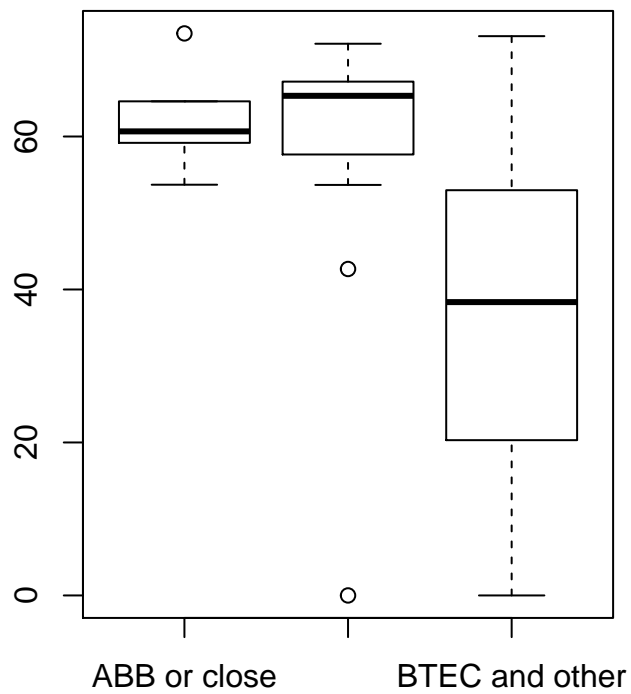


Figure 2: Entry grades and student performance

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
da\$AlevelABB or close	62.32	8.90	7.00	0.00
da\$AlevelLower A-Level	58.67	5.14	11.42	0.00
da\$AlevelBTEC and other	36.96	5.52	6.70	0.00

Table 3: Level 4 grade for A-level category

## The performance of overseas students

These are the students with an *overseas* funding category. The boxplot, constructed in the same way as outlined above, shows that the average overall level four mark for overseas students is 35.65 percent compared to 50.67 percent for the whole cohort.

### Grade Distribution of Student Grades

