

Postgraduate Taught: How to calculate a Derived mark and Provisional Derived Mark (Taught Stage only)

1. The Derived mark will be based on actual achievement from the Taught Stage, as far as reasonable. It will be based on:

- a. Actual Marks from Completed Modules received prior to the Derivation Cut Off Date. It should be noted that marks visible in Moodle may not be Actual Marks, in which case these would not be used; the Head of School (or Nominee) would determine if it was appropriate to use those marks.
- b. Part for Whole Marks received prior to the Derivation Cutoff Date may be included.
- c. If circumstances permit, Actual Marks from Assessments from Incomplete Modules received prior to the Derivation Cutoff Date may be included.

2. The marks from Clause 1 (as circumstances permit), received prior to the Derivation Cutoff Date are the Completed Marks.

3. It is not possible to create a Part For Whole Mark or Derived Mark for the Dissertation Stage. Also, Actual Marks from the Dissertation Stage cannot be used to calculate a Taught Stage Derived Mark or Provisional Derived Mark.

4. It is not possible to calculate a Derived Mark for a student studying for a Postgraduate Certificate.

5. Because it is necessary for the student to have Submitted all of the original Assessments (where offered) to be able to calculate a Derived Mark, it is not possible for a student to have a Derived Mark applied to their record where an assessment opportunity has taken place but the student did not Submit that Assessment. Note, where the student has an upheld Extenuating Circumstance's claim (for example, for a later first sit), they may have the Derived mark applied to their record after they have Submitted the Extenuating Circumstances Affected Assessment(s). However, the timing of the Extenuating Circumstance Affected Assessment may impact the value of the Derived Mark (where the Extenuating Circumstance Affected Assessment was not Submitted and marked at the time of the derivation) and this should be taken into consideration in deciding whether to accept or reject the use of the Contingency Regulations and the associated progression or classification outcomes and associated marks (see 'PGT progression and classification' and 'PGDipCert progression and classification' documents).

6. The credit value of the student's Completed Marks for the Taught Stage is the sum of the credits of the Completed Modules (whether entirely through Actual Marks or by way of designation of a Part For Whole Mark) plus the pro-rata credits of any Actual Marks from Incomplete Modules where the circumstances permit their use for the Derived Mark or Provisional Derived Mark (see Clause 1).

For example:

- A student on a 20 credit taught module who has Actual Marks prior to the relevant cutoff for 100% of the Assessment for that module has completed 20 credits of assessment.

- A student on a 20 credit taught module who has Actual Marks prior to the relevant cutoff for 50% of the Assessment for that module and where this meets the criteria to designate this a Part For Whole Mark has completed 20 credits of assessment.
 - A student on a 20 credit taught module who has Actual Marks prior to the relevant cutoff for 30% of the Assessment for that module has completed 6 credits of assessment.
7. In order for the Derived Mark and Provisional Derived Mark to be reliable, UoN need to make appropriate use of the evidence provided by these completed credits of assessment. UoN will calculate Derived Marks and Provisional Derived Marks in accordance with the following thresholds:
- a. If a student has Completed Marks totalling at least 50% of the credits for the Taught Stage by the Derivation Cutoff Date (e.g. at least 60 credits for programmes with 120 credits of taught modules), then these Completed Marks will be used to calculate the Derived Mark for the Taught Stage. In this case, the Derived Mark will be the weighted average of these Completed Marks which are received prior to Derivation Cutoff Date.
 - b. If a student has Completed Marks totalling between 16.6% and 50% of the credits for the Taught Stage by the Derivation Cutoff Date (e.g. between 20 to 60 credits for programmes with 120 credits of taught modules), then UoN cannot be entirely confident that the student's credit weighted average is a proper representation of their ability at this level. As such, for these cases UoN will calculate a Provisional Derived Mark for the Taught Stage. This Provisional Derived Mark will be the weighted average of the Completed Marks which are received prior to the Derivation Cutoff Date.
 - c. Where a student has Completed Marks totalling less than 16.6% of the credits for their Taught Stage by the Derivation Cutoff date (e.g. less than 20 credits for programmes with 120 credits of taught modules), UoN cannot generate Derived Marks or Provisional Derived Marks for the Taught Stage. In these circumstances, the student may not be classified until the Actual Marks are received. UoN cannot guarantee when that will be.
8. When considering classification and/or completion of Taught Stage, Exam Boards will have sight of the Actual Marks for the Assessments for the relevant Stage(s), and the Provisional Derived Mark for the Taught Stage. If the student's Provisional Derived Mark for the Taught Stage is either of 2 degree classes (i.e. Pass, Merit, Distinction) or 15 marks higher or lower than the actual Taught Stage average (that is, the weighted mean of module marks for Taught Stage which will be a combination of Actual Marks, Part For Whole Marks, Derived Marks and Provisional Derived Marks), Exam Boards are asked to not use the Provisional Derived Mark for the purposes of Taught Stage completion or classification. In these circumstances, the student may not be classified until the Actual Marks are received. UoN cannot guarantee when that will be.