

# Understanding your Class of Honours Guidance Document: Undergraduate Bachelor's Degrees

## Regulations for Classification of your Honours degree

The regulations about how the Open University determines degree classification for Undergraduate Bachelor's Honours Degrees are in the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses), and in the Academic Regulations (Apprentices). These regulations can be found online at <https://help.open.ac.uk/documents/policies/academic-regulations>.

This guide has been written to provide you with worked examples of Bachelor's Honours degree classification. If you have queries about working out your class of Honours for your degree, please contact your Student Support Team who can help you to contact the Qualifications Centre at the Open University.

## Honours Degrees Classifications

Honours degrees are awarded a classification from the following, First Class, Upper Second Class (2:1), Lower Second Class (2:2), Third Class. No other undergraduate qualifications are classified.

### Credit used in Classification

Classification is calculated when all the appropriate credit required for an Honours degree has been completed. Depending on your qualification, this will be at least 360 credits for an undergraduate bachelor's degree with Honours, or at least 480 credits for a Scottish undergraduate bachelor's degree with Honours.

Classification credit can only come from graded OU modules or from graded Collaborative credit modules at Level 2 and above. Level 1 OU modules, ungraded credit and RPL credit (credit transfer) are not used in classification.

Graded undergraduate OU modules and collaborative credit modules award credit as one of Distinction (1; the highest grade), Pass grade 2, Pass grade 3, or Pass grade 4.

Graded postgraduate OU modules award credit as one of Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Any postgraduate credit which is exceptionally counted down into an undergraduate Honours Degree will have their grades converted to undergraduate grades for the purpose of Honours classification as follows: Distinction (Pass grade 1), Merit (Pass grade 2) and Pass (Pass grade 4).

Normally, all of the 120 credits in the two highest Stages of your Honours qualification will be used for classification. If your 360-credit Honours qualification includes exceptional Stage credit, the individual qualification regulations will specify if modules included in a lower Stage than their OU Level (for example, Level 2 credit in Stage 1) are valid for classification.

All 480 credit Scottish undergraduate bachelor's degree with Honours include exceptional stage credit. If your qualification has more than 120 credits at Level 3, we will use your remaining Level 3 credit grade instead of your Level 2 credit grade if the remaining Level 3 credit is at a higher grade. However, only the first 120 credits of Level 3 credit used will be double-weighted. If your qualification has more than 120 credits of Level 2 credit, your best 120 credits will be used in classification, regardless of the Stage in which it is included.

If you have completed more valid classification credit than is required for your qualification, your best grades will be used. If you have the same grade for several modules, we start with the earliest. If you have more than one module with the same grade awarded at the same time, we take them in alpha-numeric order of their module code.

## Calculation of Weighted Grade Credit Score

For each OU module used for classification, the credit size of the module (30 or 60) will be multiplied by the grade awarded (1,2 3 or 4). For the OU Level 3 modules, this will then be multiplied by two to produce the double-weighted L3 module score.

OU Level	Credit size	Weighting	Grade	Calculation	Module score
2	30	Single	1	$30 \times 1$	30
2	30	Single	2	$30 \times 2$	60
2	30	Single	3	$30 \times 3$	90
2	30	Single	4	$30 \times 4$	120
2	60	Single	1	$60 \times 1$	60
2	60	Single	2	$60 \times 2$	120
2	60	Single	3	$60 \times 3$	180
2	60	Single	4	$60 \times 4$	240
3	30	Double	1	$(30 \times 1) \times 2$	60
3	30	Double	2	$(30 \times 2) \times 2$	120
3	30	Double	3	$(30 \times 3) \times 2$	180
3	30	Double	4	$(30 \times 4) \times 2$	240
3	60	Double	1	$(60 \times 1) \times 2$	120
3	60	Double	2	$(60 \times 2) \times 2$	240
3	60	Double	3	$(60 \times 3) \times 2$	360
3	60	Double	4	$(60 \times 4) \times 2$	480

The module scores from the 120 credits of Level 3 modules are added to the 120 credits of Level 2 modules to produce your weighted grade credit score. You may have less than 120 credits valid for classification if you have an award of RPL (credit transfer) against the Level 2 requirement of your qualification.

## Weighted Grade Credit Score bands and Classification

For undergraduate bachelor's degrees with Honours, whether requiring 360 credits or 480 credits, a maximum of 240 credits will be used in classification, of which 120 will be at OU Level 3 and the remaining 120 at OU Level 2 (or above). This produces a potential weighted grade credit score of between a minimum of 360 (240 credits awarded at Grade 1) and a maximum of 1440 (240 credits awarded at Grade 4). This range is divided into four bands which equate to the four classes of Honours.

If you have less than 240 credits of OU Level 2 and 3 credit available due to an award of RPL/credit transfer, there are separate weighted credit score bands with reduced thresholds.

Your RPL/credit transfer award	Credit available for classification
Up to 120	240 (standard)
150	210 (120 L3 and 90 L2)
180	180 (120 L3 and 60 L2)
210	150 (120 L3 and 30 L2)
240	120 (120 L3)

## Borderline test and Classification

If your weighted grade credit score is within 60 credit points of a higher classification band, you will be awarded the higher classification if you have achieved at least 60 Level 3 credits at the same level or higher as that higher classification.

## Thresholds of the Weighted Grade Credit Score bands and Borderline test bands:

### 240 credits (Standard)

Weighted Grade Credits range	Honours Classification
360 to 630	First Class
631 to 900	Upper Second Class (2:1)
901 to 1170	Lower Second Class (2:2)
1171 to 1440	Third Class

Weighted Grade Credits Borderline range	Requirement for higher classification	Classification
631 to 690	60 L3 credits at Grade 1	First Class
901 to 960	60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	Upper Second Class (2:1)
1171 to 1230	60 L3 credits at Grade 1,2 or 3	Lower Second Class (2:2)

## 210 credits (150 RPL)

Weighted Grade Credits range	Honours Classification
330 to 577	First Class
578 to 825	Upper Second Class (2:1)
826 to 1072	Lower Second Class (2:2)
1073 to 1320	Third Class

Weighted Grade Credits Borderline range	Requirement for higher classification	Classification
578 to 637	60 L3 credits at Grade 1	First Class
826 to 885	60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	Upper Second Class (2:1)
1073 to 1132	60 L3 credits at Grade 1,2 or 3	Lower Second Class (2:2)

## 180 credits (180 RPL)

Weighted Grade Credits range	Honours Classification
300 to 525	First Class
526 to 750	Upper Second Class (2:1)
751 to 975	Lower Second Class (2:2)
976 to 1200	Third Class

Weighted Grade Credits Borderline range	Requirement for higher classification	Classification
526 to 585	60 L3 credits at Grade 1	First Class
751 to 810	60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	Upper Second Class (2:1)
976 to 1035	60 L3 credits at Grade 1,2 or 3	Lower Second Class (2:2)

## 150 credits (210 RPL)

Weighted Grade Credits range	Honours Classification
270 to 472	First Class
473 to 675	Upper Second Class (2:1)
676 to 877	Lower Second Class (2:2)
878 to 1080	Third Class

Weighted Grade Credits Borderline range	Requirement for higher classification	Classification
473 to 532	60 L3 credits at Grade 1	First Class
676 to 735	60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	Upper Second Class (2:1)
878 to 937	60 L3 credits at Grade 1,2 or 3	Lower Second Class (2:2)

## 120 credits (240 RPL)

Weighted Grade Credits range	Honours Classification
240 to 420	First Class
421 to 600	Upper Second Class (2:1)
601 to 780	Lower Second Class (2:2)
781 to 960	Third Class

Weighted Grade Credits Borderline range	Requirement for higher classification	Classification
421 and 480	60 L3 credits at Grade 1	First Class
601 and 660	60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	Upper Second Class (2:1)
781 and 840	60 L3 credits at Grade 1,2 or 3	Lower Second Class (2:2)

### Worked Examples

1. Student with 240 classification credits (360 credit degree)
2. Student with RPL
3. Student in borderline test range: classification increased
4. Student in borderline test range: classification not increased
5. Student with exceptional stage credit
6. Student with counted down credit
7. Student with more credit than required
8. Student on Scottish 480 credit Bachelor's Honours Degree

### Example 1: Student with 240 classification credits (360 credit degree)

This student has studied 360 credits for Q01. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 720, which is in the Upper Second-Class range of 631 to 900, and they do not fall within the borderline range for First Class (631 to 690) which means that their final classification is Upper Second Class.

Module	Stage	Level	Credits	Grade	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
A111	1	1	60	2	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
A113	1	1	60	1	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
A223	2	2	60	4	Single-weighted	$60 \times 4 = 240$
A225	2	2	60	2	Single-weighted	$60 \times 2 = 120$
A326	3	3	60	1	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 1) \times 2 = 120$
A327	3	3	60	2	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 2) \times 2 = 240$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>360</b>			<b>720</b>

### Example 2: Student with RPL

This student has also studied Q01 and was awarded 180 credits of credit transfer for their previous study at another University. They have studied 60 credits at OU Level 2 and 120 credits at OU Level 3 to complete their qualification. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 1140, which is assessed against the Reduced Weighted Grade Credit range for students with 180 credits valid for classification. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is within the Third Class range (976 to 1200) and they do not fall within the Upper Second borderline range for students with this amount of credit (976 to 1035), which means that their final classification is Third Class.

Module	Stage	Level	Credits	Grade	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
180 credits of credit transfer	1/2	1/2	180	n/a	Not counted towards classification	0
A225	2	2	60	3	Single-weighted	$60 \times 3 = 180$
A326	3	3	60	4	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 4) \times 2 = 480$
A327	3	3	60	4	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 4) \times 2 = 480$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>360 (180 OU)</b>			<b>1140</b>

### Example 3: Student in borderline test range: classification increased

This student has studied 360 credits for Q15. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 930, which initially puts them in the Lower Second Class band (901 to 1170). However, because this total is within the borderline range for Upper Second Class (901 to 960) and they have achieved 60 Level 3 credits at Grade 2 for DD320, they are awarded the higher classification of Upper Second Class.

Module	Stage	Level	Credits	Grade	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
MST125	1	1	30	2	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
M140	1	1	30	1	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
DD126	1	1	30	2	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
MST124	1	1	30	1	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
M248	2	2	30	3	Single-weighted	$30 \times 3 = 90$
D217	2	2	60	2	Single-weighted	$60 \times 2 = 120$
MST224	2	2	30	4	Single-weighted	$30 \times 4 = 120$
M346	3	3	30	3	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 3) \times 2 = 180$
DD320	3	3	60	2	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 2) \times 2 = 240$
M337	3	3	30	3	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 3) \times 2 = 180$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>360</b>			<b>930</b>



#### Example 4: Student in borderline test range: classification not increased

This student has also studied 360 credits for Q15. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 930, which puts them in the Lower Second-Class band (901 to 1170). This total is within the borderline range for the next band Upper Second Class (901 to 960) but they have not achieved 60 Level 3 credits at Grade 2, so the classification of Lower Second Class (2:2) stands.

Module	Stage	Level	Credits	Grade	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
MST125	1	1	30	2	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
M140	1	1	30	1	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
DD126	1	1	30	2	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
MST124	1	1	30	1	Not counted towards classification	Not applicable
M248	2	2	30	3	Single-weighted	$30 \times 3 = 90$
D217	2	2	60	2	Single-weighted	$60 \times 2 = 120$
MST224	2	2	30	2	Single-weighted	$30 \times 2 = 60$
M346	3	3	30	2	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 2) \times 2 = 120$
DD320	3	3	60	3	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 3) \times 2 = 360$
M337	3	3	30	3	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 3) \times 2 = 180$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>360</b>			<b>930</b>

### Example 5: Student with exceptional stage credit

Q45 is a non-standard qualification which includes exceptional stage credit: it requires 60 credits at Level 1, 180 credits at Level 2 and 120 credits at Level 3. For this qualification, the best 120 grades of Level 2 credit are valid for classification, whether they are in Stage 1 or Stage 2. This student has three 60 credit modules at Level 2 – here the score for A222 is the lowest score, so it is not used for classification. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 600, in the First Class range of 360 to 630, which means that their classification is First Class.

Module	Stage	Level	Credits	Grade	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
DD103	1	1	60	2	Not counted towards classification	0
DD211	1	2	60	2	Single-weighted	$60 \times 2 = 120$
A222	2	2	60	3 – lowest L2 grade so not counted towards classification	Not counted towards classification	0
DD209	2	2	60	2	Single-weighted	$60 \times 2 = 120$
A333	3	3	60	2	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 2) \times 2 = 240$
DD316	3	3	60	1	Double-weighted	$(60 \times 1) \times 2 = 120$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>360</b>			<b>600</b>

### Example 6: Student with counted down credit

In this example, exceptional permission has been granted by the Q36 Teaching Committee for this student to “count down” 30 credits from a postgraduate Mathematics module into the free choice group within Stage 3. Their Merit grade for M820 has been converted into a Pass Grade 2. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 720 within the Upper Second-Class range of 631 to 900 and they do not fall within the First Class borderline range (631 to 690), which means that their classification is Upper Second Class (2:1).

Module	Stage	Level of Study	Credits	Grade of Pass	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
MST124	1	1	30	2	Not counted towards classification	0
M140	1	1	30	2	Not counted towards classification	0
MST125	1	1	30	1	Not counted towards classification	0
DB125	1	1	30	3	Not counted towards classification	0
M208	2	2	60	1	Single-weighted	$60 \times 1 = 60$
M248	2	2	30	3	Single-weighted	$30 \times 3 = 90$
M249	2	2	30	1	Single-weighted	$30 \times 1 = 30$
M343	3	3	30	2	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 2) \times 2 = 120$
M346	3	3	30	3	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 3) \times 2 = 180$
M347	3	3	30	2	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 2) \times 2 = 120$
M820	3	<b>PG</b>	30	Merit converted to grade 2	Double-weighted	$(30 \times 2) \times 2 = 120$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>360</b>			<b>720</b>

### Example 7: Student with more credit than required

This student has studied Q01 including an additional Level 3 module, and so now have a total of 420 points linked to this qualification, of which 180 are at Level 3. The two best grades for Level 3 are used in classification, and the grade for A327 is not used. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 1080 which is in the Lower Second-Class range (901 to 1170) and they do not fall within the Upper Second borderline range (631 to 900), which means that their classification is Lower Second Class (2:2).

Module	Stage	Level of Study	Credits	Grade of Pass	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
A111	1	1	60	2	Not counted towards classification	0
A113	1	1	60	1	Not counted towards classification	0
A223	2	2	60	3	Single-weighted	$60 \times 3 \times 1 = 180$
A225	2	2	60	3	Single-weighted	$60 \times 3 \times 1 = 180$
A326	3	3	60	3	Double-weighted	$60 \times 3 \times 2 = 360$
A327	3	3	60	4 - lowest L3 grade	Not counted towards classification	0
A344	3	3	60	3	Double-weighted	$60 \times 3 \times 2 = 360$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>420</b>			<b>1080</b>

### Example 8: Scottish 480 credit degree

This Q41 Scottish 480 credit degree includes exceptional stage credit – 180 credits at Level 1, 180 credits at Level 2 and 120 credits at Level 3. The two best grades for Level 2 are used in classification, including the grade for KE206, even though this is in Stage 2, and the grade for K271 is not used. Their Weighted Grade Credit total is 900 within the Upper Second Class range (631 to 900) and they do not fall within the First Class borderline range (631 to 690) which means that their classification is Upper Second Class (2:1).

Module	Stage	Level of Study	Credits	Grade of Pass	Weighting	Total weighted grade credit value for module (Credits x Grade x weighting)
K101	1	1	60	4	Not counted towards classification	0
DD102	1	1	60	3	Not counted towards classification	0
K113	2	1	60	2	Not counted towards classification	0
KE206	2	2	60	3	Single-weighted	$60 \times 3 \times 1 = 180$
K271	3	2	60	4 - lowest L2 grade so not counted towards classification	Not counted towards classification	0
K216	3	2	60	2	Single-weighted	$60 \times 2 \times 1 = 120$
K314	4	3	60	2	Double-weighted	$60 \times 2 \times 2 = 240$
K315	4	3	60	3	Double-weighted	$60 \times 3 \times 2 = 360$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>480</b>			<b>900</b>