

Section 35 Undergraduate, graduate and foundation awards

35.1 Eligibility for award

- 35.1.1 The criteria for eligibility for undergraduate, graduate or foundation awards are set out in the [Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

35.2 Credit requirements for award

- 35.2.1 Credit requirements for undergraduate, graduate and foundation programmes are set out in the table below. These will be used in conjunction with programme specific rules detailed on the programme specification, for example, where modules must be passed and cannot be compensated. Modules indicated as non-compensable in the programme specification cannot be compensated for a lower exit award. Exit awards may only be awarded where stated on the programme specification.

Further details of the eligibility to use external credit towards an exit award can be found in [section 34](#).

Modules identified as non-compensable on programme specifications cannot be compensated to obtain exit awards.

Award	Credits taken	Credit requirement for award
Integrated Master's Degree with Honours	480	- Awarded 480 credits - Including 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5, 6 and 7 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 30 must be achieved for any failed credit at each of Levels 4, 5, and 6 for the failure to be compensated (to a maximum of 20 credits per level) - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 45 must be achieved for any failed credit at Level 7 for the failure to be compensated (to a maximum of 20 credits per level) - No more than 240 external credits at Levels 4 and 5
Graduate Diploma	120	- Awarded 120 credits at Levels 5 and 6 - Including at least 80 credits at Level 6 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 30 must be achieved for any failed credit to be compensated (to a maximum of 20 credits) <i>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this as an exit award</i> - No more than 60 external credits at Level 5 and 6
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (exit award)	60	- Awarded 60 credits at Level 6 - Including passing all placement modules <i>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this as an exit award</i> - No external credits can contribute to this as an exit award
Graduate Certificate	60	- Awarded 60 credits at Levels 5 and 6 - Including at least 40 credits at Level 6 <i>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this as an intended or exit award</i> - No more than 30 external credits at Level 5 and 6

Award	Credits taken	Credit requirement for award
Bachelor's Degree with Honours	360	- Awarded 360 credits - Including 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 30 must be achieved for any failed credit at each level for the failure to be compensated (to a maximum of 20 credits per level) - No more than 240 external credits at Levels 4 and 5
Ordinary Degree of Bachelor (exit award)	300	- Awarded 300 credits - Including at least 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5 and at least 60 credits at Level 6 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 30 must be achieved for any failed credit at Levels 4 and 5 for the failure to be compensated (to a maximum of 20 credits per level) <i>Credits cannot be compensated at Level 6 to contribute to this as an exit award</i> - No more than 200 external credits at Levels 4 and 5. Students entering Level 6 with 240 external credits cannot achieve this as an exit award
Foundation Degree	240	- Awarded 240 credits - Including 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 30 must be achieved for any failed credit at each level for the failure to be compensated (up to a maximum of 20 credits per level) - No more than 120 external credits at Level 4
Diploma of Higher Education	240	- Awarded 240 credits - Including 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 30 must be achieved for any failed credit to be compensated (up to a maximum of 20 credit per level) - No more than 120 external credits at Level 4
Certificate of Higher Education	120	- Awarded 120 credits at Level 4 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 30 must be achieved for any failed credit to be compensated (up to a maximum of 20 credit per level) - No more than 60 external credits at Level 4
University Diploma	60	- Awarded 60 credits at Levels 4 and 5 - Including at least 40 credits at Level 5 <i>Credit cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</i> - No external credits can contribute to this award
University Certificate	40	- Awarded 40 credits at Level 4 <i>Credit cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</i> - No external credits can contribute to this award
Foundation Certificate – International	120	- Awarded 120 credits at Level 3 <i>Credit cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</i> - No external credits can contribute to this award
Foundation Certificate (exit award)	40	- Awarded 40 credits at Level 3 <i>Credit cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</i> - No external credits can contribute to this award

* Additional criteria for award may be specified in the [programme specification](#).

35.3 Introduction of a single classification algorithm for awards

35.3.1 From the academic year 2026-27 the University changed the degree and diploma classification calculation algorithm from a 'best of two calculations' (**Award Scheme B**) to a 'single calculation' (**Award Scheme A**). The change to **Award Scheme A** applies to all incoming students commencing Levels 3 and 4 of a degree or diploma programme from 1 August 2026. Students who commenced their degree or diploma programme before this date will normally remain on the previous algorithm (**Award Scheme B**). Exceptions are detailed below.

Treatment of Level 3 students who commenced prior to 2026-27

35.3.2 For students who commenced Level 3 prior to 1 August 2026 **Award Scheme A** will apply where they successfully progress to Level 4 in or after the academic year 2026-27.

Treatment of students who restart their programme in 2026-27 onwards

35.3.3 Students given approval to restart their programme in 2026-27 onwards (this means commence Level 3 or 4 again from the beginning) will be awarded using **Award Scheme A**.

Treatment of part time students who commenced studies prior to 2026-27

35.3.4 **Award Scheme A** would apply for part time students who will be awarded an intended award at Level 5 in or after 2027-28, and students who will be awarded an intended award at Level 6 in or after 2028-29. This aligns students with the award scheme in place for the cohort they are awarded with.

Treatment of students who suspend their studies

35.3.5 **Award Scheme A** would apply where a suspended student resumes studies into Level 3 or 4 in or after 2026-27, into Level 5 in or after 2027-28, and into Level 6 in or after 2028-29.

Summary

35.3.6 A summary of which Award Scheme applies to which type of student is provided below:

Type of student	Award Scheme
- Level 3 students progressing to Level 4 in 2026-27 onwards - Students commencing Levels 3 and 4 from 2026-27 - Direct entrants to Level 5 and 6 from 2027-28 - Programme restarts at Level 3 or 4 from 2026-27 - Part time students awarded intended awards with a cohort on Award Scheme A - Suspended students returning to a cohort on Award Scheme A	A
- Students who have progressed to Levels 5 and 6 in 2026-27 - Direct entrants to Level 5 or Level 6 in 2026-27 - Direct entrants to Level 6 in 2027-28 - Part time students awarded intended awards with a cohort on Award Scheme B - Suspended students returning to a cohort on Award Scheme B	B

35.4 Undergraduate, graduate and foundation award mark calculations

35.4.1 Classification depends on the performance of the student in modules contributing to the award. It is calculated based on a credit-weighted average of marks across an award, unless otherwise specified in the programme specification.

35.4.2 Integrated Master's and Bachelor's Degrees with Honours are classified as follows:

Classification	Overall weighted mark
Class I	70 or above
Class II Division i	60-69
Class II Division ii	50-59
Class III	40-49
Fail	0-39

- 35.4.3 The **Ordinary degree of Bachelor** is not given a classification and is awarded with a 'pass' based on credit accumulation.
- 35.4.4 Undergraduate awards other than Honours Degrees, including Foundation Degrees, Foundation Certificates, and graduate awards may be pass/fail awards or may be awarded with merit or distinction*, as follows:

Award	Overall weighted mark
Distinction	70 or above
Merit	60-69
Pass	40-59
Fail	0-39

* In exceptional cases where specified in a programme specification, the award classification may vary from the standard classifications

Classification calculation method

- 35.4.5 Level 4 (and Level 3 if applicable) marks are excluded from the classification calculation for Integrated Master's and Bachelor's programmes.
- 35.4.6 Level credit-weighted averages are calculated and rounded to 2 decimal places.
- 35.4.7 Where **Award Scheme A** applies (refer to **section 35.3** above) – intended award classifications are determined using a single award mark calculation.
- 35.4.8 Where **Award Scheme B** applies (refer to **section 35.3** above) – intended award classifications are determined using two award mark calculations made using different level-weightings except for programmes which are a single level. The student is entitled to the better of the results to determine the class to be awarded.

Programme	Award Scheme A Single calculation	Award Scheme B Calculation 1	Award Scheme B Calculation 2
Integrated Master's	Uses a double weighting of the final 2 levels (Levels 6 and 7) and a single weighting of the second level (Level 5)	Uses equal weightings of the final 3 levels (Levels 5, 6 and 7)	Uses a double weighting of the final 2 levels (Levels 6 and 7) and a single weighting of the second level (Level 5)
	<i>Direct entrants to Level 6</i> Uses a double weighting of the final level (Level 7) and a single weighting of the second level (Level 6)	<i>Direct entrants to Level 6</i> Uses equal weightings of the final 2 levels (Levels 6 and 7)	<i>Direct entrants to Level 6</i> Uses a double weighting of the final level (Levels 7) and a single weighting of the second level (Level 6)
Bachelor's	Uses a double weighting of the final level (Level 6) and a single weighting of the second level (Level 5)	Uses equal weightings of the final 2 levels (Levels 5 and 6)	Uses a double weighting of the final level (Level 6) and a single weighting of the second level (Level 5)
Foundation Degree	Uses a double weighting of the final level (Level 5) and a single weighting of the first level (Level 4)	Uses equal weightings of both levels (Levels 4 and 5)	Uses a double weighting of the final level (Level 5) and a single weighting of the first level (Level 4)
Diploma of Higher Education (intended award) *	Uses a double weighting of the final level (Level 5) and a single weighting of the first level (Level 4)	Uses equal weightings of both levels (Levels 4 and 5)	Uses a double weighting of the final level (Level 5) and a single weighting of the first level (Level 4)
Certificate of Higher Education	The award mark is calculated using the credit-weighted average for all modules	The award mark is calculated using the credit-weighted average for all modules	Not applicable
Foundation Certificate	The award mark is calculated using the credit-weighted average for all modules	The award mark is calculated using the credit-weighted average for all modules	Not applicable

Programme	Award Scheme A Single calculation	Award Scheme B Calculation 1	Award Scheme B Calculation 2
Graduate Certificate and Diploma	The award mark is calculated using the credit-weighted average for all modules	The award mark is calculated using the credit-weighted average for all modules	Not applicable

* Classifications for an exit award of a Diploma of Higher Education are calculated based on the Level 5 credit-weighted average only.

- 35.4.9 Only results obtained from York St John University will be used to calculate degree classifications (refer to [section 34](#)).
- 35.4.10 Where an Integrated Master's student is awarded a Bachelor's degree as a lower exit award marks from Level 7 modules are not included in the Bachelor's degree calculation.
- 35.4.11 Exceptions to these arrangements will have been agreed by the Quality and Standards Committee for specific programmes or individuals and normally require classification based on final-level modules only, for example, through direct entry to Level 6 study through recognition of prior learning (RPL) or to a top-up degree.

Calculating credit-weighted averages for a level

35.4.12 To calculate a credit-weighted average for a level:

- Calculate the credit-weighted average for each level separately.
- List the final module marks and the module credit values for the level (columns B and C in Example 1 below).
- Multiply each module mark by the module's credit value and enter that into column D. This gives the credit-weighted mark for each module.
 - Note that failure marks must also be included in this calculation – the failure mark is multiplied by the credit value for the module in the normal manner.
- Total the number of credits in column C **excluding the credits for pass/fail modules**.
 - This is normally 120, but in some cases, it may be 100 or 110 if there is a pass/fail module or a module reflecting external credit with no numeric mark – refer to Example 2 below.
- Total the weighted marks for all modules in the level (column D, Example 1 = 7,740).
- Then divide total weighted marks by the total number of credits.
- This gives a credit-weighted average mark **for the level**.
- In Example 1 below the credit-weighted average for the level is 64.5
- Weighting the module marks in this way gives greater emphasis to the marks for the larger modules.

Example 1: Worked example for 120 credits in Level 5

A Modules for Level 5	B Mark	C Credit	Mark x Credit	D Weighted mark
Module A	44	10	44 x 10 =	440
Module B	55	20	55 x 20 =	1,100
Module C	44	10	44 x 10 =	440
Module D	66	40	66 x 40 =	2,640
Module E	78	40	78 x 40 =	3,120
Total		120		7,740

Credit-weighted average calculation for Level 5	
Total weighted mark / Total credits	
7,740 ÷ 120	64.50

Example 2: Worked example for 120 credits in Level 5 where 10 credits are marked on a pass/fail basis

A Modules for Level 5	B Mark	C Credit	Mark x Credit	D Weighted mark
Module A	44	10	44 x 10 =	440
Module B	55	20	55 x 20 =	1,100
Module C	Pass	(10)	N/A	
Module D	66	40	66 x 40 =	2,640
Module E	78	40	78 x 40 =	3,120
Total		110		7,300

Credit-weighted average calculation for Level 5	
Total weighted mark / Total credits	
7,300 ÷ 110	66.36

Calculating a credit-weighted average for a Bachelor's Degree classification

35.4.13 To calculate a degree award mark and classification:

- Follow the instructions in the section above to calculate the **Level 5 credit-weighted average**.
- Follow the instructions in the section above to calculate a separate **Level 6 credit-weighted average**.
- For **Award Scheme A** one calculation is made to calculate the level-weighted average award mark.
- Calculation 1 (needed for Award Schemes **A** and **B**):
 - For the award calculation (**Award calculation 1**) it is necessary to double-weight Level 6 so that this contributes more to the degree classification calculation.
 - To calculate **Award calculation 1** – add the Level 5 credit-weighted average to the Level 6 credit-weighted average and then add the Level 6 credit-weighted average again to this total.
 - Then divide this total by 3.
 - This calculates an **award level-weighted average (Award calculation 1)** with a ratio of 1:2 (Level 6 is weighted twice as much as Level 5).
- For **Award Scheme B** only a second calculation now needs to be made to calculate a second level-weighted average mark.
- Calculation 2 (**Award Scheme B** only):
 - For the second award calculation (**Award calculation 2**) add the Level 5 and Level 6 credit-weighted averages together.
 - Then divide this total by 2.
 - This calculates an **award level-weighted average (Award calculation 2)** with a ratio of 1:1 (equal weighting for each level).

Example 3: Calculating a credit-weighted average for a Bachelor's Degree classification

Example values – Bachelor's Degree	CWA level mark
Level 5 credit-weighted average (L5 CWA)	55.23
Level 6 credit-weighted average (L6 CWA)	68.66

Calculation method Bachelor's Degree		Example calculation	Award mark
Calculation 1 (level ratio 1:2) (Award Schemes A and B)	(L5 CWA + L6 CWA + L6 CWA) ÷ 3	(55.23 + 68.66 + 68.66) ÷ 3 =	64.18
Calculation 2 (level ratio 1:1) (Award Scheme B only)	(L5 CWA + L6 CWA) ÷ 2	(55.23 + 68.66) ÷ 2 =	61.94
For Award Scheme A the final weighted award mark is Calculation 1			64.18
For Award Scheme B the final weighted award mark is the higher result from the 2 calculations			64.18

Example 4: Calculating a credit-weighted average for an Integrated Master's Degree classification

35.4.14 Following the method outlined in **section 35.4.12** above calculate the Level 5, Level 6 and Level 7 credit-weighted averages.

Example values – Integrated Masters	CWA level mark
Level 5 credit-weighted average (L5 CWA)	69.12
Level 6 credit-weighted average (L6 CWA)	75.01
Level 7 credit-weighted average (L7 CWA)	70.25

Calculation method Integrated Masters		Example calculation	Award mark
Calculation 1 (level ratio 1:2:2) (Award Schemes A and B)	$(L5\ CWA + L6\ CWA + L6\ CWA + L7\ CWA + L7\ CWA) \div 5$	$(69.12 + 75.01 + 75.01 + 70.25 + 70.25) \div 5 =$	71.93
Calculation 2 (level ratio 1:1:1) (Award Scheme B only)	$(L5\ CWA + L6\ CWA + L7\ CWA) \div 3$	$(69.12 + 75.01 + 70.25) \div 3 =$	71.46
For Award Scheme A the final weighted award mark in Calculation 1			71.93
For Award Scheme B the final weighted award mark is the higher result from the 2 calculations			71.93

Example 5: Calculating a credit-weighted average for a Foundation Degree classification

35.4.15 Following the method outlined in **section 35.4.12** above calculate the Level 4 and Level 5 credit-weighted averages.

Example values – Foundation Degree	CWA level mark
Level 4 credit-weighted average (L4 CWA)	59.52
Level 5 credit-weighted average (L5 CWA)	65.37

Calculation method Foundation Degree		Example calculation	Award mark
Calculation 1 (level ratio 1:2) (Award Schemes A and B)	$(L4\ CWA + L5\ CWA + L5\ CWA) \div 3$	$(59.52 + 65.37 + 65.37) \div 3 =$	63.42
Calculation 2 (level ratio 1:1) (Award Scheme B only)	$(L4\ CWA + L5\ CWA) \div 2$	$(59.52 + 65.37) \div 2 =$	62.45
For Award Scheme A the final weighted award mark in Calculation 1			63.42
For Award Scheme B the final weighted award mark is the higher result from the 2 calculations			63.42

35.5 Undergraduate classifications thresholds

- 35.5.1 Classification credit and level weighted average marks are rounded to 2 decimal places. If a student's overall credit and level weighted average falls above the **classification threshold**, the higher classification will be awarded. The thresholds for Integrated Masters' and Bachelors' Degrees with Honours are as follows:

Classification	Overall weighted mark classification threshold
Class I	69.50
Class II Division i	59.50
Class II Division ii	49.50
Class III*	39.50

- 35.5.2 The thresholds for graduate awards, Foundation Degrees, Foundation Certificates and other non-Honours undergraduate awards are as follows:

Award	Overall weighted mark classification threshold
Distinction	69.50
Merit	59.50
Pass	39.50