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## Section 39 Scheme A – Postgraduate award

### 39.1 Eligibility for award

- 39.1.1 Students are eligible for a postgraduate award when they have:
- Fulfilled specified enrolment requirements, including the payment of relevant fees.
  - Attempted the assessment for all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification.
  - Been awarded the required credits at the appropriate level.
  - Fulfilled any additional requirements as specified in the programme specification, and in particular must have passed all modules designated as non-compensatable.
  - Achieved a classification average, determined across all modules contributing to award, calculated in accordance with the classification rules.
  - For the award of a Master's Degree, the classification average must be at least the classification average for a pass.
- 39.1.2 A student enrolled on a programme that confers professional status who does not meet the requirements of the intended award may nonetheless be eligible for a non-professional award. This would be detailed in the programme specification.
- 39.1.3 Students who have not achieved sufficient credit or the necessary standard for the award may be considered for the exit award as detailed on the relevant programme specification.

## 39.2 Credit requirements for award

39.2.1 Credit requirements for taught postgraduate 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-compensatable 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 4.8](#).

| Award                                        | Credits taken | Credit requirement for award                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Professional Doctorate</b>                | 540           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed 540 credits at Level 8</li> <li>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</li> <li>No more than 90 external credits at Level 8</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Doctorate of Counselling Psychology</b>   | 540           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed 540 credits at Level 8</li> <li>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</li> <li>No more than 180 external credits at Level 8</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Master's in Fine Art (School of Arts)</b> | 240           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded 240 credits at Level 7</li> <li>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</li> <li>No more than 160 external credits at Level 7 or above</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Master's Degree</b>                       | 180           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded 180 credits at Level 7</li> <li>Where eligible, a minimum mark of 45 must be achieved for any failed credit to be compensated (up to a maximum of 30 credits)</li> <li>No more than 120 external credits at Level 7 or above</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Postgraduate Diploma</b>                  | 120           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded 120 credits at Level 7</li> <li>Where eligible, a minimum mark of 45 must be achieved for any failed credit to be compensated (up to a maximum of 30 credits)</li> <li><i>Credits can be compensated to contribute to this as an exit award</i></li> <li><i>Credits from a dissertation or research project cannot be used to contribute towards this as an exit award</i></li> <li>No more than 80 external credits at Level 7 or above</li> </ul> |
| <b>Postgraduate Certificate in Education</b> | 60            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded 60 credits at Level 7</li> <li><i>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</i></li> <li>No external credit</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Postgraduate Certificate</b>              | 60            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded 60 credits at Level 7</li> <li>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award</li> <li><i>Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this as an exit award</i></li> <li><i>Credits from a dissertation or research project cannot be used to contribute towards this as an exit award</i></li> <li>No more than 40 external credits at Level 7 or above</li> </ul>                                                                   |

## 39.3 Postgraduate award mark calculations

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

39.3.2 Postgraduate awards are classified as follows:

| Classification | Overall weighted mark |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Distinction    | 70 or above           |
| Merit          | 60-69                 |
| Pass           | 50-59                 |
| Fail           | 0-49                  |

### Classification calculation method

39.3.3 The credit-weighted average is calculated and rounded to two decimal places.

39.3.4 Only results obtained from York St John University will be used to calculate degree classifications (refer to [section 4.7](#)).

39.3.5 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 particular modules only for example, through direct entry to the programme through recognition of prior learning (RPL).

### Calculating credit-weighted averages for a Master's programme

39.3.6 To calculate a credit-weighted average for the programme:

- List the final module marks and the module credit values in the level (columns B and C in the example below)
- Multiply each module mark by the module's credit value and enter that into column D. This gives the weighted mark for each module.
- Total the number of credits in column C (this should normally be 180, but in some cases, it may be 150 if there is a pass/fail module)
  - Note that fail marks must also be included in this calculation – the fail mark is multiplied by the credit value for the module in the normal manner.
- Total the weighted marks for all modules in the level (column E, example 11,280)
- Then divide total weighted marks by the total number of credits
- This gives a credit-weighted average mark for the award
- In the example below the credit-weighted average for the award is 62.67
- Weighting the module marks in this way gives greater emphasis to the marks for the larger modules.

| A<br>Modules | B<br>Mark | C<br>Credit | Mark x Credit | D<br>Weighted mark |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Module A     | 57        | 30          | 57 x 30 =     | 1,710              |
| Module B     | 55        | 30          | 55 x 30 =     | 1,650              |
| Module C     | 63        | 30          | 63 x 30 =     | 1,890              |
| Module D     | 69        | 30          | 69 x 30 =     | 2,070              |
| Module E     | 66        | 60          | 66 x 60 =     | 3,960              |
| <b>Total</b> |           | <b>180</b>  |               | <b>11,280</b>      |

| Credit-weighted average calculation |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Total weighted mark ÷ Total Credits |       |
| 11,280 ÷ 180                        | 62.67 |

### Postgraduate Certificate in Education

39.3.7 In order to be eligible for Qualified Teacher Status, students are:

- Required to succeed in additional tests set by the professional body.
- Eligible for a distinction in a module if they achieve a mark of 70 or above in that module.
- Eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Education with distinction when they have gained distinctions in all modules and have shown strength in practical teaching, on the recommendation of the School Assessment Board.

39.3.8 Refer to [section 39.3.6](#) to view a worked example of how to calculate a credit-weighted average for a postgraduate programme.

## 39.4 Examples of applying compensation rules to postgraduate award decisions

39.4.1 **Example 1 – Postgraduate student on a Master’s programme where all non-dissertation modules are compensatable**

| Module   | First Attempt Mark | Grade          | Credits | Compensatable (X) or non-compensatable (NC) |
|----------|--------------------|----------------|---------|---------------------------------------------|
| Module A | 66                 | P              | 30      | X                                           |
| Module B | 58                 | P              | 30      | X                                           |
| Module C | 60                 | P              | 30      | X                                           |
| Module D | 47                 | R              | 30      | X                                           |
| Module E | 54                 | P              | 60      | NC                                          |
| CWA =    | 56.57              | Total passed = | 150     |                                             |

### Award decision making process

- 150 credits have been passed
- Module E (60 credit dissertation) is non-compensatable and has been passed
- Module D is compensatable and the failure mark of 47 is in the postgraduate compensatable range (i.e. between 45 and 49)
- The credit-weighted average for the programme is 56.57 which is above the minimum postgraduate mark of 50

**Award decision:** The student has met the programme award requirements and can be awarded without resitting Module D. The grade for Module D will be updated from R (Resit) to PC (Compensated Pass) i.e. 47R will become 47PC. Credit is awarded for the compensated pass giving 180 credits for the programme.

39.4.2 **Example 2 – Postgraduate student on a Master’s programme where some non-dissertation modules are non-compensatable**

| Module   | First Attempt Mark | Grade          | Credits | Compensatable (X) or non-compensatable (NC) |
|----------|--------------------|----------------|---------|---------------------------------------------|
| Module A | 66                 | P              | 30      | X                                           |
| Module B | 58                 | P              | 30      | X                                           |
| Module C | 60                 | P              | 30      | NC                                          |
| Module D | 47                 | R              | 30      | NC                                          |
| Module E | 54                 | P              | 60      | NC                                          |
| CWA =    | 56.57              | Total passed = | 150     |                                             |

**Award decision making process**

- 150 credits have been passed
- Module C and Module E are non-compensatable and have been passed
- Module D is non-compensatable and the failure mark of 47 has been failed at first attempt – therefore the resit must be taken and passed in order to meet the Master’s programme award requirements
- The credit-weighted average for the programme is 56.57 which is above the minimum postgraduate mark of 50

**Award decision:** The student must resit Module D. If the student passes the resit they will receive a capped mark of 50P for the module, and can be awarded the Master’s degree as all the programme award requirements have been met. In this example the credit-weighted award mark will change to 57.00. Credit is awarded for the resit passed giving 180 credits for the Master’s award.

If the student fails the resit they would not meet the Master’s award requirements. If eligible (refer to the ‘programme specification’) the student would be awarded a lower exit award of the Postgraduate Certificate.

## 39.5 Postgraduate classifications thresholds

39.5.1 If a student’s overall credit-weighted average falls above the **classification threshold**, the Progress and Award Examination Panel awards the higher classification. The thresholds for Masters’ Degrees are as follows:

| Classification | Overall credit-weighted mark classification threshold |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinction    | 69.50                                                 |
| Merit          | 59.50                                                 |
| Pass           | 49.50                                                 |

## 39.6 Borderlines

39.6.1 If a student's overall credit-weighted average falls within the borderline (defined as 0.5 below the threshold mark specified for achievement of the higher classification), the Progress and Award Examination Panel may award the higher classification:

- If the mark for the 60-credit dissertation or major project is within the range of a higher classification.
- If a programme does not have a 60-credit dissertation or major project, the programme specification may denote which credits are used to determine the outcome of borderline cases.

|              |          |  |              |                |              |                |              |
|--------------|----------|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|              | Below 50 |  | 50 and above |                | 60 and above |                | 70 and above |
| Postgraduate | Fail     |  | Pass         | Borderline     | Merit        | Borderline     | Distinction  |
|              |          |  |              | 49.50 to 49.99 |              | 59.00 to 59.49 |              |

### Borderline calculation example – Master's Degree student

- Calculate the credit-weighted award average mark.
- In the example below the calculation is 69.17 which is within the borderline range for a Master's Degree.
- Where the award mark falls in the borderline range, the 60-credit dissertation or major project mark is referred to.
- The 60-credit module mark must fall in the higher classification range, not in the threshold range, for the higher classification to be awarded; if the 60-credit module mark is below the classification range the lower classification is awarded.
- In the example below the 60-credit module mark is 70 which is in the Distinction range and therefore the student would be awarded a Distinction classification.

| A            | B    | C          | D             |
|--------------|------|------------|---------------|
| Modules      | Mark | Credit     | Mark x Credit |
| Module A     | 67   | 30         | 67 x 30 =     |
| Module B     | 65   | 30         | 65 x 30 =     |
| Module C     | 63   | 30         | 63 x 30 =     |
| Module D     | 80   | 30         | 80 x 30 =     |
| Module E     | 70   | 60         | 70 x 60 =     |
| <b>Total</b> |      | <b>180</b> | <b>12,450</b> |

| Credit-weighted average calculation |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Total weighted mark ÷ Total Credits |       |
| 12,450 ÷ 180                        | 69.17 |

## 39.7 Failure to meet award thresholds

- 39.7.1 A student who is not successful in the final attempt to meet the award requirements of a programme of study after all assessment opportunities have been exhausted will have their enrolment for their programme of studies terminated.
- 39.7.2 Subject to the provisions of the relevant programme specifications, students who have not met the progression requirements for an award may be deemed to be eligible for an exit award as defined within the programme specification, provided that they have met the requirements of that award. A student who has been granted an exit award in such circumstances and has exhausted all assessment opportunities as specified in the regulations is not normally permitted to progress to a further attempt at the higher award.
- 39.7.3 There is no automatic right to repeat postgraduate programmes of study. In exceptional circumstances this may be permitted. For the process to be followed refer to **section 36.2**.
- 39.7.4 Students should note that there are strict **time limits on making appeals**. Students have **20 working days from the publication of results** to submit their appeal. Details of the Appeals Procedure can be found in **section 56**. The Students' Union can also offer advice and support. Information is available on their website.
- <https://ysjsu.com/>