Code of Practice for Assessment and Academic-related Matters 2024-25

Est. 1841 | **YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY**

Section 40 Postgraduate taught award

40.1 Eligibility for award

40.1.1 The criteria for eligibility for a postgraduate taught award when are set out in the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards.

40.1.2 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.

40.1.3 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.

40.2 Credit requirements for award

40.2.1 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 3.

Award	Credits taken	Credit requirement for award
Professional Doctorate/ Doctor of Education	180	• Passed 180 credits at Level 8 (Part 1) – successful completion allows progression to the research stage (Part 2) to be considered by the Transfer Panel set up under the Research Degree Regulation. • Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award • No more than 90 external credits at Level 8
Doctorate of Counselling Psychology	540	• Passed 540 credits at Level 8 • Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award • No more than 180 external credits at Level 8
Master's in Fine Art (School of Arts)	240	• Awarded 240 credits at Level 7 • Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award • No more than 160 external credits at Level 7 or above
Master's Degree	180	• Awarded 180 credits at Level 7 • Where eligible, a minimum mark of 45 must be achieved for any failed credit to be compensated (up to a maximum of 30 credits) • No more than 120 external credits at Level 7 or above

Award	Credits taken	Credit requirement for award
Postgraduate Diploma	120	- Awarded 120 credits at Level 7 - Where eligible, a minimum mark of 45 must be achieved for any failed credit to be compensated (up to a maximum of 30 credits) *Credits can be compensated to contribute to this as an exit award* *Credits from a dissertation or research project cannot be used to contribute towards this as an exit award* - No more than 80 external credits at Level 7 or above
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	60	- Awarded 60 credits at Level 7 *Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award* - No external credit
Postgraduate Certificate	60	- Awarded 60 credits at Level 7 - Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this award *Credits cannot be compensated to contribute to this as an exit award* *Credits from a dissertation or research project cannot be used to contribute towards this as an exit award* - No more than 40 external credits at Level 7 or above

* Additional criteria for award may be specified in the programme specification.

40.3   Postgraduate award mark calculations

40.3.1   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.

40.3.2   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

40.3.3   The credit-weighted average is calculated and rounded to 2 decimal places.

40.3.4   Only results obtained from York St John University will be used to calculate degree classifications (refer to section 3).

40.3.5   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

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

a) List the final module marks and the module credit values in the level (columns B and C in the example below).

b) Multiply each module mark by the module's credit value and enter that into column D. This gives the weighted mark for each module.

c) 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 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.

d) Total the weighted marks for all modules in the level (column E, example 11,280).

e) Then divide total weighted marks by the total number of credits.

f) This gives a credit-weighted average mark for the award.

g) In the example below the credit-weighted average for the award is 62.67.

h) Weighting the module marks in this way gives greater emphasis to the marks for the larger modules.

A Modules	B Mark	C Credit	Mark x Credit	D 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
Total		180		11,280

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

40.3.7 Refer to section 40.3.6 to view a worked example of how to calculate a credit-weighted average for a postgraduate programme.

40.4 Examples of applying compensation rules to postgraduate award decisions

40.4.1 **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.

40.4.2 **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.

40.5   Postgraduate classifications thresholds

40.5.1 If a student's overall credit-weighted average falls above the **classification threshold**, the higher classification will be awarded. The thresholds for Masters' Degrees are as follows:

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