

COVID-19:

Awards and Classification in Law Taught Postgraduate Programmes (LLM, MSc and MRes) in 2019/20

This document sets out the Law School's approach to awarding and classifying taught postgraduate degrees (LLM, MSc and MRs) in the academic year 2019-20 only. The approach is in accordance with the University's principles adjusted to take account of the different structure of postgraduate Law degrees.

The Taught Component Mark

1. The Law School's no detriment policy for postgraduate taught programmes allows candidates to 'bank' pass marks (50% or more) gained in 2019/2020 for the first piece of assessment of each unit, with that mark being the unit mark. If a candidate completes the second piece of assessment, the higher of the two marks will be awarded as the unit mark. Other rules for unit assessment and the award of credit may apply in respect of units belonging to other Schools.
2. Candidates on supplementary years who have partially completed assessment for a unit in a previous year must pass the remaining assessment and otherwise fulfil any other requirements notified to them by a Board of Examiners to gain credit for the unit. The higher of the two marks will be awarded as the unit mark, unless the mark for the remaining assessment is capped, in which case the unit mark is calculated in the normal way. Any previous decision that the mark for an entire unit should be capped will be maintained. Other rules for unit assessment and the award of credit may apply in respect of units belonging to other Schools.
3. Candidates will be awarded 120cp for the taught component of their programme and progress to the dissertation if they have passed in units totalling at least 80cp and fulfilled the following further programme-specific requirements:
 - MSc: at least two out of the following three units: Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods (SOCIM0011); Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (SOCIM0013); Advanced Legal and Socio-Legal Research Methods (LAWDM0084); **AND** at least two out of the following three units: Philosophy and Research Design (SOCIM0012); Social and Legal Theory (LAWDM0083); Optional unit.
 - MSc candidates on the ESRC 1+3 programme must achieve a pass in the following: Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods (SOCIM0011); Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (SOCIM0013); and Philosophy and Research Design (SOCIM0012).
 - MRes: at least two of the following three units: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods in the Social Sciences (SPS) (SPOLM0014); Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods in the Social Sciences (SPS) (SPOLM0015); and Advanced Interdisciplinary Research Design (AIRD) (GEOGM0015);
 - MRes candidates on the ESRC 1+3 programme must achieve a pass in all three units listed in the previous bullet point.
4. Candidates on supplementary years will be awarded 120cp for the taught component of their programme and progress to the dissertation if they (a) satisfy the conditions set out in

paragraph 3; and (b) show evidence of sufficient engagement with their studies this year, for example by completing summative assessment within the taught component of the programme in the current academic year.

5. The taught component mark for each of the postgraduate taught programmes is calculated on the basis of the best three or four unit marks, depending on the programme as detailed below. In all cases, the taught component mark is calculated by averaging the best unit marks, weighted by their credit point value. The result of the calculation should then be rounded to the nearest integer.
 - The taught component mark of all LLM programmes, including the LLM in International Law and International Relations, is calculated on the basis of the best three unit marks.
 - The taught component mark of the MSc in Socio-Legal Studies and the MRes Sustainable Futures programme is calculated on the basis of the best four unit marks.
6. Candidates who have completed units totalling at least 60cp before 27 March 2020 have a safety net mark based on the average of the marks awarded in those units weighted according to credit point value. The safety net mark includes units failed before 27 March 2020 and subject to a capped resit. If the resit is subsequently passed, the unit mark is included as a bare pass mark; if not, the highest (fail) mark gained for that unit is included.
7. Boards of Examiners will apply the University's normal regulations on academic misconduct before they calculate the safety net mark for each student.

The Dissertation

8. Students must achieve the pass mark for the dissertation to be awarded the associated credit; by reaching a satisfactory standard, students thereby acquire the necessary credit points to complete the programme of study.
9. Where a student has failed the dissertation the relevant Board of Examiners will permit the student to re-submit the dissertation, or equivalent. The recorded mark for a re-submitted dissertation will be uncapped, unless a capped resubmission is required under the regulations on academic misconduct. Where an exam board permitted a student to re-submit their dissertation prior to the 2019/20 academic year, the mark for the re-submitted dissertation will remain capped, unless the prior decision was to allow an uncapped resubmission.
10. Re-submission of the dissertation must normally be made within 3 months of the student being notified by the faculty Board of Examiners of its decision (and within 6 months for part-time students and 12 months for part-time variable students).
11. The Law School, with oversight from the faculty, will establish and communicate the means by which its students should electronically submit their dissertation by the below deadline.
12. The University deadline for submission of the dissertation is Monday 14th September 2020. In the Law School, the dissertation must be submitted by mid-day on the deadline date.

Classification

13. The general impact of COVID-19 has been accounted for within the amended rules for the calculation of unit marks and the taught component mark. Boards will continue to have regard for the additional impact of any individual extenuating circumstances in the normal way. The exam board will also ensure that any penalties resulting from the application of the University's regulations on academic misconduct are appropriately reflected in the classification.

14. If the student has a safety net mark in relation to the taught component of the programme which is higher than the taught component mark as calculated according to paragraph 5 above, boards of examiners will use the safety net mark as the basis for classification.
15. There is no compensation between the taught component and the dissertation (i.e. a mark in the taught component cannot compensate for a lower mark in the dissertation, and vice versa).
16. For all postgraduate taught programmes covered by these regulations, the classification of the award in relation to the overall taught component mark and the dissertation mark is as follows:
 - Award with Distinction: at least 65 out of 100 for the taught component overall and, for Masters awards, at least 70 out of 100 for the dissertation.
 - Award with Merit: at least 60 out of 100 for the taught component overall and, for Masters awards, at least 60 out of 100 for the dissertation.
 - Pass: at least 50 out of 100 for the taught component overall and, for Masters awards, at least 50 out of 100 for the dissertation.
 - Fail: 49 or below out of 100 for the taught component overall or, where relevant, 49 or below out of 100 for the dissertation.

*Approved by the Vice-Chancellor
11 June 2020*