



COVID-19

Awards and Classification in the MA in Law in 2019/20

This document sets out the Law School's approach to awarding and classifying the MA in Law in the academic year 2019-20 only. The approach is in accordance with the University's principles adjusted to take account of the professional status of this degree.

Awards and Unit Marks

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.
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 will be 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 on the first year of the programme will be awarded 120cp and progress to the second year if they have passed at least three out of the four units (90cp).¹ A year mark will be calculated by averaging the best three unit marks. Candidates on supplementary first years are also required to show evidence of sufficient engagement with their studies this year, for example by completing some or all of their outstanding summative assessment.
4. Candidates on the second year of the programme will be awarded 120cp and the degree if they have passed at least three out of the four units (90cp).² A year mark will be calculated by averaging the best three unit marks.
5. All candidates have a 'safety net mark' calculated by averaging the marks gained in all units completed before 2019/2020.
6. Boards of Examiners will apply the University's normal regulations on academic misconduct before they calculate the safety net mark for each student.

Deferral and Failure

7. Any student who does not meet the standard set out in paragraph 3 or 4 will be permitted to undertake assessment in August/September in any units they have missed. Such assessment will be treated as a first attempt and marks uncapped. In the case of units which have been failed, assessment in August/September will be treated as a first attempt if extenuating circumstances are deemed to apply and a second attempt otherwise. However, in all cases, marks gained in August/September will be uncapped.

¹ A student who wishes to gain a professionally qualifying law degree must pass all four units.

² A student who wishes to gain a professionally qualifying law degree must pass the three compulsory units.

8. If a student is unable to complete their programme at the September exam board but is otherwise deemed by the exam board to be on track to fulfil the programme learning outcomes, the student may be permitted to take any outstanding assessment in the next academic year as part of a supplementary year.
9. Otherwise, and exceptionally, a Board of Examiners may permit a student to repeat an entire year of study without penalty.
10. A student may be permitted three attempts to meet the standard to complete their programme.

Marks and Classification

11. In relation to each year of study completed in 2019/2020, a year mark will be calculated by averaging the best three unit marks.
12. The overall programme mark is first calculated by giving equal weighting to the first year average mark and the final year 'year mark'. If this mark is lower than the safety net mark, the Board will take the latter as the overall programme mark for the purposes of classification.
13. The classification of the MA in Law degree is as follows:

Distinction: the overall programme mark is 70 or more out of 100, or the overall programme mark is 65 or more out of 100, with a mark of 70 or more in at least half of the credit points contributing to the overall programme mark;

Merit: the overall mark is 60 or more out of 100, with a mark of 60 or more out of 100 in at least half of the credit points contributing to the overall programme mark;

Pass: the overall programme mark is 50 or more out of 100;

Fail: the overall programme mark is 49 or less out of 100.

14. For the purposes of paragraph 13 above, each of the best three units included in the final year 'year mark' will notionally be allocated 40 credit points.
15. Where an Exam Board makes an award to a student on the basis of an incomplete set of unit marks, the student will have the right to request an opportunity to take any assessment missed during the summer assessment period of 2020. Such new assessments will be in the same form as in summer 2020. Students will not need to appeal the decision of the Exam Board in order to access this right. Following such new assessments, the Board will review the new evidence and may award a higher classification but will not award a classification lower than that previously awarded.
16. Where an award is made in September to a student on the basis of a set of unit marks which does not meet the standards required for the academic stage of professional qualification, the student has the right to request a further opportunity to take any assessment to fulfil those standards as part of a supplementary year. Following such new assessments, the Board will review all the marks and may award a higher classification but will not award a classification lower than that previously awarded. The marks for such assessment will be uncapped, whether or not an attempt has already been made to pass the unit.

Approved by the Vice-Chancellor

11 June 2020