

SECTION 17: AWARDS: BACHELORS

(excluding Ordinary Degrees. For Ordinary Degrees, see section 23)

For students who started their programme of study in the 2024/25 academic year onwards.

Please see Section 16 for guidance which applies to all awards, including provisions for an Aegrotat award (in cases where a student is prevented by death, illness or other incapacity from completing, in whole or in part, the assessment for a qualification), and procedures in the case of tuition fee debt. For information about exceptional circumstances procedures, please refer to section 8.

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17.1 CLASSIFICATIONS

Bachelor's degrees with Honours may be awarded with the following classifications:

First Class

Second Class Division 1

Second Class Division 2

Third Class

A Pass degree may be awarded for Bachelor's degrees where the student has followed an Honours programme.

Candidates who have failed to fulfil the requirements for a Pass degree shall be stated to have Failed, but may be eligible for an alternative qualification. Ordinary Degrees shall normally not be granted to any candidate who after sitting the Part 3 Examination for an Honours Degree does not meet the requirements for that Honours Degree.

An Aegrotat degree may be awarded to a candidate who is prevented by reason of illness or other incapacity from completing the assessment for a degree, in accordance with Ordinance C4(III). An Aegrotat degree is not classified. See section 16.6 for further information on an Aegrotat.

17.2 WEIGHTING

The awarding of three-year Bachelor's degrees will be based on the marks of Part 2 and Part 3 weighted 1:2. The awarding of four-year Bachelor's degrees (except for programmes incorporating a placement year or a year abroad) will normally be based on the marks for Years 2, 3 and 4, weighted 1:1:4.

In the case of four-year Bachelor's degree programmes with an industrial placement year, the placement year is normally pass/fail, but exceptionally may contribute to the degree classification.

Variants on these weightings are highly exceptional, and are normally only permitted for professional accreditation or exceptionally pressing academic reasons. Variants are subject to approval by the University Board for Teaching, Learning and Student Experience and Senate. Variants are specified in the Programme Specification, and are listed in Annex 1.

17.3 DEFINITIONS FOR AWARDING OF BACHELOR'S (EXCLUDING ORDINARY) DEGREES

The following definitions apply in the awarding method for Bachelor's (excluding Ordinary) degrees:

Average Mark of a Part

In calculating the average mark for a Part, modules are weighted by their number of credits.

The average mark of a Part should be calculated to one decimal place, with the second decimal place being rounded up if it is 5 or greater and rounded down if it is less than 5.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, the calculation of the average shall exclude such modules.

Overall Weighted Average

The overall weighted average for a three-year Bachelor's degree is calculated as follows:

$(1/3 \times \text{average Part 2 mark}) + (2/3 \times \text{average Part 3 mark}) = \text{overall weighted average}$

The overall weighted average for a four-year Bachelor's degree without placement or a year abroad is calculated as follows:

$(1/3 \times (\text{average Year 2 mark} + \text{average Year 3 mark})) + (2/3 \times \text{average Year 4 mark}) = \text{overall weighted average}$

Programmes which Senate has agreed be assessed in ways different from this are listed in Annex 1.

The overall weighted average should be calculated to one decimal place, with the second decimal place being rounded up if it is 5 or greater and rounded down if it is less than 5. The overall weighted average should be calculated from the full set of marks (with the relevant weightings by credit and Part) and not from a combination of the rounded averages of Parts.

Final Year Honours Credit Requirement (Bachelor)

The requirement that candidates for a Bachelor's degree achieve at least 80 credits in their Final Part with a mark of at least 40 is a condition for the award of a Bachelor's degree with classified Honours.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, a module which has a result of Pass shall contribute to the Final Year Honours Credit Requirement.

Final Year Below Honours Standard (BHS) Credit Requirement

The requirement that candidates for a Bachelor's degree achieve at least 60 credits in their Final Part with a mark of at least 40 is a condition for the result of Pass.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, a module which has a result of Pass shall contribute to the Final Year BHS Credit Requirement.

Dominant Quality

The class which best represents the profile; that is, the highest class in or above which at least half of the marks fall weighted according to the number of credits and to the Part in the same proportion as in the weighted average mark.

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Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, the calculation of dominant quality shall exclude such modules.

Exit Velocity

The comparison of the marks in the final Part in relation to earlier marks to determine whether the candidate's performance is improving or declining in the final Part of the programme. The Exit Velocity of a candidate is the class in which the candidate's average performance in the final Part of the programme lies.

Where it has been agreed that a programme includes a module assessable on a PASS/FAIL basis, the calculation of exit velocity shall exclude such modules.

Absolute Significant Weakness

Failure to achieve a specified minimum mark in a designated module (a 'hurdle') which leads automatically to failure of the degree or to restriction to no more than a Pass degree, where available. (Provisions relating to such 'hurdles' must be stated fully in the Programme Specification and the Programme Handbook; the information provided must specify whether failure in a 'hurdle' entails failure in the degree or restriction to a Pass degree. It is intended that the number of such 'hurdles' should be kept to a minimum.)

Borderlines

In respect of the overall weighted average, all programmes use the same ranges for determining candidates within a borderline, as follows:

Bachelor	Boundary	Borderline BELOW
	1st/2i	68.0 – 69.9
	2i/2ii	58.0 – 59.9
	2ii/3rd	48.0 – 49.9
	3rd/Below Honours Standard	38.0 – 39.9

17.4 AWARDING METHOD FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES (EXCLUDING ORDINARY): SUMMARY

The Senate has approved the following awarding method for Bachelor's degrees, which requires that the same criteria be applied in the same order for all such programmes. Variations on this method as agreed for specified programmes are given in Annex 1 and in the relevant Programme Specification..

Bachelor's degree with Honours

The Final Year Honours Credit Requirement (Bachelor) should be applied. If the Final Year Honours Credit Requirement (Bachelor) has been fulfilled (i.e. the candidate has achieved 80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40), consideration can be given to the classification of the degree.

The Overall Weighted Average should then be used to place the candidate in a class.

For those in the borderline below a class:

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If the Dominant Quality or the Exit Velocity is in (or higher than) the class above the borderline, the candidate should normally be raised to the class above the borderline.

If the Dominant Quality and Exit Velocity are in (or lower than) the class of the overall weighted average, the candidate should normally be left in that class.

Supplementary conventions relating to specified programmes under the provisions of Section 17.5(d) are applied (including any provisions relating to Absolute Significant Weakness).

Bachelor's degrees (excluding Ordinary): Pass

If the candidate for a Bachelor's degree has not fulfilled the criteria for an Honours classification, consideration should be given to whether the candidate has fulfilled the criteria for a Pass.

The Final Year BHS Credit Requirement should be applied. If that requirement has been fulfilled (i.e. the candidate has achieved 60 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40), the further criteria for a Pass should be applied:

If the overall weighted average is 35 or more, the candidate qualifies for a Pass.

Supplementary conventions relating to specified programmes under the provisions of Section 17.5(d) are applied (including any provisions relating to Absolute Significant Weakness).

17.5 AWARDING METHOD FOR BACHELOR'S (EXCLUDING ORDINARY): DETAILED PROCEDURE

- a) In order to be eligible for a three-year Bachelor's degree, a candidate must have completed 360 credits (of which not less than 100 shall normally be at level 6 or above) and to have fulfilled the conditions given below.

For four-year Bachelor's degrees candidates must have completed 480 credits (of which not less than 100 shall normally be at level 6 or above) and such additional requirements as Senate shall have approved in the programme specification.

- b) The classification of a three-year Bachelor's degree shall be based on the marks for Part 2 and Part 3, weighted in a ratio of 1:2. The classification of four-year Bachelor's degrees without placement or a year abroad shall be based on marks weighted in accordance with the conventions specified in Section 17.2 above.

c) Bachelor's degrees (excluding Ordinary)**(i) Awards**

The following conditions should be satisfied for the award of a Bachelor's degree (excluding Ordinary):

Where the conditions for a higher class have been met, the higher class should be awarded.

First Class

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40

and

[An overall weighted average of at least 70

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or

An overall weighted average of at least 68, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark in the range 70-100

or

An overall weighted average of at least 68, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 is 70 or more]

Second Class Division 1

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40

and

[An overall weighted average within the range 60.0-69.9

or

An overall weighted average of at least 58, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 60 or more

or

An overall weighted average of at least 58, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 is 60 or more]

Second Class Division 2

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40

and

[An overall weighted average within the range 50.0-59.9

or

An overall weighted average of at least 48, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 50 or more

or

An overall weighted average of at least 48, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 is 50 or more]

Third Class

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40

and

[An overall weighted average within the range 40.0-49.9

or

An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 40 or more

or

An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 is 40 or more]

Pass

60 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40

and

An overall weighted average within the range 35.0-39.9

(ii) Fail

Candidates who do not fulfil these criteria and any supplementary conventions shall be stated to have Failed. Candidates who have failed may be eligible for a lesser award.

d) Supplementary conventions relating to specified programmes

Boards of Studies and Student Experience may recommend to the University Programmes Board in respect of specified programmes further provisions relating to designated modules, including provisions in respect of Absolute Significant Weakness and other requirements relating to the achievement of minimum marks. Such provisions must be stated in the Programme Specification.

Supplementary conventions are exceptional and will normally be permitted only where required by a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB). Care should be taken to ensure that such rules are required by the PSRB and do not simply reflect one interpretation (among other possible interpretations) of PSRB requirements.

e) Examiners' Discretion

Examiners may recommend a higher classification than the guidelines imply, where they deem this to be appropriate. The grounds for such a recommendation must be recorded in the Minutes, and, in order to ensure transparency and support consistency, all such recommendations must be approved by the relevant Teaching and Learning Dean before being reported to the relevant University Awarding Board. A statement clarifying the conditions under which Examiners might properly exercise discretion to agree a classification at variance with the algorithm contained in the Assessment Handbook is included in Section 16.4.

Document control

Version	Section	Keeper	Reviewed	Approving authority	Approval date	Start date	Next review
1.0	CQSD	KHSS	3 years	UBTLSE			
1.1	CQSD	KHSS	3 years	UBTLSE	03/11/21	For cohort entering in September 2022 and thereafter	01/09/2024
1.2	CQSD	KHSS	3 years	UBTLSE	06/06/23	25/09/2023	01/09/2024

PROGRAMMES FOR WHICH EXCEPTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY SENATE

Programmes in the School of Modern Languages

In order to be eligible for a four-year Bachelor's degree in the School of Modern Languages which incorporate a language year abroad a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which not less than 180 credits shall normally be at level 6 or above, except in the case where a candidate is deemed to have achieved a Pass).

In the case of programmes in the School of Modern Languages incorporating a language year abroad, the overall weighted average is calculated as follows:

$(1/6 \times \text{average Year 2 mark}) + (1/6 \times \text{average Year Abroad mark}) + (4/6 \times \text{average Year 4 mark}) = \text{overall weighted average}$

Programmes in Art

In order to be eligible for a four-year BA in Art, a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which 140 must be at level 6). Certain modules in Years 2-4 serve a purely formative function. The overall weighted average for the single Honours four-year Art programme is based upon a weighting of 1:2:7 between the Years 2, 3 and 4; this weighting also informs the overall weighted average for joint programmes involving Art.

Programme in Speech and Language Therapy

In order to be eligible for a four-year BSc in Speech and Language Therapy, a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which 150 must be at level 6).

The overall weighted average for the BSc in Speech and Language Therapy is calculated as follows:

$(0.2 \times \text{average Year 2 mark}) + (0.3 \times \text{average Year 3 mark}) + (0.5 \times \text{average Year 4 mark}) = \text{overall weighted average}$

Programmes in Environmental Sciences with placement year

In order to be eligible for a four-year BSc in an Environmental Sciences programme with a placement year, a candidate must have completed 480 credits (of which 100 must be at level 6).

In respect of cohorts admitted in October 2005 and thereafter, the overall weighted average for four-year BSc programmes in Environmental Sciences is calculated as follows:

$(0.297 \times \text{average Year 2 mark}) + (0.033 \times \text{placement mark}) + (0.67 \times \text{average Year 4 mark}) = \text{overall weighted average}$

Programme in BA(Ed)

Special arrangements apply to the classification of the BA(Ed) programme due to the complex professional requirements of the programme.

Programme in Architecture

Given the exceptional stringency of the classification rules for the BSc (Honours) Architecture (which require students to achieve a mark of 40% or more in specified modules amounting to 100 credits in the final year), students who have failed one or more of the specified modules are subject to a variation on the standard regulations relating to the eligibility for, and consequences of, reassessment. This provision means that, in specified circumstances, the student will be permitted to be reassessed and, if successful in the reassessment, will retain eligibility for a classified Honours degree.

In accordance with the classification rules for the BSc (Honours) Architecture, students are required *inter alia* to achieve a mark of 40% in non-elective modules in Part 3, which amount to 100 credits, in order to qualify for the BSc (Honours) Architecture.

In the event that a student fails to achieve 40% in one or more non-elective final year modules, they will be eligible to be reassessed on one occasion provided that they have fulfilled at the first attempt the baseline criteria for a classified Honours degree stipulated in the University's standard Awarding Method for three-year Bachelors' degrees. A student in this position will be stated to have Failed (Eligible for reassessment for Honours). The baseline criteria for a classified Honours degree under the University's standard Awarding Method are:

80 credits in the Final Part with marks of at least 40

and

[An overall weighted average within the range 40.0-49.9

or

An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that half or more of the weighted credits have a mark of 40 or more

or

An overall weighted average of at least 38, provided that the average for modules taken in Part 3 is 40 or more]

(Assessment Handbook, section 17.5(c)(i)—criteria for Third Class

http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/qualitysupport/17_Awards_Bachelors_degrees_with_annex.pdf)

A student who is reassessed under this provision will not be limited to a Pass degree. A student who, having been reassessed under this provision, achieves a mark of 40% or more in the reassessed module(s) will qualify for the BSc (Honours) Architecture, but the classification will be calculated on the basis of marks at the first attempt.

A student who is eligible to be re-assessed under this provision, but chooses not to be reassessed, will be eligible to transfer to the BSc in [Architectural Studies] and will qualify for classified Honours. The BSc (Honours) [Architectural Studies] is not an accredited degree and does not lead to qualification as an architect.

It should be noted that these exceptional provisions in respect of re-assessment do not apply where a student has not met the criteria for a classified Honours degree stipulated in the University's standard

Awarding Method for three-year Bachelors' degrees. Where a student has not met these criteria, the standard University regulations relating to Pass and Fail apply.