

Changes to the undergraduate honours degree algorithm

The Office for Students (OfS) has expressed concern that some degree classification algorithms may artificially increase the proportion of higher degree classifications by excluding lower marks from the calculation. The OfS considers the practice of discounting credits with the lowest marks to be potentially inflationary because it can result in awards that do not fully reflect a student's overall achievement.

At Leeds Beckett University, this concern relates to the current 'best 100' rule, which excludes a proportion of lower-scoring credits from the classification calculation.

In light of this, the algorithm used to classify our undergraduate honours degrees, including integrated Masters, will change so that all credit at level 5 and level 6 will contribute to the calculation of the degree classification. The weighting between level 5 and level 6 remains unchanged.

To allow for clear communication of the change to students and colleagues, and to provide students with sufficient notice of the change and protect legitimate expectations formed under the existing arrangements, the change will be introduced incrementally.

Students who had commenced Level 5 study before the start of academic year 2026/27 will continue to be classified under the existing algorithm. Students who had not yet commenced Level 5 study will be classified under the revised algorithm. For part time students, the table assumes the standard six-year part-time route.

Cohort in 2026/27	Expected year of classification	Algorithm to be used
Level 6 full time	2026/27	Existing algorithm
Level 6 part time (year 6 of course)	2026/27	Existing algorithm
Level 6 part time (year 5 of course)	2027/28	Existing algorithm
Study abroad/placement year between levels 5 and 6	2027/28	Existing algorithm
Level 5 full time	2027/28	Existing algorithm
Level 5 full time who will undertake a placement or study abroad year in 2027/8	2028/29	Existing algorithm
Level 5 part time (year 4 of course)	2028/29	Existing algorithm
Level 5 part time (year 3 of course)	2029/30	Existing algorithm
Level 4 full time	2028/29	New algorithm
Level 4 part time (year 2 of course)	2030/31	New algorithm
Level 4 part time (year 1 of course)	2031/32	New algorithm

During 2028/29 and 2029/30, some cohorts will be classified using the existing algorithm and others using the revised algorithm in accordance with the transitional arrangements above.

Regulations which will apply to those classified under the new algorithm

The following revised regulations will apply only to students whose awards are determined under the new algorithm.

Regulation	Revised wording
3.7 Classification	Honours Degree Classification In determining the class of Bachelor Degree with Honours to be recommended, a Progression and Award Board should take account of the weighted average of all credits at levels 5 (25%) and 6 (75%) in relation to the marking conventions above. Integrated Masters Classification (excluding Integrated Master of Architecture) In determining the class of Integrated Masters to be recommended, a Progression and Award Board should take account of the weighted average of all credits at levels 5 (10%), 6 (20%) and 7 (70%) in relation to the marking conventions above.
4.3.4 Bachelor Degree with Honours: Determination of Classification	Bachelor Degrees with Honours are available with the following classifications: • First Class: overall outcome of 70%+ • Upper Second Class: overall outcome of 60% to 69% • Lower Second Class: overall outcome of 50% to 59% • Third Class: overall outcome of 40% to 49% c) In determining the class of Bachelor Degree with Honours to be recommended, a Progression and Award Board will consider performance at both Level 5 and Level 6. d) The following formula will be used: The weighted average across all modules at Level 5 at 25% weighting added to the weighted average across all modules at Level 6 at 75% weighting.
4.3.5 Postgraduate Profiles of Achievement	i. Integrated Masters Awards: Determination of Classification Integrated Masters courses are available with the following classifications: • First Class: overall outcome of 70%+ • Upper Second Class: overall outcome of 60% to 69% • Lower Second Class: overall outcome of 50% to 59% • Unclassified Degree: overall outcome of 40% to 49% In determining the class of Integrated Masters with Honours to be recommended, a Progression and Award Board will consider performance at Levels 5, 6 and 7. The following formula will be used: The weighted average across all credits at Level 5 at 10% weighting added to the weighted average across all credits at Level 6 at 20% weighting added to the weighted average across all credits at Level 7 at 70% weighting.