

Honours Degree Classification Upgrade Rule

The upgrade rule was implemented at Progression and Award Boards from **Summer 2018** for undergraduate honours degrees. Borderline honours degree performances are **upgraded** to the next classification boundary if **both** the criteria listed below are met. The rule is **automatically applied** to the exam board report (upgrade indicated by green arrow next to final average grade) for all honours degree students¹ - no manual calculation should be attempted.

Integrated Masters: the upgrade rule will also apply to Integrated Masters students who started Level 4 from 2022/23. Those who started an Integrated Masters prior to this point will have the non-honours final average calculation and classification approach applied (see the [Progression and Award Factsheet](#)). If students on these courses are unsure which method is applicable to them they should contact their Course Director/Course Administrator in the first instance.

Honours Classification Upgrade Rule Criteria

- **Part 1:** the final average mark for an honours degree or an Integrated Masters award ends in an 8 or 9*, for example 69. This is after the approach to calculating the final average for the course has been applied (for more details on this approach visit the [Progression and Award Factsheet](#)).
- **Part 2:** 50% or more of the final level credits (e.g. Level 6 for honours degrees or Level 7 for Integrated Masters) are also in the higher classification banding (60 credits or more).
- If both parts 1 and 2 are met, the final average mark is raised to the higher classification banding and this is awarded to the student.

*The figure used is the final overall average mark before it is rounded for display in exam board reports. Note: the upgrade rule only applies to students who are eligible for classification.

Examples

Example	Part 1 Criteria: Final Average Mark (after 'Best 100' has been applied)	Part 2 Criteria: Final Level Modules in the Higher Classification Band	Outcome
Student A	68 (2:1)	60 credits in the First classification band	Student is eligible to be upgraded to a First Class Honours as both criteria have been met
Student B	59 (2:2)	40 credits in the 2:1 classification band	Student is <u>not eligible</u> to be upgraded to a 2:1 because part 2 of the criteria has not been met (student has less than 50% of the final level credits in the 2:1 band)
Student C	67 (2:1)	60 credits in the First classification band	Student is <u>not eligible</u> to be upgraded to a First Class Honours because part 1 of the criteria has not been met (final average does not end in 8 or 9)

Contacts and Further Information

[Academic Regulations](#)

Students with queries should contact their Course Director or Course Administrator

Staff with queries should contact [Quality Assurance Services](#)

¹ The upgrade rule is applied to students who studied under the standard regulations and those who studied the Covid-19 regulations for classification.