

# UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

## ACADEMIC REGULATIONS, 2023-24

**IMPORTANT:** These regulations set out the University's requirements for academic progression and awards. Students subject to immigration control should be aware that there may be additional restrictions on their progression. Information about current Student Visa requirements is available from the International Student Advice team.

These regulations apply only to registered students of the University and its academic partners.

**These are the standard University academic regulations. Students should also refer to their programme documentation, where any non-standard regulations will be explained.**

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Section E:

## Section E: Awards

### **AWD1 Awards (including calculation of degree classification for taught programmes)**

This regulation applies to all students at University of Plymouth sites of delivery, and in all UK and international partner institutions, unless non-standard regulations have been formally approved.

Please contact the Exams and Awards Office for the specifications for conferring honorary awards.

#### **1. Higher National Certificate (HNC)**

**A Higher National Certificate can be awarded to:**

**A student who is registered by the University with Edexcel for the award of the HNC and has successfully completed a minimum of 120 credits at Level 4 or above, including all modules designated as essential for the award; or.**

**A student who has successfully completed a minimum of 120 credits at Level 4 or above in an HND programme on which s/he is not continuing, provided they have completed the modules which are designated as essential for the award of the HNC.**

**If the student's aggregate mark across all modules is 70% or above, the HNC will be awarded with Distinction.**

**If the student's aggregate mark across all modules is between 60% and 69%, the HNC will be awarded with Merit.**

**The student's aggregate percentage mark will be calculated using the weightings:**

**Level 4 will be weighted 1**

#### **2. Higher National Diploma (HND)**

**A Higher National Diploma can be awarded to a student who is registered by the University with Edexcel for the award of the HND and has successfully completed 240 credits, including at least 120 credits at Level 5.**

**If the student's aggregate mark across all modules is 70% or above, the HND**



**The degree is not classified but a Degree with Commendation will be awarded to a student who achieves an aggregate percentage mark of 60% or above and a Degree with Distinction will be awarded to a student who achieves an aggregate percentage mark of 70% or above.**

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| <p><b>First Class Honours 70% or above</b><br/> <b>Second Class Honours, Upper Division 60%-69%</b><br/> <b>Second Class Honours, Lower Division 50%-59%</b><br/> <b>Third Class Honours 40%-49%</b></p> |
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If the aggregate percentage achieved by a candidate is not more than 3.0 percentage points below a classification band, the Board must invoke the following alternative classification methods:

**Level 6 aggregate:** The Award Assessment Board will award an Honours Degree with the higher classification to a student whose aggregate percentage is not more than 3.0 percentage points below the next classification band provided that the student's aggregate percentage at Level 6 is in the higher classification band.

**Module profile:** The Award Assessment Board will award an Honours Degree with the higher classification to a student whose aggregate percentage is not more than 3.0 percentage points below the next classification band, provided that more than half of the student's Level 5 and 6 credits are in the higher classification band. Each Level 6 credit is double weighted (compared with a Level 5 credit) for this purpose.

Where the module profile is based on Level 6 performance only, a student whose aggregate percentage is not more than 3.0 percentage points below the next classification band will be required to have achieved more than half of the Level 6 credits in the higher classification band to be awarded an Honours Degree with the higher classification.

The classification of an intercalated degree will be calculated using the Level 6 aggregate only.

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~~Where a student has been awarded a University of Plymouth HND or~~  
**Foundation degree and progresses to level 6 of a University of Plymouth award, the degree calculation will follow the same procedure as for internal University of Plymouth students.**

**Following progression to Level 5 of a University of Plymouth award, the award classification for students will be calculated using the ratio 1 : 3 : 6. (1 from the HND /Foundation Degree, 3 : 6 from the third and fourth years).**

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**Following progression to Level 6 of a University of Plymouth award, the award classification for students will be calculated using the ratio 1 : 3 : 6 (1 : 3 from Foundation Degree levels 4 and 5, 6 from level 6 final stage) The aggregate mark from level 4 of the Foundation Degree will be calculated using the highest module marks totalling 80 credits.**

**The Level 4 aggregate mark will contribute to the aggregate for the calculation of the classification of the degree only. It will not contribute to the module profile.**

This applies to progression from all UoP HND / Foundation degrees, whether or not the progression is to an articulated route.

- 9. Where a student has gained credits from another approved institution of higher education, in the UK or overseas, or through other APEL routes, the degree calculation will follow the agreement made at the time at which those credits were accepted.**

This agreement will be either to award actual marks from such credits, or to assign credit without marks.

Where marks are permitted on entry, they will be used to calculate the final aggregate percentage in the proportions shown in these regulations.

Where marks are not permitted on entry, then the proportion of the degree calculation assigned to the level of study for which marks are absent will be assigned to the next highest level of study.

**10. Integrated Master's degree**

**An Integrated Master's Degree will be awarded to a student who has passed 480 credits, including at least 120 at Level 7, a further 120 at Level 6 or above, and a further 240 at Level 4, 5 or above.**

**Classification will be based initially on the aggregate percentage mark.**

**The aggregate percentage mark will be calculated using the weightings:**

**Levels 4 : 5 : 6 : 7 will be weighted 1 : 2 : 3 : 4 :**

**The Level 4 and 5 aggregate marks will contribute to the aggregate for the calculation of the classification of the degree only. They will not contribute to the module profile.**

**If a student completes an exchange year, the weighting for Level 5 will be carried forward to Level 7. In this instance, the weighting will be 1:0:3:6.**

**The Level 4 aggregate mark is calculated using the highest module marks totalling 80 credits. Where modules are arranged in such a way that the 80 credits of 'highest module marks' cannot be identified unequivocally, the level 4 aggregate calculation should take into account as close to 80 credits as possible, depending on the module structure.**

**If the student's aggregate percentage mark falls within the boundaries of the classification defined below, they are entitled to that award**

**First Class Honours 70% or above**

**Second Class Honours, Upper Division 60%-69%**

**Second Class Honours, Lower Division 50%-59%**

**Third Class Honours 40%-49%**

If the aggregate percentage achieved by a candidate is not more than 3.0 percentage points below a classification band, the Board must invoke the following alternative classification methods:

**Level 7 aggregate:** The Award Assessment Board will award an integrated masters degree with honours with the higher classification to a student whose aggregate percentage is not more than 3.0 percentage points below the next classification band providing that the student's aggregate percentage at Level 7 is in the higher classification band.

**Module profile:** The Award Assessment Board will award an integrated masters degree with honours to a student whose aggregate percentage is not more than 3.0 percentage points below the next classification band, providing that more than half of the student's Level 6 and Level 7 credits are in the higher classification band.

**11. Certificate of Advanced Professional Studies in Education**

**A Certificate of Advanced Professional Studies in Education will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate Level 7 modules, worth at least 30 credits.**

**12. Certificate in Management Studies**

**A Certificate in Management Studies will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate Level 7 modules, worth 60 credits.**





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| Certificate in Education (Incorporating the Diploma in Education and Training) | 120 credits, 30 credits at Level 4 and 90 credits at Level 5 |
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17. **Masters Degree (MA, MBA, MBM, MEd, LLM, MSc)**

A Masters degree will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate modules worth a minimum of 180 credits, all of which must be at Level 7, and must include the dissertation/major project module.

A student will be awarded a Masters degree with Merit provided that they have achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 60% or above across all modules (including the dissertation/major project), and provided that the mark for the dissertation/major project is not less than 50%.

A student will be awarded a Masters degree with Distinction provided that they have achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 70% or above across all modules (including the dissertation/major project), and provided that the mark for the dissertation/major project module is not less than 60%.

18. **Master of Research Degree (MRes)**

A Master of Research degree will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate modules worth a minimum of 180 credits, all of which must be at Level 7, and must include a dissertation/major project module of at least 100 credits.

**19. Master of Fine Arts Degree (MFA)**

**A Master of Fine Arts degree will be awarded to a student who has successfully completed the appropriate modules worth a minimum of 240 credits, of which at least 210 must be at Level 7 and must include the dissertation/major project module.**

**A student will be awarded a Masters of Fine Arts degree with Merit provided that they have achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 60% or above across all modules (including the dissertation/major project), and provided that the mark for the dissertation/major project is not less than 60%.**

**A student will be awarded a Masters of Fine Arts degree with Distinction provided that they have achieved a credit-weighted average mark of 70% or**

## **AWD2      PhD on the Basis of Prior Published Works**

These regulations apply to those who wish to apply for, and candidates working towards, a PhD on the Basis of Prior Published Works at University of Plymouth sites of delivery, and in all UK and international partnerships unless a non-standard regulation has been formally approved.

- 1. With the approval of a relevant Faculty Doctoral Committee, a candidate can submit for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on the basis of prior published works. All publications must be (at least) at the proofs stage (or equivalent**

**4. The application process comprises two phases:**

**Phase 1: Expression of Interest (no fee)**

**Phase 2: Full prima facie application (fee payable)**

The purpose of phase 1 is to enable the University to determine whether resources and expertise are available to support the applicant to completion of the degree within this area of study.

If, under Phase 1 (above), a Faculty confirms that it has the resources and expertise to support the research content to completion, candidates must submit a full application within three months of the notification of the Phase 1 outcome being sent by the Doctoral College.

The purpose of Phase 2 is to satisfy the University that a *prima facie* case can be made for candidature.





**there is no internal examiner) by one month from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of the examination, or**

**d. Fail: the degree not to be awarded.**

Corrections and amendments can only be made to the integrative summary, abstract, front matter and bibliography. The published works are already in the public domain, and therefore cannot be revised following examination.

If the examiners recommend outcome (a) – Pass: the degree be awarded – the examining team may provide advisory guidance on editorial corrections such as typographical or grammatical errors. Where a student wishes to follow this guidance, all editorial corrections must be made to the integrative summary before submitting an electronic copy of the research portfolio to the University repository (see 17, below).

In the case of disagreement amongst the examiners, the decision shall be deferred and the Doctoral College Quality Sub-Committee shall appoint an additional external examiner who will consider both the submission and the reports of all the original examiners, and come to a recommendation. After this evidence is compiled, an ad hoc meeting of the Sub-Committee will arbitrate and come to a decision on the outcome of the examination.

**14. Formal written confirmation of the outcome of the examination, including a list of corrections (if relevant) will be issued to the candidate by the Doctoral College on receipt of the examiners' report form(s) and accompanying corrections/amendments list.**

If the examiners recommend Corrections (outcome b), or Compensatory award with amendments (outcome c), the corrections must be made and submitted to the Doctoral College by the relevant date, depending on the outcome. These will be distributed to the relevant examiners (or Chair, if relevant) for consideration.

**15. Possible outcomes after the submission of Corrections (outcome b) are:**

- a. Pass: the degree to be awarded,**
- b. Pass subject to the satisfactory completion of corrections: the submission is satisfactory in substance, but the examiners have identified shortcomings in the shaping or articulation of the research. Corrections must be made to the satisfaction of one or all of the examiners by six months from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of the examination, or**



- c. Compensatory award: the PhD is not to be awarded but an MPhil can be awarded subject to the presentation of the submission being amended to the satisfaction of the examiners by one month from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of the examination, or**
- d. Fail: the degree not to be awarded and the candidate not be permitted to be re-examined.**

## **19. The academic appeals**

Where an 'aegrotat' award is made, the term 'aegrotat' will appear on the award document e.g. Aegrotat Bachelor of Arts.

- 3. The University, on the recommendation of the Award Assessment Board, may award and/or cause to be conferred, a taught degree, diploma or certificate posthumously, provided that the Award Assessment Board has**

















- Honorary Doctor of Health (DH)
- Honorary Doctor of Humanities (DHum)
- Honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt)
- Honorary Doctor of Management (DMgmt)
- Honorary Doctor of Marine Science (DMS)
- Honorary Doctor of Medicine (DM)
- Honorary Doctor of Music (DMus)
- Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc)
- Honorary Doctor of Social Work
- Honorary Doctor of Technology (DTech)
- Honorary Doctor of Theology (DTheol)
- Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)

In line with regulation AWD2, awards may be made as aegrotat awards, unless prohibited by professional body.