

Summary of University of York award rules

The following is a high-level summary of the University of York progression, award and degree-classification rules. This is intended only as a supplement to the University of York Degree Outcomes Statement, and is not a complete or definitive list of regulations, which can be found in the [University of York Guide to Assessment, Standards, Marking and Feedback](#). **This summary only applies to classified 360-credit awards at FHEQ Level 6 (Bachelors) and excludes all other programmes (such as Integrated Masters)¹.**

Progression and award

To qualify for award at Level 6, 360 credits must be achieved overall, with a minimum of 100 credits at Level 6. Most programmes are designed to have 120 credits at each of levels 4, 5 and 6. Student progress through stages 1-3 (Levels 4-6), and progression from one stage to the next requires 120 credits to be awarded, either through passing all modules or through application of **compensation**. Module marks are rounded to the nearest integer, and this mark is used for **stage-average** calculation. The pass mark for all modules at Levels 4-6 is 40.

Compensation

If a student fails one or more modules in the stage, they may still be awarded the credit and progress to the following stage, or be awarded the degree, as long as (a) they have failed no more than 40 credits in the stage, (b) there are no outright fails. The compensable-fail range is 30-39. Students who cannot meet these compensation criteria will require **reassessment** to be awarded the failed credits and hence be eligible for progression or award.

Reassessment

A student will be offered a reassessment opportunity, for all failed modules, if they do not currently meet the progression or award criteria, although the following restrictions apply. Students will only be offered a reassessment opportunity for failed module(s) if the total number of failed credits in the stage does not exceed 80 credits for Stage 1 or 60 credits for Stages 2 or 3.

Calculation of stage average²

A stage average is calculated for each 120-credit stage of the programme and is the number used in the degree-classification algorithm. The stage average is a credit-weighted average of the module marks for the stage. All modules are included in the calculation of stage average, with the exception of any pass/fail modules³. In the calculation of stage averages used for degree classification, the module mark following reassessment will be used, but it will be capped at 40. Hence, reassessment would not normally improve the final degree classification (the purpose of reassessment is to enable the student to be awarded the affected credits). The exception is where, following successful reassessment, the rounded stage average (based on first attempt marks) is < 40. In this case, the stage average is capped at 39.5.

Award mark and degree classification

The degree classification is determined algorithmically and based on the **award mark**, which is a weighted average of the non-rounded stage marks from stages 2 and 3, with a weighting of 2:3, respectively. In 2022 we exceptionally calculated an alternative weighting of 1:3, and students received whichever of these two marks was the highest.

¹ See [Rules for Progression and Award 2023/24](#) for details on the calculation of other awards.

² Temporary changes were made, in the 2019/20 academic year, to this calculation in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

³ Some programmes allow for a small number of such modules to be taken (e.g. Languages for All modules).

Degree Outcomes Statement



Borderline classifications

If the unrounded award mark, calculated in the ratio 2:3, falls within a band two marks below a classification boundary, the following procedure is followed: (a) the award mark is recalculated using the Stages 2 and 3 marks in the alternative ratios 1:1 and 1:2; (b) if, and only if, either recalculated award mark, rounded to the nearest integer, lies in a higher classification band, then the next highest classification will be awarded.