

Classification in undergraduate programmes in Law in 2020/21

The classification of undergraduate degrees in the School of Law in 2020/21 is set out below. This document temporarily qualifies the regulations for classification in section 32 of the Regulations and Code of Practice for Taught Programmes (the 'Taught Code') and supersedes the document: '[Classification in undergraduate programmes in Law in 2020/21 and subsequent academic years](#)'.

Classification in the School of Law follows the method for classifying undergraduate programmes at the University in 2020/21, set out in [regulation](#), but with a small number of exceptions. These, combined with aspects of the general method replicated for completeness, are set out below.

The existing regulations (as set out in [section 30](#) in the Taught Code) on eligibility for the award of a qualification should be considered before classification in the normal way.

1. For the purposes of classification, each of the following programme marks, if applicable, will be calculated (rounded to the nearest integer) for each student:
 - a. **The Completed Law Programme Mark** ('Programme mark A') consisting of:
 - unit marks from intermediate years of study that contribute to classification prior to 2019/20 (if applicable);
 - the average of the highest unit marks from 2019/20 (as set out in section 9); and,
 - all unit marks from the 2020/21 year of study.
 - b. **The Safety Net Mark** ('Programme mark B') consisting of unit marks from intermediate years of study that contribute to classification prior to 2019/20 (if applicable) and all unit marks from the 2020/21 final year of study.
 - c. **The Completed Law Programme + Cohort Unit Exclusion Mark** ('Programme mark C') consisting of all unit marks from intermediate years of study prior to 2019/20 that contribute to classification, the unit marks from 2019/20 as set out in (a) above and any unit marks from the 2020/21 year of study which have not been excluded due to a cohort impact.
2. Due to conditions on the minimum evidence base for classification, the quantitative safety net in relation to 2019/20 may not be combined with the cohort unit exclusion method from 2020/21 to form a programme mark.
3. The best outcome from the available programme marks A-C will determine classification.
4. The following condition must be met where the relevant programme mark is used as a basis for classification (inclusive of where units marks are disregarded for other reasons – see section 7):
 - In programme mark C, the final year of study in 2020/21 must include a minimum of 80 credit points of unit marks.
5. Where the number of marks to be excluded exceed the limits set out in section 4, the School and Faculty Board of Examiners must determine whether the exclusions from the relevant programme mark would result in a higher classification for the student. If it would, the Faculty Board of Examiners must refer the case to the University Taught Degrees Examination Board with a recommendation for further consideration. Otherwise, the School and Faculty Board of Examiners will classify on the basis of the best outcome for the student from the available programme mark/s.

6. For the application of the 'secondary rule' (32.13 in the Taught Code), if any of the programme marks A-C are within the range of a classification boundary, as set out in 32.12, the secondary rule is applied using the subset of units that contributes to the calculation of that programme mark.
7. Unit marks may be disregarded under existing regulations for the purposes of calculating any of the programme marks and determining classification for individual students subject to the condition in 4 where: it is agreed in response to the impact of extenuating circumstances or a student was awarded credit for a unit in 2019/20 but not given the opportunity to improve upon a 'fail' mark.
8. The calculation of the programme marks is applicable at the July or September 2021 meetings of the board of examiners (except where stated in these regulations) at the point a student is considered for award and classification.

The Completed Law Programme Mark¹ (in Programme mark A or C)

9. The Completed Law programme mark is calculated for the purposes of classification on the basis of:
 - i. all the unit marks in years of study that contribute to degree classification from all relevant years of study prior and subsequent to 2019/20.
 - ii. the average of the highest unit marks during the 2019/20 academic year, as follows:
 - o three Law unit marks in single honours LLB or where a student has taken an open unit, the mark for the open unit will be added where it would improve the programme mark. The law units will retain their relative credit-point weighting for the year as a whole (i.e. the three law units will have a notional credit point value of 40 credit points each, unless the open unit is added, in which case the open unit will retain its normal credit point value of 20 credit points and the three law units will have a notional credit point value of 33.33);
 - o Joint honours law/language programmes: the best two law units and the languages year mark.
10. In Programme mark A, the normal weighting for each year of the degree programme will apply (e.g. for single honours Law three-year LLB: 40% for the year 2 mark as a whole and 10% for each of the year 3 unit marks).
11. Where a student takes an intermediate year of study across more than one academic year up to and including 2019/20 (e.g. due to a supplementary year), unit marks gained prior to 2019/20 are given their normal weighting within the degree. The average mark of the outstanding units required to be taken in 2019/20 is given the weighting of the remaining credit points.

The Safety Net Mark (Programme mark B)

12. A programme mark is calculated for the purposes of classification on the basis of unit marks that contribute to classification prior to the 2019/20 academic year (if applicable) and all unit marks from the 2020/21 final year of study.
13. Where a unit mark is excluded through application of the safety net in the 2019/20 academic year, the programme mark is calculated as the weighted average of the remaining units across the programme as a whole, rather than as the weighted average of year marks. The weightings of

¹ This has been termed the 'normal' or 'final' programme mark in student communications.

the remaining units within and between years of study is preserved from the original programme structure.

The Cohort unit exclusion mark (in Programme mark C)

14. The application of the cohort unit exclusion method to calculate Programme mark C is set out in the [temporary regulations for classification](#).
15. Where a unit mark is excluded as a result of cohort unit exclusions from units taken in the 2020/21 academic year, Programme mark C is calculated as the weighted average of the remaining units across the programme as a whole, rather than as the weighted average of year marks. For these purposes, the 'Year Mark' from 2019/2020 counts as a single 60 credit point unit.

University Taught Degrees Exam Board

16. The faculty board of examiners may refer cases, with a recommendation, to the University Taught Degrees Exam Board (UTDEB) where it is unable to apply these regulations due to the specified conditions for its application (see clause 5) or where it believes that a manifestly unsound classification has been reached by the application of these regulations.
17. The UTDEB will consider each case and agree an outcome that is consistent with University regulation but may diverge from these requirements provided that: any such divergence does not disadvantage any particular student generally; and that academic judgement is applied to ensure that the scholarly integrity and rigour of assessment and examination processes are maintained.

*Approved by the Vice-Chancellor
10 June 2021*