

## Classification in undergraduate programmes in Law in 2021/22 and subsequent years

This document sets out the classification of undergraduate degrees in the School of Law in 2021/22 and subsequent years, for students who completed units that contributed to classification and were affected by COVID-19 in 2019/20 and/or 2020/21.

This document temporarily qualifies the regulations for classification in the Regulations and Code of Practice for Taught Programmes (the 'Taught Code').

Classification in the School of Law follows the method for classifying undergraduate programmes at the University in 2021/22 and after, as set out in [regulation](#), but with a small number of exceptions. These, combined with aspects of the general method replicated for completeness, are provided below. Annex 1 shows how the mitigations for classification will be enacted in each academic year by programme type.

The existing regulations (as set out 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) (if applicable); and,
    - all unit marks from the 2020/21 and any subsequent 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 and any subsequent year of study.
  - c. **The Completed Law Programme + Cohort Unit Exclusion Mark** ('Programme mark C') consisting of
    - unit marks from intermediate years of study prior to 2019/20 that contribute to classification (if applicable);
    - unit marks from 2019/20 as set out in (a) above (if applicable);
    - any unit marks from the 2020/21 year of study which have not been excluded due to a cohort impact;
    - all unit marks from the 2021/22 and any subsequent year of study.
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 application of the primary and secondary rules for classification, as set out in the Taught Code, to 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 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’ (32.14 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 applied and presented to the relevant meeting of the board of examiners at the point a student is considered for award and classification.

*The Completed Law Programme Mark<sup>1</sup> (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 that contribute to degree classification from all relevant years of study prior to 2019/20, if applicable.
  - ii. the average of the highest unit marks during the 2019/20 academic year, if applicable, as follows:
    - 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);
    - Joint honours law/language programmes: the best two law units and the languages year mark.

---

<sup>1</sup> This has been termed the ‘normal’ or ‘final’ programme mark in student communications.

- iii. all the unit marks that contribute to degree classification from all relevant years of study subsequent to 2019/20.
10. 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 2019/2020 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 (and any subsequent) year(s) 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 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. A programme mark is calculated for the purposes of classification but excluding those units that contribute to classification where an underperformance by the cohort of a unit in 2020/21 compared with previous years' cohorts is detected. The application of the cohort unit exclusion method to calculate Programme mark C is set out in the [temporary general regulations for classification for 2021/22 and after](#).
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 section 4) 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  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2021*

### **Annex 1: Application of mitigations to classification by academic year and length of programme**

The following table illustrates the programme marks that will be calculated for the purposes of classification by academic year and type of programme in Law. It is based on the programme being studied on a full-time basis and having been completed without any supplementary years.

<b>Type of programme</b>	<b>Academic year of classification</b>		
	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>3-year LLB Law programme</b>	A and C	Revert to standard regs	
<b>4-year joint honours Law and language programme</b>	A, B and C	A and C	Revert to standard regs

Key:

- Programme mark 'A' = The Completed Law Programme Mark
- Programme mark 'B' = The Safety Net Mark
- Programme mark 'C' = The Completed Law Programme + Cohort Unit Exclusion Mark