

# FOUR YEAR CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR BA/BSC DEGREES FOR STUDENTS FROM THE 2018/19 ACADEMIC YEAR

*This Classification Scheme is approved by the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees. Last updated: August 2025*

This classification scheme should be read in conjunction with the [General Academic Regulations](#) (which contains a glossary of terms used in this scheme), the relevant [BA/ BSc programme regulations](#), the relevant online [Undergraduate course guides](#), the [Code of Good Practice for Undergraduate, Diploma and Postgraduate Programmes: Teaching, Learning and Assessment](#) and the [Addendum - Regulations for 2021/22 updated in response to COVID-19](#).

## Award of Marks

1. The examiners for each course will decide a numerical mark for each course a student has taken using the following scale:
 

First Class Honours	70 - 100
Upper Second Class Honours	60 - 69
Lower Second Class Honours	50 - 59
Third Class Honours	40 - 49
Fail	0 - 39

## Eligibility for Award

2. A student will only be eligible for the award of a degree if they have attempted and completed every component of assessment for all courses required by the Programme Regulations, including LSE100 i.e. all summative assessments set out in the course guides must be completed and students must have met the criteria set out in the General Academic Regulations.
  - 2.1 Failing to attempt an assessment without an approved deferral will count as one attempt opportunity.
  - 2.2 Students are permitted three attempt opportunities to pass a first year paper<sup>1</sup> and two attempt opportunities to pass a second, third year paper<sup>1</sup> and fourth year paper<sup>1</sup>. The ability to resit in year four is subject to the application of section 9 below.
  - 2.3 Students must meet the following progression rules to proceed to years two, three and four of the programme. Failure to meet these progression rules and running out of attempt opportunities to do so will mean a student is no longer eligible for a degree classification and will be classified as Final Fail:
    - 2.3.1 Students must pass at least three out of four first year course units, excluding LSE100 to progress to year two.
    - 2.3.2 Students must pass at least seven out of eight first and second year course units, excluding LSE100 to progress to year three.
    - 2.3.3 Students must pass at least eleven out of twelve first, second and third year course units, excluding LSE100 to progress to year four.
  - 2.4 Having attempted and completed all elements of assessment for the programme, a student is eligible for the award of the degree if they have no more than three units of failed courses at the point of classification.

## Classification Marks and the Aggregate

3. The classification of each student shall be based on twenty-six classification marks, comprising:
  - 3.1 the marks achieved in all twelve second, third and fourth year papers<sup>1</sup> with full-unit marks counted twice and half-unit marks counted once to make a total of twenty-four classification marks.
  - 3.2 the twenty-fifth and twenty-six classification marks will use the First Year Average full unit mark counted twice.
  - 3.3 the First Year Average will be calculated using the average<sup>2</sup> of the best six out of nine marks in first year papers<sup>1</sup>. All first year full-unit marks will be, counted twice and any half-unit marks counted once to make a total of nine first year marks.
4. The aggregate for each student is the sum of the twenty-six classification marks.
5. In all cases, the classification marks shall be based on the marks obtained by the student in their latest attempt at each element of assessment for each course.
6. The marks for the Interdisciplinary Research Seminar are not classification marks and are not used to calculate the award. For students starting in the 2021/22 academic year, LSE100 will count towards the First Year Average if it is one of the best six out of nine first year marks. For students starting before the 2021/22 academic year, the mark achieved in LSE100 is not a classification mark and is not used to calculate the First Year Average or award. Regardless of when a student started, an unredeemed fail in LSE100 will not be considered for the purpose of applying any of the penalties at Paragraph 10.

## Degree Classification

7. Subject to the application of the penalty rules for failed papers<sup>1</sup> in section 10 or the application of section 11 or 12 below, the classification of an award shall be calculated as follows:
  - 7.1 **For first class honours:** Fourteen first class marks; or thirteen or twelve first class marks and an aggregate of at least 1700.
  - 7.2 **For upper second class honours:** Fourteen upper second class marks (or above); or thirteen or twelve upper second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1490.
  - 7.3 **For lower second class honours:** Fourteen lower second class marks (or above); or thirteen or twelve lower second class marks (or above) and an aggregate of at least 1270.
  - 7.4 **For third class honours:** twenty-four third class marks (or above).
  - 7.5 **For a pass degree:** A pass degree will only be awarded as a result of the application of the penalty rules set out in section 11 below or, despite being eligible for an award, failing to meet the criteria for a third class honours degree as set out in section 7.4 above.
8. Where an assessment is failed and re-taken the overall grade for the course for which the resit assessment was taken will be capped at Pass for the purposes of calculating the final degree classification. Furthermore, a maximum mark of 40 will be used for calculating either the first year average if one of the best six first year marks, or the aggregate if a second or third year classification mark. Both the original fail mark and the new mark achieved at resit will be shown on the transcript.
9. Having attempted and completed all elements of assessment for the programme, a student will be awarded a degree at the first point at which they become eligible. Students eligible for award with failed course marks at the end of the fourth year will not be given the opportunity to resit any failed assessments even if they have attempt opportunities remaining.

## Penalty Rules

10. The classification of an award for a student with an unredeemed fail in any paper<sup>1</sup> taken in fulfilment of the programme regulations shall be calculated as follows:
  - 10.1 a drop of one class in the award classification shall result where a student has unredeemed fails in more than one paper<sup>1</sup>. i.e. more than one full-unit or two half-units.
  - 10.2 the degree shall be capped at 'pass' where a student has unredeemed fails in three papers<sup>1</sup> i.e. three full units or six half-units.
  - 10.3 Any unredeemed fail(s) in a first year paper (or papers), with the exception of LSE100, will be taken into account under sections 10.1 and 10.2 above.
11. A fourth year student who has completed the fourth year of the programme but is not eligible for the award of the degree as set out above may be awarded a degree from the department in which the four year degree is based in accordance with the three year BA/BSc classification scheme. The degree awarded will be subject to a drop by one classification after the application of the three year Classification Scheme. A student will also be subject to the application of the penalty rules for failed papers in section 10 of the three year scheme.
12. A student who has completed the third year of the programme may apply to the School to be classified if they are unable to continue to the fourth year due to non-academic and exceptional circumstances. If accepted, they may be awarded a degree from the department in which the four year degree is based in accordance with the three year BA/BSc classification scheme.
13. Students awarded a degree under sections 11 and 12 above will be classified on the basis of eighteen classification marks; namely, the First Year Average as determined by section 3.3 above plus all eight second and third year papers<sup>1</sup>. In all cases, the classification marks shall be based on the marks obtained by the student in their latest attempt at each element of assessment for each course.

## General Proviso

14. The School considers that when a student submits an assessment they are declaring themselves fit enough to do so. If a student experiences disruption prior to the assessment submission deadline or day of exam, they must consider whether an extension or deferral is more appropriate.
  - 14.1 Any student unable to follow the [extension](#) or [deferral](#) procedures, must follow the Exceptional Circumstances [\(EC\) procedure](#). Such circumstances must be sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's control and have occurred in a period proximate to the assessment submission deadline or exam date.
  - 14.2 When considering ECs, the exam boards must be satisfied a student has provided a good reason for not proceeding with an extension or deferral, has provided acceptable corroborating evidence and satisfies all the conditions listed at Paragraphs 15 or 16 below.
15. It is also open to a Sub-Board of Examiners to recommend to the School Board of Examiners for BA/BSc Degrees that an individual receives a higher degree classification than this Scheme would normally allow if, in their judgement, this would be equitable as a direct result of a [formal Exceptional Circumstances submission](#) to the Student Services Centre. Such circumstances would need appropriate supporting evidence, must fall outside of the normal assessment process and would apply to that student only. The School Board of Examiners must also be satisfied all of the following conditions apply:

- 15.1 that the student is very close to the next higher classification boundary and specifically within 3 marks in a single paper<sup>1</sup> which has been used for classification i.e. one full-unit or across two half-units or 10 marks on aggregate using the criteria determined in section 4; and
  - 15.2 that the student has marks in the higher classification range; and
  - 15.3 that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly and negatively affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and
  - 15.4 that the student's performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.
16. Where a student is not eligible for an award, it is also open to a Sub-Board of Examiners to recommend to the School Board of Examiners that a Fail, Incomplete or Absent mark be discounted (treated as a deferral) if, in their judgement, that would be equitable for any individual student as a direct result of a formal exceptional circumstances submission to the Student Services Centre. Such circumstances would need to be extraneous to the normal assessment process and would apply to that student only. In such cases, the School Board of Examiners would need to determine the conditions set out at 15.3 and 15.4 have been met.
17. All marks and classification awards are subject to any penalties that might be applied under the School's [Regulations on Assessment Offences](#) and/or any failure to obtain ethics approval, where required for research undertaken in dissertations or equivalent assessments<sup>3</sup>.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Under the programme regulations for all of the School's four year BA/BSc degrees, students have to complete four 'papers' in each of their four years of study. Each 'paper' represents a full-unit course or two half-unit courses.

<sup>2</sup>Where marks are averaged, the resulting average will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole mark.

<sup>3</sup>Failure to undertake a review of the ethical implications of research or failure to apply reasonable care in assessing the likely ethical implications of a research project, may constitute research misconduct under the School's research misconduct policy and procedures. To ascertain whether ethics approval is required, students should refer to the bullet points listed [here](#).

---

See the [Calendar](#) for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.