

SCHEME FOR THE AWARD OF A POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE: CAREER ACCELERATOR MODEL

This Classification Scheme is approved by the Graduate School Board of Examiners. Last updated: October 2025

This scheme should be read in conjunction with the [General Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Students](#), the [Code of Good Practice for Undergraduate, Certificate, Diploma and Postgraduate Programmes: Teaching, Learning and Assessment](#).

1. Mark and Grade for a Course and Eligibility for the Award

- 1.1. Courses delivered by our partners, in the Career Accelerator phase, will be marked out of 100 and expressed as a percentage (%) according to the mark scheme and marking practice in use by the relevant delivery partner.
- 1.2. For each course directly delivered by the London School of Economics (LSE), the examiners will decide a numerical mark for each student using the following scale:
Grade Mark
 Pass 50 – 100
 Fail 0 – 49
- 1.3. In order to be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert), a student must have completed all courses and achieved a mark of 60% or above in all courses during the career accelerator phase of the programme. They must then submit all elements of assessment (e.g. coursework, exams, group work etc.) required for each course directly delivered by LSE.
- 1.4. A student who makes no attempt at an element of summative assessment for a course directly delivered by LSE, as set out in the [General Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Students](#), will be considered not to have completed the course and will be marked as “Absent” or “Incomplete”. An Absent or Incomplete grade will count as one of the two attempts allowed to pass the course. Therefore, students must follow the deferral or extension request procedures laid out for Career Accelerator students if they are unable to attempt an assessment.
- 1.5. All grades and classification awards are subject to any penalties that might be applied under the LSE’s Regulations on Assessment Offences and/or any failure to obtain appropriate ethics approval, where required, for research undertaken in dissertations or equivalent assessments.¹

2. Calculation of the Award

- 2.1. In order to be awarded a PG Cert, students must achieve Pass grades to the equivalent of four Classification Grades.
- 2.2. Three of classification grades will be achieved by completing all courses during the Career Accelerator phase. Students must achieve a mark of 60% or above in all courses taught during the Career Accelerator phase to obtain these three classification grades. Note that individual courses may not directly map onto specific classification grades.
- 2.3. The fourth classification grade will be achieved by completing courses directly delivered by LSE. 1.1 lays out the marking scheme for these courses. The fourth Classification Grade will comprise courses to the value of one unit (one full unit or two half-units)
- 2.4. For the purpose of calculating an award, only the marks from courses directly delivered by LSE will be considered. The marks obtained in Career Accelerator phase will be displayed on the final LSE academic transcript.
- 2.5. Fail grades are not considered as Classification Grades for the purpose of calculating an award. All courses directly delivered by LSE must be passed for an award to be made.
- 2.6. In all cases, the Classification Grades will be based on grades obtained by the student at their latest attempt at each course.

3. Resitting to Achieve an Award

- 3.1. Where a student fails an overall course, is recorded as Absent (in an assessment or course) or Incomplete in an overall course, they must resubmit all failed/Absent assessments within that course provided they have attempts remaining.
- 3.2. Students may reattempt a course on one occasion only, in accordance with the [General Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Students](#).

4. Failure to Progress Between Phases or Achieve an Award

- 4.1. Students who have not achieved the requisite minimum mark of 60% in all courses that form the Career Accelerator phase will not be allowed to begin courses directly delivered by LSE.
- 4.2. Where a student has started courses directly delivered by LSE but has been unable to achieve a Pass in those course, and has run out of attempts to resit any failed course(s), this means they have failed the programme and cannot be awarded a PG Cert.

5. General Proviso

- 5.1. When considering the overall classification for an award it is open to a Sub-Board of Examiners to recommend to the Graduate School Board of Examiners (GSBE) any departure from this Scheme if, in their judgement, this 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. The following conditions must also apply:
 - 5.1.1. that the student has achieved at least two Classification Grades; and
 - 5.1.2. that the student is very close to achieving the Pass Grade in the courses directly delivered by LSE (specifically that they are within three marks); and
 - 5.1.3. that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and
 - 5.1.4. that the student has demonstrated that their performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments.

6. Discounting Fail marks

- 6.1. It is open to a Sub-Board of Examiners to recommend to the GSBE that a Fail, Incomplete or Absent grade be discounted (treated as a deferral) if, in their judgement, this 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. The following conditions must also apply:
 - 6.1.1. that the student has demonstrated that the assessment or set of assessments in question were significantly affected by exceptional circumstances that were sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question; and
 - 6.1.2. that the student has demonstrated that their performance in the affected assessment(s) was significantly out of line with their performance in other, unaffected assessments

Footnotes

¹ 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 LSE's research misconduct policy and procedures. To ascertain whether ethics approval is required, students should refer to the guidance listed [here](#).