

Changes to Postgraduate Regulations and Post Graduate Classification Schemes for the 2020/21 academic year:

1. Your degree award will be determined by the best performance achieved in at least half of your degree. This means that Distinction grades will be required in courses for at least half of your degree in order for you to achieve an overall Distinction; or, Merit grades (or higher) are required in courses for at least half of your degree in order for you to achieve an overall Merit. It will remain the case in 2020/21 that all awards will be subject to the application of Department Local rules which may set out additional criteria in order to be awarded an overall Distinction or Merit. These local rules will be clearly published in the [School Calendar](#) and Department information provided to you.
2. If you fail a course and need to resit, your overall degree classification will no longer automatically be capped at an overall Pass. Under the revised Classification Scheme only the individual course mark would be capped at the pass mark of 50 at resit. Therefore, if you need to resit a failed exam or resubmit failed coursework it is still possible to achieve an overall Distinction or Merit if you have achieved high enough marks in other non-failed courses.
3. It is possible for you to fail up to one unit and still be awarded a degree if you have achieved enough marks to 'compensate' the fail mark in other non-failed courses. In such instances you would be offered the choice of either accepting the award of the degree at that point (subject to penalty rules noted below) or resitting at the next available opportunity with the marks achieved at resit superseding your earlier failed mark(s). If you are compensated and could still achieve an overall Distinction or Merit your overall award would drop down one classification. If you could only be awarded an overall Pass your overall award would not be impacted.
3. The following penalty rules will remain the same in 2020/21:
 - a. Each Department has a specific 'Bad Fail' mark of 19, 29 or 39 for all its courses;
 - b. The grade of 'Bad Fail' is used to indicate when a fail mark cannot be compensated by other marks and must be resat;
 - c. If you receive a 'Bad Fail' mark you must resit if you have attempts remaining;
 - d. It is not possible to receive a degree with an unredeemed 'Bad Fail' mark.
5. If you have to resit after receiving one or more 'Bad Fail' marks and can be awarded an overall Distinction or Merit after resitting, your overall degree result would drop down one classification. If you could only be awarded an overall Pass at resit, your degree result would not be impacted.
4. If you are required to resit or defer an exam you will attempt that exam during one of the following exam periods:
 - a. January (normally 5 working days just before the start of Lent Term)
 - b. Summer (normally 6 weeks between early May and June)
 - c. Late Summer (normally 7 working days in late August)Information about the exact timing of exam periods and the deferred assessment and resit period will be available prior to the start of the 2020/21 academic year.

These changes are being applied to help enhance your studies and experience at the School. However, if you are an offer-holder and no longer wish to accept your place at the School or have any concerns, then please contact the Graduate Admissions Office.