

# University Approach to Award Calculation Algorithms

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AU-RSC-24-6422-A

Applicable to all students and learners enrolled or re-enrolled from 1st August 2024

2024-25

Further information can be found in the University's [Credit and Qualifications Framework](#).

## Version Control

Ref No	Version	Responsible Officer	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date
AU-RSC-18-1875	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jun 2019	Sep 2019
AU-RSC-18-1875	B	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Nov 2019	Nov 2019
AU-RSC-19-2829	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jun 2020	Sep 2020
AU-RSC-21-4883	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jul 2022	Sep 2022
AU-RSC-22-5459	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jun 2023	Aug 2023
AU-RSC-24-6422	A	Head of Quality Assurance	ULTC	Jun 2024	Aug 2024

## Award Calculation Algorithms

Aston University is committed to clearly defined and transparent award calculation algorithms for all taught programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The University publishes the method by which all awards are calculated within the General Regulations appropriate to the Level of the final award:

[General Regulations for Undergraduate and Integrated Master's Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for Foundation Degree Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for Graduate Diploma Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for Apprenticeships & Work-Based Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for the MBChB Programme](#)

Where programme outcomes are determined by an alternative algorithm, due to Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) or other requirements, this will be clearly detailed in the relevant Programme Specification.

## Undergraduate Bachelor's Programmes

Stage 1 of Aston University Bachelor's programmes are designed with the principles of widening participation and inclusion mind, providing all students with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in higher Level study. As such, Stage 1 of Aston undergraduate programmes are not recognised in final degree calculations, but do contribute 120 credits to the final award and remain a vital part of student development and achievement.

The University recognises the consistency of student application and performance, with Stage 2 contributing 15%, or 25% in the case of undergraduate degree programmes without a Placement Year, to the student's final degree calculation.

The University views the Placement Year as a key aspect of undergraduate programmes, and aims to offer placements on 100% of applicable undergraduate degree programmes. The University recognises the importance and transformational nature of the Placement Year by the award of 120 Stage P credits, contributing 10% to the student's final degree calculation.

Stage F, the final Stage of every University undergraduate Bachelor's programme, contributes 75% to the student's degree calculation. The University recognises the importance of exit velocity in student achievement, and this is reflected in the significant weighting placed on the final Stage of study.

Bachelor's awards are classified, with the classification being based on the final degree calculation.

## **Apprenticeships and Work-Based Programmes**

Non-apprenticeship work-based programmes follow the same approach to award calculations as standard undergraduate or postgraduate programmes. The degree element of Degree Apprenticeships also follow the same calculation algorithm as other programmes of their level. However, apprenticeship programmes also have an End Point Assessment that is the final gateway for successful completion of the apprenticeship. Whether the End Point Assessment is credit-bearing and contributes to the award classification of the degree element of the programme is dependant on the individual apprenticeship programme.

## **Integrated Master's Programmes**

Integrated Master's Programmes follow a similar pattern to undergraduate Bachelor's programmes, but have distinct degree algorithms appropriate to their discipline, detailed in the relevant Programme Specification.

## **Foundation Degree and Graduate Diploma Programmes**

For Foundation Degree and Graduate Diploma programmes, all credits contribute to the final programme calculation. Foundation Degrees and Graduate Diplomas may be awarded with 'Merit' or 'Distinction' based on the overall mark across all credit.

## **Postgraduate Taught Programmes**

Postgraduate taught programmes are formed of one or two Stages, the taught Stage (typically 60 credits for a Postgraduate Certificate, or 120 credits for a Postgraduate Diploma or Master's), and the dissertation Stage (typically 60 credits for Master's programmes). Some postgraduate programmes operate a further 60 credit Professional Practice Stage. The University recognises the importance of earned credit, including all 60, 120 or 180 credits in the postgraduate award calculation. Postgraduate Certificates, Diplomas and Master's may be awarded with 'Merit' or 'Distinction' based on the overall mark across all credit. Additionally, for the award of a 'Merit' or 'Distinction' at Master's level, students must achieve a consistent level of achievement across both Stages of their programme.

## **MBChB Programme**

The MBChB programme does not have award classifications; students that achieve the required number of credits at the appropriate levels are recommended for the award of an MBChB. The Board of Examiners will recommend that the degree of MBChB be awarded with Honours according to the guidance laid out in the Assessment Code of Practice.

## **Borderlines**

University Boards of Examiners give consideration to cases where a student's degree classification average falls within a certain distance of the next classification band.

Regulations governing the consideration of borderline cases can be found in the appropriate set of General Regulations for the programme (linked above).

## **Condonement**

The University recognises condonement, and awards credit, for modules where students have narrowly failed to meet the assessment criteria, up to limits prescribed in the appropriate General Regulations for the programme. Condonement is applied at the discretion of the appropriate Boards of Examiners.

Specific programmes, particularly those governed by PSRB requirements, have tighter limits on the condonement of marks, or allow no condonement at all. Where this is the case, the relevant Programme Specification clearly articulates the regulations on condonement that govern the programme.

### **Discounting**

The University does not discount low or outlier marks from student's degree calculations, though it may be considered and applied in cases of exceptional circumstances.