

STANDARD ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS 2023/24

In the context of these regulations "you" means students at Sheffield Hallam University and "University" means Sheffield Hallam University.

These regulations apply to all undergraduate, Integrated Masters and taught postgraduate programmes offered by the University, except where there are specific exemptions, e.g. to meet Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) requirements. Approved exemptions will be published in individual course documentation and are also listed in the supplementary document '[Exemptions from the Standard Assessment Regulations](#)'.

The University reserves the right to make reasonable changes to the regulations where it will assist in the proper delivery of education. These changes will normally come into effect at the beginning of an academic year. The University may introduce changes during the academic year when it reasonably considers these to be in the interests of students or where this is required by law.

Responsibilities of the University

The University will ensure that you have access to the Standard Assessment Regulations and any supporting assessment policies and procedures. These can be viewed on My Hallam under [Rules and Regulations](#).

Your Department will ensure that the assessment requirements for each module are published to you. This will include:

- regulations specific to your course (if applicable)
- learning outcomes, assessment criteria, weightings and mode(s) of assessment for each module
- procedures for the submission of assignments, including the procedure for dealing with late submission of work, and indicative feedback dates
- criteria relating to grading and marking schemes

Responsibilities of students

It is your responsibility to:

- ensure that you understand and comply with the assessment regulations for your course, and any additional policies and procedures where they apply to you
- attend examinations and submit work for assessment as required
- ensure that you are aware of and comply with requirements for academic conduct as outlined in the [Academic Conduct Regulation](#) and [Examination Conduct Policy](#)
- submit any relevant information on extenuating circumstances which you believe may have affected your performance in accordance with the University's [Extenuating Circumstances Policy](#).

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For Glossary of Terms see [here](#).

Regulation 1: Duration of course

PURPOSE: this regulation explains the normal award duration and the maximum duration which can be taken by students who require additional time to retrieve failure or for approved break in study/extenuating circumstances. There are other factors which may impact on the maximum duration, e.g. length of course approval, availability of modules, professional body restrictions.

1.1 Taught Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses

The table in [Annex 1](#) states the normal and maximum durations of awards for students studying on full-time or part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

- If you enter an award with recognised prior credit or transfer credit from another course, the normal and maximum durations are adjusted accordingly (e.g. a full time student entering an Honours Degree programme at Level 5 has a normal duration of 2 years and a maximum duration of 5 years)
- If you transfer to another course without any credit, the maximum duration of the new award will apply.
- If at the point you have reached maximum duration, you have an outstanding assessment attempt due to extenuating circumstances that are approved by the university, you can carry this over to the next academic year. Note, you cannot start any new study (including retake modules) in the additional year.

At the point of reaching the maximum duration, you will be withdrawn from the course and be considered for an intermediate award if appropriate. Any further application for study at the University will be considered in accordance with the University's Admissions Policy.

1.2 How duration is calculated

Duration includes the years that you study on the course plus any additional time which can only be taken due to:-

- retrieving failure
- approved extenuating circumstances
- approved break in study
- temporary exclusion

If the normal duration is exceeded there may be a number of implications, which could impact upon your fees, funding and visa.

Regulation 2: Passing a module and the award of credit

PURPOSE: this regulation explains what you need to achieve in order to pass a module, how the overall module results are derived and how credit is awarded. The minimum module pass mark is 40% for levels 3-6 and 50% for level 7 modules.

2.1 Passing a module

Module assessment is made up of one or more assessment tasks. Where there is more than one assessment task, weightings and rules for passing the module will be specified in module or course information.

If the module uses percentage marks, you must achieve the minimum module pass mark in order to pass the module.

If the module uses pass/fail grades only, or a combination of percentage marks and pass/fail grades, you must achieve an overall pass grade in order to pass the module.

Please note that all nominal credit modules (1 credit modules) use pass/fail grades only.

For some courses, where there is a professional requirement, you may also have to achieve a specified pass mark in all of the module assessments or other pass criteria, as well as the minimum module pass mark, in order to pass the module. This will be made clear to you in module or course information.

2.2 How overall module results are calculated

A module is made up of one or more assessment tasks. Where there is more than one assessment task, weightings, and rules for passing the module will be defined. For example, one or more assessment task(s) may have specific pass criteria attached, which need to be met in addition to the overall module pass criteria. The weighting of an assessment task is expressed as a percentage e.g. a coursework essay may count for 30% of the whole module mark and an exam for 70% of the whole module mark. Module marks are calculated using whole marks at task level.

Where there is more than one mark for a task due to reassessment or deferral opportunities, the highest recorded mark will be applied in the calculation.

2.3 Grades of achievement for BTEC/Edexcel modules

Grades and marks for performance in BTEC/Edexcel modules are agreed by the Departmental Assessment Board.

The grades for BTEC/Edexcel modules are matched to the following marks:

GRADE	MODULE PERCENTAGE MARKS
Pass	40 - 55%
Merit	56 - 69%
Distinction	70 - 100%

2.4 Award of module credit

Where you achieve or exceed the minimum pass criteria for a module, credit for the module will be awarded. Credit will also be awarded for compensated passes (see regulation 6).

When you have passed a module you cannot normally take any more assessment for that module to improve the original mark. Exceptions to this for Level 6 and 7 students are detailed in the [Extenuating Circumstances Policy and Procedure](#).

Regulation 3: Student entitlement to assessment / reassessment during one delivery of a module and the methods of reassessment

PURPOSE: this regulation explains the number of assessment and reassessment opportunities within one delivery of a module and explains the different forms of reassessment (i.e. in-module retrieval of a single assessment task, deferral in an assessment task or an overall module and reassessment in an overall module).

3.1 Student entitlement Registration on a module enables you to access:

- one delivery of the module
- access to learning and teaching resources
- an initial opportunity to attempt the assessment tasks
- in-module retrieval of assessment tasks (where available)
- one reassessment opportunity (if required)

This entitlement may not apply where your engagement with your studies is deemed to be unsatisfactory (see Regulation 10), or where compensation has been automatically applied (see Regulation 6).

3.2 In-module retrieval of an assessment task

Where in-module retrieval is available, if you have submitted a piece of work which has achieved below the minimum pass mark, you may choose to rework the assessment task once only.:

- If the assessment task is marked by percentage and you pass the reworked assessment task, the mark for this assessment task will be capped at the minimum pass mark.
- If the assessment task is marked by pass/fail grades and you pass the reworked assessment task, you will receive a pass grade for this assessment task.

If you rework the assessment task and your mark is lower than your original mark, then the original mark stands. Having taken or declined your in-module retrieval opportunities, if you do not pass the module you will be offered a reassessment attempt.

In-module retrieval is only available at the initial opportunity to attempt the assessment task. To be eligible for an in-module retrieval submission, you must have made an initial submission and achieved a borderline mark of 35-39% for Levels 0 – 6 and 45-49% for Level 7.

3.3 Referral in a module

If you do not achieve the minimum pass criteria for the module overall, you are entitled to a reassessment attempt at the end of the module. This is called a referral. This may also require the passing of specified assessment task(s) at a minimum pass mark.

Where there are multiple tasks within a module, you will only need to be reassessed in the task that you have failed. This will usually be:

- In the same format of the initial task e.g. if the initial task was an exam, the reassessment will normally be an exam,
- A re-work of the original task, or where this is not appropriate (i.e., a multiple choice test where answers have been revealed) a new task will be required
- An alternative format of the task may be set if it is not appropriate for you to be assessed by exactly the same method as at the initial attempt, for example if this was group work or took place on a field trip.

3.4 Passing a module following reassessment

Modules which are marked using percentage marks

You will pass a module marked by percentage if you achieve an overall module mark of the minimum pass mark or above. For some professional courses, you will also need to achieve the specified pass mark in all the module assessment tasks in order to pass the module.

The maximum mark you can be awarded in a reassessment task is the minimum pass mark.

If your mark for an assessment task is lower following reassessment than your initial attempt, then your initial (higher) mark will be used to calculate the overall module mark.

If you do not take a reassessment task, then a mark of zero will be recorded, but your initial mark will be used to calculate the overall module mark.

Modules which are marked using pass/fail grade only

You will pass a module which uses pass/fail grades only, or a combination of percentage marks and pass/fail grades, if you achieve an overall pass grade. For some professional courses, you will also need to achieve other pass criteria as specified in the module information in order to pass the module.

3.5 Academic misconduct sanction

If an allegation that you have breached the Code of Academic Conduct has been upheld then reassessment in a module may be set as a sanction. See the [Academic Conduct Regulation](#).

Regulation 4: Deferral in a module or an assessment task

PURPOSE: this regulation explains what a deferral means and why it may be given.

4.1 Definition of deferral

A deferral in an assessment task means that due to exceptional circumstances accepted by the University you will take the assessment task that was affected again because you have not achieved the minimum overall pass criteria in a module.

The mark is not capped unless you have already had one attempt and the exceptional circumstances have been claimed against the reassessment attempt. .

Where there are multiple tasks within a module, you will only be deferred in the task affected by the circumstances. This will usually be:

- In the same form of the initial task, or
- a reworking of the initial task (e.g. in a dissertation), or
- An alternative form of the task may be set if it is not appropriate for you to be assessed by exactly the same method as at the initial attempt, for example if this was group work or took place on a field trip.

Further information on how to request a deferral can be found in the [Exceptional Circumstances Policy](#).

Regulation 5: Failure of a module (core and elective)

PURPOSE: this regulation explains the circumstances in which you can fail a module.

You will fail a module if:

- following reassessment, you do not achieve the minimum overall pass criteria in a module, which may include the requirement to pass an individual assessment task
- where failure in a module is the sanction set through the [Academic Conduct Regulation](#)

If you fail a module:

- You can retake the same module on one occasion only (see regulation 8) - this applies to core or elective modules.
- You can retake a substitute for the module on one occasion only (see regulation 9) - this applies to elective modules only.

If you fail a module due to academic misconduct, you may be given a sanction that means you are not allowed to retake the module or a substitute module.

<p>Regulation 6: Compensation - Undergraduate and Integrated Masters (Foundation year *, levels 4, 5 and 6 only)</p>

PURPOSE: this regulation explains how students may be compensated to progress from one level to the next or to achieve an award. Regulation 6 does not apply to any postgraduate taught courses.

The profile for compensation for full-time, part-time and sandwich students

The profile for compensation which allows you to progress from one complete level (minimum 120 credits*) to the next or to exit with an award is that you:

- achieve an overall average of 40% or more on the complete level, including referred modules AND
- achieve 30% or more in each referred module up to a maximum of 20 credits* per level.

When this profile is achieved, any compensated modules are recorded as a compensated pass and credit is awarded (note that marks are not changed).

Compensation is automatically applied by a Departmental Assessment Board once you have made an initial attempt at all modules on the level (i.e. 120 credits*). If you subsequently meet the profile for compensation after completing reassessment, compensation will be applied at that point.

When this profile is not achieved compensation cannot be applied. Whether you can progress to the next level will be determined by regulation 7 (progression rules) and maximum credit loading (see the [Academic Awards Framework](#)).

Some modules/tasks may be designated as non-compensatable, for example those marked by pass/fail grades, due to professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements. The [Exemptions from Standard Assessment Regulations](#) outlines where compensation is not permitted.

** For recording purposes the University treats foundation year modules in the same way as those carrying credit, however it should be noted that this credit does not carry a Higher Education award.*

<p>Regulation 7: Progression rules – Foundation Year, Undergraduate (levels 4, 5 and 6) and Integrated Masters only</p>
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PURPOSE: this regulation explains the circumstances in which you can progress from one level to the next and the constraints on progression that are not based solely on individual student performance. Regulation 7 does not apply to any foundation degrees.

This regulation does not apply to taught postgraduate courses.

Foundation Year and Level 4

You will progress from one level to the next if you have:

- successfully passed all 120 credits, or been awarded 120 credits in line with the compensation rules outlined in regulation 6.
- successfully passed 60 credits and achieved a minimum module mark of 30% in other modules, or

If you withdraw from the University after completing Level 4, you are normally awarded a Certificate in Higher Education if you have passed all 120 credits or you have achieved the profile for compensation. This award can only be conferred on the basis of successfully passing 120 credits or being awarded 120 credits in line with the compensation rules outlined in regulation 6.

Levels 5, 6 and integrated masters

You will progress from one level to the next if you have:

- successfully passed all 120 credits, or
- achieved the profile for compensation and have been awarded 120 credits (see regulation 6)

Levels 4, 5, 6 and integrated masters

You can also progress from one level to the next carrying:-

- up to 20 credits of failure, or
- up to 40 credits of continued reassessment (see regulation 7.1), or
- a combination of failure and continued reassessment up to a maximum of 40 credits. The table below outlines examples of the different combinations of the maximum credit loading which can be carried over to the next academic year:-

Fail	Continued Reassessment	Total credit to be carried
10	30	40
15	25	40
20	20	40
0	40	40

You can progress carrying outstanding credit from the level below only, e.g. you can progress to level 6 carrying level 5 credit but not carrying level 4 credit.

If you do not meet the progression rules you cannot undertake any new study at the next level. In the following academic year you must retake failed modules and/or complete your continued reassessments.

Foundation Year provision cannot carry any failed credit or continuous reassessment into the next level of study.

7.1 Carrying continued reassessment

At the end of the period of registration for the module, if you have not had all the normal opportunities for first sit, referral and/or deferral because of extenuating circumstances accepted by the University or you have to

rework some assessment due to academic misconduct, then you have 'continued reassessment' in the module. You will normally undertake continued reassessment at the next standard delivery of the module.

Normally a full-time or sandwich student will take 120 credits per level in an academic year. However you will be permitted to take 120 credits of new study at the next level and also carry a maximum of 40 credits from continued reassessment to be taken without attendance from the previous level only.

A student can only progress carrying outstanding credit from one level below.

If you have failed modules in both levels, in the next year you can retake failed credit at both levels, subject to the maximum credit loading.

Continued deferral can exceptionally be agreed with attendance. In these circumstances, the continued deferral with attendance will be treated in the same way as failed credit to determine progression and credit loading.

7.2 Sandwich students progressing to placement

Guidance for progressing to placement is published in your course documentation. When you have completed your placement period the normal progression regulations apply.

7.3 Part-time students only

You may be considered at an assessment board at the end of your academic year before you have a complete profile of credit for an entire level. If at this point:

- you will not be able to meet the progression rules because one or more of your failed modules has a mark of below 30%, study at the next level is not permitted. You must retake any failed modules and/or continued reassessments alongside new study at the same level only, subject to maximum credit loading.
- you have not passed all credits taken and will not meet the profile for compensation but are on track to meet the progression rules, you must retake any failed modules and/or continued reassessment. These can be taken alongside new study at the same and/or next level, subject to maximum credit loading.
- you have not passed all credits taken but are on track to meet the profile for compensation and the progression rules, you are not permitted to retake any failed modules. You must take your continued reassessment and this can be taken alongside new study at the same and/or next level, subject to maximum credit loading.

At the point of progression when you have completed an entire level of study you may have already started the next level. Your completed level will be considered and compensation applied if possible. If you have not met the progression rules, you will not be permitted to continue further new study at the higher level. Any modules already passed at the higher level are 'banked'.

The maximum amount of credit a part-time student can take in any one academic year is 105 credits. Up to 85 credits of these can be with attendance.

7.4 Integrated Masters students only who are studying mixed levels 6 and 7

Once you have met the progression rules for levels 4 and 5, you can progress to integrated levels 6 and 7. If at the end of the first year of integrated level study you have:

- not met the progression rules for level 5, you will not be permitted to take further new study at the higher levels. Any modules already passed at the higher levels are counted for credit.
- any failed modules or continued reassessment at level 6 and/or level 7 you can take these in the next period of registration alongside new study, subject to maximum credit loading.

7.5 Higher Degree Apprenticeships

If you are on a Higher Degree Apprenticeship course, you are permitted to progress to Gateway leading to the End Point Assessment once you have successfully completed your award and met the criteria as prescribed by the relevant apprenticeship framework or standard in accordance with Education and Skills Funding Agency funding and monitoring rules.

7.6 Other factors constraining progression

If you have to trail credit from one year to the next, or are returning from a break in study, there may be some circumstances which affect your progression, such as:

- any specified pre-requisite relationships between modules that dictate the sequence in which they must be studied
- the maximum permissible numbers of students on a module
- the non-availability of modules

You may progress to placement carrying failed, referred and/or deferred modules as specified in regulation 7.2, unless there are any specific requirements that prevent this as published in your course documentation.

Regulation 8: Retaking a module (core and elective)

PURPOSE: this regulation explains the circumstances under which you can retake and what retake means.

8.1 Retaking a module If you fail a module, you will be allowed to retake the module on one occasion only, unless prevented due to:

- a sanction applied under the [Academic Conduct Regulation](#)
- availability of the module concerned
- course duration regulations
- the module being a nominal 1 credit module

Retaking a core or elective module means that:

- You may be charged a fee, published by your College.
- You must take all the assessment tasks in the module with attendance.
- The overall module mark will be capped at the minimum pass mark.
- You have the same reassessment opportunities as at the first registration (see regulation 3.1)

If the module is no longer available (e.g. due to the course being revalidated), a replacement module may be studied as directed by your Department. This will be treated as a retake and will be subject to all regulations relating to retake modules. Capping of the module will still apply. If a replacement module cannot be studied, you will need to renegotiate your programme of study. Decisions about taking a replacement module or renegotiating your programme require discussion and agreement with the course team.

8.2 Retaking mixed level modules

Some students will be permitted to retake failed credit at two levels in a single period of registration, subject to normal credit loading limits. These are:

- part-time students who have studied mixed level due to scheduling reasons
- students who have studied mixed level due to the design of their course, for example Integrated Masters
- students who are carrying reassessments from the previous level and subsequently fail modules at two levels

8.3 Consequences of failure on a retaken module (core and elective)

If you fail a core or elective module after retake this means that you will be withdrawn from the course with immediate effect and be considered for an intermediate award if appropriate. Any further application for study at the University will be considered in accordance with the University's Admissions Policy.

Where possible, you may instead be able to:

- transfer to an alternative or more general course in a similar area of study. This would normally mean that you are able to use most of the credit that you have gained as part of your new course.
- use your credit towards a course in a different area of study. You may be able to use some of the credit you have gained towards your new course.

8.4 Transfer to a new award

If you transfer to a new award and you study a module that you have previously failed, this is treated as a retake, and the module will be capped at the minimum pass mark.

Regulation 9: Substitution of an elective module after failure of the module

PURPOSE: this regulation explains the circumstances under which your retake is the substitution of a failed elective module with a new elective.

If you fail an elective module, you may:

- retake the same module on one occasion only, or
- substitute the module with another elective module, where one is available, on one occasion only. This is your retake.

If you choose to substitute a module with a different elective module your module mark will still be capped at the minimum pass mark. No further substitutions are permitted.

Where a sanction has been applied under the [Academic Conduct Regulation](#) of failure in an elective module, you may wish to substitute the module with a different elective module. If the sanction allows this, capping of the module overall at the minimum pass mark will still apply.

Regulation 10: Withdrawal for non-engagement

PURPOSE: this regulation explains how you could be withdrawn from your course due to non-engagement.

If your engagement with your studies is deemed to be unsatisfactory, we reserve the right to deem you to have withdrawn from your course.

Examples (not exhaustive) of not fully engaging include:

- repeated non-attendance at teaching sessions;
- not taking part in (formal or informal) assessments;
- failing to adequately contribute towards group assessments;
- failing to respond to email or written correspondence;
- failure to engage with contact points specific to a Tier 4/ Student visa.
- Failure to comply with mandatory training and other requirements relevant to a professional course
- The termination of employment preventing the successful completion of a course within our apprenticeship provision.

We will issue a warning regarding your level of engagement prior to inviting you to a meeting to discuss the issue. If you do not attend the meeting, or if your engagement does not improve, we will withdraw you from your course and you will be considered for an intermediate award if appropriate. Any further application for study at the University will be considered in accordance with the University's Admissions Policy.

Regulation 11: How undergraduate, Integrated Masters and taught postgraduate awards and classifications are calculated and conferred

PURPOSE: this regulation explains how award classifications and grades of achievement are calculated.

The regulations below explain for each award:

- how the overall average mark is calculated and
- the level of achievement required for the calculation of Merit or Distinction grades or honours classification (as appropriate)

If you enter an award at Sheffield Hallam University using previously gained credit for which you have already achieved an award:

- the credit can be used towards the new Sheffield Hallam University award
- the marks for the previous credit cannot be used to calculate classification or merit and distinction grades

Departmental Assessment Boards will, under the delegated authority of the Academic Board, verify the awards to be conferred upon individual students who meet the minimum credit requirements specified below and fulfil the specific requirements of the approved course. Exceptionally, the Academic Board may determine that such authority will not be delegated and may withdraw awards previously conferred.

Lower level awards (intermediate awards) will not be given while the student is accumulating credit towards the higher target award in the same course of study. Where a student fails to achieve the target award, however, a lower award may be conferred if the requirements for the award have been met.

These requirements are that you must have met the aims and objectives and learning outcomes for the relevant intermediate award (i.e. Certificate and Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma stage of the approved course on which you are registered). This means that all core modules for the Certificate and/or Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate and/or Post Graduate Diploma (as appropriate) must have been passed or compensated in line with regulation 6. Higher level credit for undergraduate programmes or credit from any stage within a Postgraduate programme (i.e. PGC, PGD and Masters) can be used to make good credit deficiencies as long as the minimum course learning outcomes for the lower level modules have been met.

Aegrotat award

In exceptional circumstances, you may be offered an aegrotat award where there is sufficient evidence of your achievement to satisfy the Departmental Assessment Board that you would have met the requirement for the award, but where there is evidence that you cannot complete the course due to exceptionally severe illness or other exceptionally compelling reasons.

If an aegrotat award is offered to you, it cannot be formally awarded until you have agreed in writing to accept it. If an aegrotat award has been accepted, it is not possible to take any more assessment or reassessment, and the actual marks achieved will be recorded on the results transcript. An aegrotat award has no classification and is not awarded with merit or distinction. Where courses are accredited by a professional body, an aegrotat award does not entitle you to professional registration.

Posthumous award

A student may be posthumously awarded the most appropriate award or intermediate award, if there is sufficient evidence of the student's achievement.

Sheffield Hallam University Academic Awards Framework

The [Academic Awards Framework](#) sets out the parameters which University academic courses are designed and approved. This document contains details on the credit requirements for undergraduate and postgraduate courses, and for small/minor awards.

11.1 University Certificate of Higher Education

Minimum credit requirement is 120 credits at level 4.

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Merit or Distinction award may be given is calculated using the module marks of all modules passed and marked by percentage, weighted by credit value.

You will achieve a **pass** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 4 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 4 or higher

11.2 BTEC Higher National Certificate

Minimum credit requirement is 120 credits at level 4 or higher.

11.2.1 BTEC modules

Pass, Merit and Distinction grades are given at module level.

You will **pass a module in which** you achieve an overall mark of 40 - 55%

You will receive a **Merit** in an individual module in which you achieve an overall mark of 56 - 69%

You will receive a Distinction in an individual module in which you achieve an overall mark of 70 - 100%

11.2.2 Overall average mark for the BTEC Higher National Certificate

You will achieve a **pass** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and

- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 4 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 4 or higher

11.3 University Certificate in Education (Cert Ed)

Minimum credit requirement is 120 credits, with a minimum of 60 credits at level 5 and remaining credits at level 4 or higher

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Merit or Distinction award may be given is calculated using the module marks of all modules passed and marked by percentage, weighted by credit value.

You will achieve a **pass** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 5 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 5 or higher

11.4 University Diploma of Higher Education

Minimum credit requirement is 240 credits, with minimum of 120 credits at level 5 and remaining credits at level 4 or higher.

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated using each of the methods below, and the method which gives the higher overall average will be automatically selected and verified by the Departmental Assessment Board.

Method 1

- the overall weighted average of all level 4 modules, weighted at 25% and
- the overall weighted average of all level 5 modules or higher, weighted at 75%

Method 2 All credit passed at level 5 or higher, weighted according to module credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 5 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 5 or higher

11.5 BTEC Higher National Diploma

Minimum credit requirement is 240 credits, with a minimum of 120 credits at level 5 and remaining credits at level 4 or higher.

11.5.1 BTEC modules

Pass, Merit and Distinction grades are given at module level.

You will pass a module in which you achieve a mark of 40 - 55%.

You will receive a Merit in an individual module in which you achieve a mark of 56 - 69%.

You will receive a Distinction in an individual module in which you achieve a mark of 70 - 100%.

11.5.2 Overall average mark for the BTEC Higher National Diploma

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated using each of the methods below, and the method which gives the higher overall average will be automatically selected and verified by the Departmental Assessment Board.

Method 1

- the overall weighted average of all level 4 modules, weighted at 25% and
- the overall weighted average of all level 5 modules or higher, weighted at 75%

Method 2

All credit passed at level 5 or higher, weighted according to module credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 5 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 5 or higher

11.6 Foundation degree

Minimum credit requirement is 240 credits, with a minimum of 120 credits at level 5 and at least 100 credits at level 4 or higher.

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated using each of the methods below, and the method which gives the higher overall average will be automatically selected and verified by the Departmental Assessment Board.

Method 1

- the overall weighted average of all level 4 modules, weighted at 25% and
- the overall weighted average of all level 5 modules or higher, weighted at 75%

Method 2 All credit passed at level 5 or higher, weighted according to module credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 5 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 5 or higher

11.7 Advanced Diploma of Higher Education

Minimum credit requirement is 300 credits, with a minimum of 60 credits at level 6 and 120 credits at level 5, with remaining credits at level 4 or higher

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated from all level 5 and level 6 credit or higher marked by percentage which has been passed, weighted according to its credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 6 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 6

11.8 Ordinary Degree

Minimum credit requirement is 300 credits with a minimum of 60 credits at level 6, and a minimum of 120 credits at level 5, and remaining credits at level 4 or higher. The award of an Ordinary Degree is also subject to the fulfilment of specific additional criteria - see below.

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated from all level 5 and level 6 credit or higher marked by percentage which has been passed, weighted according to its credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 6 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 6 or higher

Additional criteria for the award of Ordinary Degrees:

- You must have met the requirements, aims and objectives and learning outcomes for the Certificate and Diploma stages of the approved Honours Degree on which you are registered and have, in addition, achieved a minimum of 60 credits at level 6 from the final year of your approved Honours Degree programme. This means that all core modules for the Certificate and Diploma must have either been passed or higher level credit can be used to make good credit deficiencies at lower levels as long as the minimum learning outcomes for the lower level modules have been met.
- The awarding of Ordinary Degree is subject to any professional, statutory or regulatory bodies' (PSRBs) requirements which may specify that certain specific, core or elective modules need to be passed for the purposes of PSRB accreditation.
- The title of any Ordinary Degree awarded will normally be the same as that of the validated title for the Diploma stage of the approved Honours degree programme unless PSRB or other requirements do not allow this. In such cases, an alternative title will be approved through standard approval procedures.
- If you are eligible for the award of Ordinary Degree, you will also be offered the opportunity of taking further assessment to continue on the Honours Degree programme to make good failure (where appropriate), unless PSRBs do not allow this.

Certain types of Honours Degree “top-up awards” may be exempt from the requirement to include an Ordinary Degree. Such exemptions are determined and approved at validation.

11.9 Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PCE)

Minimum credit requirement is 60 credits at level 6. You must also meet the requirements for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or equivalent.

You will receive a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education when all the assessment for the award has been passed.

Merit and Distinction grades are not available for this award.

11.10 Honours Degrees (e.g. BA Hons, BSc Hons, BEng Hons, LLB Hons)

Minimum credit requirement is 360 credits, with a minimum of 120 credits at level 6, at least 120 at level 5 or higher and remainder at level 4 or higher.

The Honours classification for each student will be determined using the methodology given below.

For Awards conferred before 2nd November 2026 the following calculation will apply:

Your final average mark which will determine the Honours classification will be calculated using each of the methods outlined below as appropriate, and the method which results in the best classification and overall average will be automatically selected. The Departmental Assessment Board will verify whichever method results in the higher final average mark.

Method 1

If you have at least 100 and no more than 140 credits marked by percentage at level 5 and at least 100 and no more than 140 credits marked by percentage at level 6 or higher, your final average mark will be calculated from

- the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 5 credits, weighted at 25%
- the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 6 credits or higher, weighted at 75%

Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived from whole module marks without using more than 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value (see Example 1 in [Annex 2](#)).

If you do not have at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 5 and at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 6 or higher, this method will not be used.

Method 2

If you have at least 100 and no more than 140 credits marked by percentage at level 6 or higher, the final average mark will be calculated from the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 6 credits or higher, weighted at 100%.

Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived from whole module marks without using more than 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value (see Example 2 in [Annex 2](#)).

If you do not have at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 6 or higher, this method will not be used.

If you have not got at least 100 credit marked by percentage, the following two alternative methods will apply instead of the methods above. Whichever of the two methods below results in the better classification and overall average will automatically be selected.

Alternative Method 1

The final average mark will be calculated from

- the overall weighted average of all level 5 marks, weighted at 25%
- the overall weighted average of all level 6 marks or higher, weighted at 75%

Alternative Method 2

The final average mark will be calculated from the overall weighted average of all level 6 marks or higher only. See [Annex 2](#) for examples of calculations for the best 100 credits method of Honours degree classification.

The University has reviewed how all undergraduate and integrated masters awards are calculated in line with UUK guidance to continue to ensure the integrity of our awards. The following calculation will apply to all awards conferred on or after 2nd November 2026:

Your final average mark which will determine the Honours classification will be calculated using each of the methods outlined below as appropriate, and the method which results in the best classification and overall average will be automatically selected. The Departmental Assessment Board will verify whichever method results in the higher final average mark.

Method 1

If you have at least 120 and no more than 140 credits marked by percentage at level 5 and at least 120 and no more than 140 credits marked by percentage at level 6 or higher, your final average mark will be calculated from

- the overall weighted average of the level 5 credits, weighted at 25%*
- the overall weighted average of the level 6 credits or higher, weighted at 75%*

Method 2

If you have at least 120 and no more than 140 credits marked by percentage at level 6 or higher, the final average mark will be calculated from the overall average of the level 6 credits.

11.10.1 How the overall average mark will be calculated for the Honours classification where an Honours Degree Programme requires 150 credits or more at level 5 and/or at level 6

In these exceptional circumstances the overall average will be derived from the best 130 credits marked by percentage at a level contributing to the Honours calculation. This will only apply where the course requires additional credit at level 5 and/or level 6 or higher. It will not apply where an individual student has chosen to take more credit at a particular level (e.g. where students on a standard course choose to substitute higher level credit for deficiencies at a lower level. Where this is the case the overall average will be calculated in accordance with 11.10 above).

11.10.2 How the overall average mark will be calculated for the Honours classification where a student enters an Honours Degree Programme at level 5 or 6 (i.e. where credit from another Institution is counted as part of the award)

If you enter a University Honours Degree programme needing only to complete credit at level 5 and/or 6 or higher, the Honours classification is normally based on marks from credit achieved at the University, unless your programme has been specifically approved to use marks achieved elsewhere. In such cases, please check your course documentation for further information.

11.10.3 How the overall average mark will be calculated for the Honours classification where credit has been gained from an institution overseas as part of a Sheffield Hallam University award

Where you undertake a period of study at another institution overseas as part of the approved programme, the method by which this credit will be counted in the calculation of your Honours classification will be agreed when the course is approved.

11.10.4 How the overall average mark will be calculated for the Honours classification where credit has been gained from another institution overseas which is not part of an approved programme (E.g. Erasmus year)

Where you undertake a period of study at another institution overseas, which is not part of the approved programme, the Course/Programme Leader will agree beforehand:

- how many credit points you can gain from the period of study, and
- the level of the credit points available, and

- how the assessment marks from the other institution will be translated into Sheffield Hallam University assessment marks

Subject to the above, relevant level 5 and/or 6 marks or higher achieved during the period of study may contribute towards the Honours classification and the methodology in regulation 11.10 would be used.

Where grades or marks achieved in level 5 and/or 6 or higher cannot be translated into Sheffield Hallam marks, your classification will be based on level 5 and 6 marks achieved at the University, of which at least 120 credits must be at level 6 or higher. Credit only will be awarded for modules where marks cannot be translated to Sheffield Hallam marks.

Where there is a regular arrangement for students to study at another institution, these details will be specified in the definitive course document.

11.10.5 Level of achievement required for the calculation of Honours degree classification (BA Hons, BSc Hons and LLB Hons)

The following table explains how Honours degree classifications are calculated.

Degree Classification	Level of achievement required for the classification. You will be awarded this classification if you:
First Class Honours (1st)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve a final average mark of 70.00 - 100.00%, or • achieve a final average mark on the first class borderline (68.01 - 69.99%) <u>and</u> achieve first class module marks in at least 60 credits at level 6 or higher
Upper Second Class Honours (2.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve a final average mark of 60.00 - 69.99 %, or • achieve a final average mark on the class 2.1 borderline (58.01 – 59.99%) <u>and</u> achieve 2.1 class or higher module marks in at least 60 credits at level 6 or higher
Lower Second Class Honour (2.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve a final average mark of 50.00 - 59.99%, or • achieve a final average mark on the class 2.2 borderline (48.01 – 49.99%) <u>and</u> achieve 2.2 class or higher module marks in at least 60 credits at level 6 or higher
Third Class Honours (3rd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve a final average mark of 40.00 – 49.99%

11.11 Graduate Certificate

Minimum credit requirement is 60 credits at level 6.

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Pass, Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated using the module marks of all modules passed and marked by percentage, weighted by credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 6

or higher You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 30 credits at level 6 or

higher

11.12 Graduate Diploma

Minimum credit requirement is 120 credits at level 6.

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Pass, Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated using the module marks of all modules passed and marked by percentage, weighted by credit value.

You will pass the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 40.00 - 55.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 56.00 - 69.99% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 54.01 - 55.99% and
- achieve merit level marks or higher (i.e. 56.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 6 or higher

You will achieve a **Distinction** in the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark of 70.00 - 100.00% OR
- achieve a final overall average mark in the borderline range of 68.01 - 69.99% and
- achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 - 100.00%) in at least 60 credits at level 6 or higher

11.13 Calculation of Honours Classification for Integrated Masters Degrees, e.g. MEng, MMath, MSci, MArt, MComp, MArch, MDes

Integrated Masters Degrees will be awarded with an Honours degree classification. The Honours classification for each student registered for an Integrated Masters Degree will be determined using the methodology given below.

For Awards conferred before 2nd November 2026 the following calculation will apply:

Your final average mark which will determine the Honours classification will be calculated using each of the methods outlined below as appropriate, and the method which results in the best classification and overall

average will be automatically selected. The Departmental Assessment Board will verify whichever method results in the higher final average mark.

Method 1

If you have at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 6, and at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 7, the final average mark will be calculated from:

- the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 6 credits, weighted at 25%
- the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 7 credits, weighted at 75%

Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived by whole module marks without using more than the 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value (see examples in [Annex 3](#)).

If you do not have at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 6 and at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 7, this method will not be used.

Method 2

If you have at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 5, and at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 6, and at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 7, the final average mark will be calculated from:

- the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 5 credits, weighted at 20%
- the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 6 credits, weighted at 30%
- the overall weighted average of the 100 highest marked level 7 credits, weighted at 50%

Where the best 100 credits marked by percentage cannot be derived by whole module marks without using more than the 100 highest marked credits, the mark for the lowest marked module included in the calculation will be weighted at the appropriate credit value (see examples at the end of the regulations).

If you do not have at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 5 and at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 6 and at least 100 credits marked by percentage at level 7, this method will not be used.

See [Annex 3](#) for examples of calculations for the best 100 credits method of Integrated Masters Honours degree classification.

If you have not got at least 100 credits marked by percentage, the following alternative methods will apply instead of the methods above. Whichever of the two methods below results in the better classification and overall average will automatically be selected.

Alternative Method 1

The final average mark will be calculated from

- the overall weighted average of all level 6 marks, weighted at 25%
- the overall weighted average of all level 7 marks, weighted at 75%

Alternative Method 2

The final average mark will be calculated from

- the overall weighted average of all level 5 marks, weighted at 20%
- the overall weighted average of all level 6 marks, weighted at 30%
- the overall weighted average of all level 7 marks, weighted at 50%

The University has reviewed how all undergraduate and integrated masters awards are calculated in line with UUK guidance to continue to ensure the integrity of our awards. The following calculation will apply to all awards conferred on or after 2nd November 2026:

Your final average mark which will determine the Honours classification will be calculated using each of the methods outlined below as appropriate, and the method which results in the best classification and overall average will be automatically selected. The Departmental Assessment Board will verify whichever method results in the higher final average mark.

Method 1

The final average mark will be calculated from

- *the overall weighted average of all level 6 marks, weighted at 25%*
- *the overall weighted average of all level 7 marks, weighted at 75%*

Method 2

The final average mark will be calculated from

- *the overall weighted average of all level 5 marks, weighted at 20% • the overall weighted average of all level 6 marks, weighted at 30%*
- *the overall weighted average of all level 7 marks, weighted at 50%*

11.13.1 How the overall average mark will be calculated for the Honours classification where a student enters an Integrated Masters Degree programme at level 6 (i.e. where credit from another Institution is counted as part of the award)

If you enter an Integrated Masters programme needing only to complete credit at level 6 and 7, the Honours classification is normally based on marks from credit achieved at the University, unless your programme has been specifically approved to use marks achieved elsewhere. In this case, please check your course documentation for further information.

11.13.2 How the overall average mark will be calculated for Honours classification for Integrated Masters Degree programmes where credit has been gained from an institution overseas as part of a Sheffield Hallam University award

Where you undertake a period of study at another institution overseas as part of the approved programme, the method by which this credit will be counted in the calculation of your Honours classification for an Integrated Masters Degree programme will be agreed when the course is approved.

11.13.3 How the overall average mark will be calculated for the Honours classification for an Integrated Masters Degree where credit has been gained from another institution overseas which is not part of an approved programme (E.g. Erasmus year)

Where you undertake a period of study at another institution overseas, which is not part of the approved programme, the Course/Programme Leader will agree beforehand:

- how many credit points you can gain from the period of study, *and*
- the level of the credit points available, *and*
- how the assessment marks from the other institution will be translated into Sheffield Hallam University assessment marks

Subject to the above, relevant level 5, 6 and/or 7 marks achieved during the period of study may contribute towards the Honours classification and the methodology in regulation 11.2 would be used.

Where grades or marks achieved in level 5, 6 and/or 7 cannot be translated into Sheffield Hallam marks, your classification will be based on marks achieved at the University, of which at least 120 credits must be at level 7. Credit only will be awarded for modules where marks cannot be translated to Sheffield Hallam marks.

Where there is a regular arrangement for students to study at another institution, these details will be specified in the definitive course document.

11.13.4 Level of achievement required for the calculation of Honours degree classification for Integrated Masters degrees

The following table explains how Honours degree classifications for Integrated Masters Degrees are calculated:

Degree classification	Level of achievement required for the classification You will be awarded this classification if you:
First class Honours (1st)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> achieve a final average mark of 70.00 - 100.00%, <i>or</i> achieve a final average mark on the first class borderline (68.01 - 69.99%) <u>and</u> achieve first class module marks in at least 60 credits at level 7
Upper second class Honours (2:1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> achieve a final average mark of 60.00 - 69.99%, <i>or</i> achieve a final average mark on the class 2.1 borderline (58.01 - 59.99%) <u>and</u> achieve 2.1 class or higher module marks in at least 60 credits at level 7
Lower second class Honours (2:2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> achieve a final average mark of 50.00 - 59.99% <i>or</i> achieve a final average mark on the class 2.2 borderline (48.01 - 49.99%) <u>and</u> achieve 2.2 class or higher module marks in at least 60 credits at level 7
Third class Honours (3rd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> achieve a final average mark of 40.00 - 49.99%.

11.14 Methods of calculation for grades of achievement for Taught Postgraduate Awards (except Integrated Masters Degrees - see Regulation 11.13)

The final average mark in level 7 modules to determine whether a Pass, Merit or Distinction is awarded is calculated using all level 7 modules taken on the course for which credit has been awarded and which are marked on a percentage basis. It is calculated when the student has reached the end of the course, or has formally left or failed the course at an intermediate point. It is not calculated at the end of each stage (e.g. postgraduate certificate stage and postgraduate diploma stage) as the student progresses through the course.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark in all level 7 modules of 50.00 - 59.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** if you:

- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules of 60.00 – 69.99% *or*
- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules in the borderline range (58.01 – 59.99% and achieve merit-level marks (i.e. 60.00 – 100.00%) in the following amounts of level 7 credit:

- at least 30 credits if the final award is a Postgraduate Certificate
- at least 60 credits if the final award is a Postgraduate Diploma
- at least 90 credits if the final award is a Taught Masters Degree (MA, MSc, MEd, LLM, MBA, MRes, MArt)

You will achieve a **Distinction** if you:

- achieve a final average mark in all level 7 modules of 70.00 – 100.00% *or*
- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules in the borderline range 68.01 – 69.99% and achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 – 100.00%) in the following amounts of level 7 credit:
 - at least 30 credits if the final award is a Postgraduate Certificate
 - at least 60 credits if the final award is a Postgraduate Diploma
 - at least 90 credits if the final award is a Taught Masters Degree (MA, MSc, MEd, LLM, MBA, MRes, MArt)

11.15 Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

Minimum credit requirement is 60 credits at level 7. You must also meet the requirements for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or equivalent.

The final overall average mark to determine whether a Pass, Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated using the module marks of all modules passed and marked by percentage, weighted by credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark in all level 7 modules of 50.00 - 59.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** if you:

- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules of 60.00 – 69.99% *or*
- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules in the borderline range (58.01 – 59.99% and achieve merit-level marks (i.e. 60.00 – 100.00%) at least 30 credits

You will achieve a **Distinction** if you:

- achieve a final average mark in all level 7 modules of 70.00 – 100.00% *or*
- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules in the borderline range 68.01 – 69.99% and achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 – 100.00%) in at least 30 credits

11.16 Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)

Minimum credit requirement is 120 credits at level 7. You must also meet the requirements for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or equivalent. The final overall average mark to determine whether a Pass, Merit or Distinction award may be given will be calculated using the module marks of all modules passed and marked by percentage, weighted by credit value.

You will **pass** the award if you:

- achieve a final overall average mark in all level 7 modules of 50.00 - 59.99%

You will achieve a **Merit** if you:

- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules of 60.00 – 69.99% *or*
- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules in the borderline range (58.01 – 59.99% and achieve merit-level marks (i.e. 60.00 – 100.00%) at least 60 credits

You will achieve a **Distinction** if you:

- achieve a final average mark in all level 7 modules of 70.00 – 100.00% *or*
- achieve a final average mark in level 7 modules in the borderline range 68.01 – 69.99% and achieve distinction level marks (i.e. 70.00 – 100.00%) in at least 60 credits

11.17 Minimum Sheffield Hallam University credits required for awards which include credit for Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)

Where a student has entered the course with credit for Recognised Prior Learning, the award of Merit or Distinction can only be achieved subject to the minimum credit requirements being awarded by Sheffield Hallam University, and subject to achieving a final average mark in the relevant level of achievement. Only credit awarded by Sheffield Hallam University is used in the calculation of the award with merit or distinction.

If a student has achieved the minimum credit requirements for the award, but has NOT achieved the minimum Sheffield Hallam University credits for the award to be graded with merit or distinction, the award will be passed but cannot be graded. See table below.

Award	Minimum Sheffield Hallam University credits required to award merit or distinction
University Certificate of Higher Education	80 credits
BTEC HNC	80 credits
University Certificate in Education (Cert Ed)	80 credits (including minimum of 60 credits at level 5)
University Diploma in Higher Education	160 credits at level 4 or higher (including minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or higher)
BTEC HND	160 credits at level 4 or higher (including minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or higher)
Foundation Degree	160 credits at level 4 or higher (including minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or higher)
Advanced Diploma of Higher Education	180 credits at level 5 or higher (including minimum of 60 credits at level 6)
Ordinary Degree	180 credits at level 5 or higher (including minimum of 60 credits at level 6)
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PCE)	40 credits
Graduate Certificate	40 credits
Graduate Diploma	80 credits
Postgraduate Certificate	40 credits

Postgraduate Diploma	80 credits
Masters Degree	120 credits

The recommended credit parameters around whether or not an award can be awarded with merit or distinction are defined in the regulations. These parameters apply to individual students applying to the University to have prior credit recognised towards study on a University programme. Exceptions to these parameters for cohorts of students may be specifically approved as part of the validation process to allow external Recognised Prior Credit to be included in the calculation of Merit and Distinction. However, students will still need to achieve the minimum credit requirements as specified for each award in order to be eligible for Merit or Distinction. Further details regarding the Recognition of Prior Learning can be found on [myhallam](#).

12.0 Ensuring the Assessment Regulations meet the University Assessment Principles

Exceptionally, the Department Assessment Board (DAB) may take the view that it wishes to set aside the academic regulations in order to deal with a student or cohort in accordance with the assessment principles. In such cases the DAB must make a case for regulatory exception by clearly stating the issue and the proposed course of action to resolve the issue. The DAB/ must obtain permission from the Academic Standing Panel to invoke this exception. The Panel consists of the Dean of Students (Chair), Director of Academic Services, Head of Academic Quality and Standards and the President/Vice President of Sheffield Hallam University Student Union. The Panel may accept or reject the request and will ensure that the academic standards of the University's awards are secured when reaching a decision. All such exceptions will be recorded and reported annually to Academic Board and Academic Assurance Committee. Application of the agreed course of action remains the responsibility of the DAB and students therefore retain the right to appeal against the DAB decision under the appeals procedure.

13.0 Mitigating disruption to the application of Assessment Regulations in order to meet the University Assessment Principles

The University's policies and processes for assessment and student continuation are both flexible and robust to respond to changing circumstances. However, we recognise that there may be extraordinary and exceptional circumstances which involve the significant disruption of university activities. If such circumstances arise, Academic Board shall consider and, if appropriate, activate the following regulation:

In the event of significant disruption to the assessment process and application of the Assessment Regulations, and where Department Assessment Boards do not have a full set of marks for an individual student or cohort of students, the University may convene an Exceptional Assessment and Award Board. The Exceptional Assessment and Award Board will consider recommendations from the relevant Department Assessment Board(s). The Exceptional Board may take the view that it wishes to set, vary or to set aside the Assessment Regulations in order to deal with significant disruption to several students or cohorts in accordance with the assessment principles, while ensuring that the academic standards of the University Awards are secured. The Board will be drawn from College Deans, College senior leadership (to include each College Associate Dean Learning and Teaching) and chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), or nominee, and will maintain the principle that students may only be awarded a pass and a mark for a module, or a progression or award decision where there is sufficient evidence of performance and achievement against relevant course learning outcomes. The Exceptional Assessment Board may agree outcomes based on the profile of available marks to enable awards to be calculated, and progression to the next level of study. All such exceptions will be recorded and reported annually to Academic Board. Application of the agreed course of action remains the responsibility of the relevant Department Assessment Board, and students retain the right to appeal under the appeals procedure.

The regulation will not be applied where the conferment of an award would breach articles of professional accreditation or registration.

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ANNEX 1 NORMAL AND MAXIMUM DURATIONS

These are the maximum durations applied to students who enter or transfer into a university award at different levels.

Normal duration

Maximum duration

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

	Full-Time				Part-Time			
	Normal duration	Point of entry			Normal duration	Point of entry		
		Level 4	Level 5	Level 6		Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Integrated Masters SW	5 years	7 years	6 years	4 years	9 years	9 years	7 years	4 years
Integrated Masters FT	4 years	7 years	6 years	5 years	8 years	9 years	7 years	5 years
Sandwich Degree with Honours	4 years	7 years	6 years	4 years	7 years	9 years	7 years	4 years
Honours Degree	3 years	6 years	5 years	4 years	6 years	8 years	6 years	4 years
Degree (nonhonours)	3 years	6 years	5 years	4 years	6 years	8 years	6 years	4 years
Honours Degree (top up degree, L6 only)	1 year			2 years	2 years			3 years
Foundation Degree	2 years	4 years	3 years		4 years	6 years	4 years	
Diploma of Higher Education	2 years	4 years	3 years		4 years	6 years	4 years	

Certificate of Higher Education	1 year	2 years			2 years	3 years		
Higher National Diploma	2 years	4 years	3 years		4 years	6 years	4 years	
Higher National Certificate	1 year	2 years			2 years	3 years		
Graduate Diploma	1 year	2 years			2 years	3 years		
Graduate Certificate	N/A				1 year	2 years		

POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

	Full-Time			Part-Time		
	Normal duration	Point of entry		Normal duration	Point of entry	
		Level 7	Level 8		Level 7	Level 8
PCE (Professional Graduate Certificate in Education)	1 year	2 years		2 years	4 years	
PGCE	1 year	2 years		2 years	4 years	
PGDE	2 years	4 years		n/a	n/a	
PG Certificate	1 year	2 years		1 year	2 years	
PG Diploma	1 year	2 years		2 years	4 years	
Masters Degree (taught)	1 year	3 years		3 years	6 years	

ANNEX 2 - Examples of how the 'Best 100 credits' method of Honours degree classification work (method in place up to 1st November 2026)

EXAMPLE 1 Worked Example of Method 1: this shows how the classification is calculated when the lowest marked module is 30 credits

Level 6 Credit (75%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark(↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L6-A	20	20	57	1140		1140
L6-B	10	30	55	550		550
L6-C	20	50	53	1060		1060
L6-D	20	70	51	1020		1020
L6-E	20	90	44	880		880
L6-F	30	120	40	1200	400 ¹	400
						5050

¹ The mark for the 30 credit module L6-F needs to be weighted to 10 credits for the average to be calculated over the best 100 credits, so the weighted contribution is $1200 \times (10/30) = 400$

$5050/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 75\% = 37.88$ weighted level 6 average

Level 5 Credit (25%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark(↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L5-A	10	10	70	700		700
L5-B	20	30	60	1200		1200
L5-C	20	50	53	1060		1060
L5-D	20	70	51	1020		1020
L5-E	20	90	50	1000		1000
L5-F	20	110	44	880	440 ¹	440
L5-G	10	120	40	400	IGNORED	
						5420

¹ The mark for the 20 credit module L5-F needs to be weighted to 10 credits for the average to be calculated over the best 100 credits, so the weighted contribution is $880 \times (10/20) = 440$

$5420/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 25\% = 13.55$ weighted level 5 average

Overall Average = $37.88 + 13.55 = 51.43$ (2:2)

EXAMPLE 2 Worked Example of Method 2: this shows how the classification is calculated when the lowest marked module is 60 credits

Level 6 Credit (100%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark(↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L6-G	20	20	68	1360		1360
L6-H	20	40	64	1280		1280

¹ The mark for the 60 credit module L6-J needs to be weighted to 40 credits for the average to be calculated over the best 100 credits, so the weighted contribution is $3660 \times (40/60) = 2440$

L6-I	20	60	62	1240		1240
L6-J	60	120	61	3660	2440 ¹	2440
						6320

$6320/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 100\%$ = 63.2 overall average (2:1)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark(↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L6-A	20	20	57	1140		1140
L6-B	10	30	55	550		550
L6-C	20	50	53	1060		1060
L6-D	20	70	51	1020		1020
L6-E	20	90	44	880		880
L6-F	30	120	40	1200	400 ¹	400
						5050

¹ The mark for the 30 credit module L6-F needs to be weighted to 10 credits, so the weighted contribution is $1200 \times (10/30) = 400$

ANNEX 3 - Examples of how the "Best 100 credits" method of Integrated Masters Honours degree classification work (method in place up to 1st November 2026)

Worked Example of Method 1 - Integrated Masters Honours degree classification calculation:

Level 7 Credit (75%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark (↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L7-A	20	20	57	1140		1140
L7-B	10	30	55	550		550
L7-C	20	50	53	1060		1060
L7-D	20	70	51	1020		1020
L7-E	20	90	44	880		880
L7-F	30	120	40	1200	400 ¹	400
						5050

¹ The mark for the 30 credit module L7-F needs to be weighted to 10 credits for the average to be calculated over the best 100 credits, so the weighted contribution is $1200 \times (10/30) = 400$

$5050/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 75\% = 37.88$ weighted level 7 average

Level 6 Credit (25%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark (↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L6-A	10	10	70	700		700
L6-B	20	30	60	1200		1200
L6-C	20	50	53	1060		1060
L6-D	20	70	51	1020		1020
L6-E	20	90	50	1000		1000
L6-F	20	110	44	880	440 ¹	440
L6-G	10	120	40	400	IGNORED	
						5420

¹ The mark for the 20 credit module L6-F needs to be weighted to 10 credits for the average to be calculated over the best 100 credits, so the weighted contribution is $880 \times (10/20) = 440$

$5420/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 25\% = 13.55$ weighted level 6 average

Overall Average = $37.88 + 13.55 = 51.43$ (2:2)

Worked Example of Method 2: - Integrated Masters Honours degree classification calculation:

Level 7 Credit (50%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark (↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L7-A	15	15	57	855		855
L7-B	15	30	55	825		825
L7-C	15	45	53	795		795
L7-D	45	90	51	2295		2295
L7-E	30	120	50	1500	500 ¹	500
						5270

¹ The mark for the 30 credit module L7-E needs to be weighted to 10 credits for the average to be calculated over the best 100 credits, so the weighted contribution is $1500 \times (10/30) = 500$

$5270/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 50\% = 26.35$ weighted level 7 average

Level 6 Credit (30%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark (↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L6-A	20	20	70	1400		1400
L6-B	20	40	60	1200		1200
L6-C	20	60	53	1060		1060
L6-D	20	80	51	1020		1020
L6-E	40	120	44	1760	880 ¹	880
						5560

¹ The mark for the 40 credit module L6-e needs to be weighted to 20 credits for the average to be calculated over the best 100 credits, so the weighted contribution is $1760 \times (20/40) = 880$

$5560/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 30\% = 16.68$ weighted level 6 average

Level 5 Credit (20%)

Module	Credits	Cumulative total	Mark (↓)	Credits x Mark	Weighting of lowest marked module	Total
L6-A	20	20	70	1400		1400
L6-B	20	40	60	1200		1200
L6-C	20	60	53	1060		1060
L6-D	20	80	51	1020		1020
L6-E	20	100	50	1000		1000

L6- F	20	120	40	800	IGNORED	
						5680

$5680/100$ (weighted credits / total credits) $\times 20\% = 11.36$ weighted level 5 average

Overall Average = $26.35 + 16.68 + 11.36 = 54.39$ (2:2)