

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

PGT MASTERS DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

(Academic Sessions 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17)

The taught postgraduate classification algorithm uses a combination of the St Andrews GPA, the taught average and the dissertation result in order to determine a final degree classification. The taught average is calculated as the credit-weighted mean of all modules taken during the taught component of the programme, and the St Andrews GPA is the credit-weighted mean of all grades including both the taught component and the dissertation.

Only one decimal point is used in all calculations.

Outcomes for PGT Masters classification

St Andrews GPA	Taught average	Dissertation result	Classification outcome
16.5 or more	16.5 or more	16.5 or more	Distinction
13.5 or more	16.5 or more	13.5 - 16.4	Distinction in the coursework
13.5 or more	16.4 or less	16.5 or more	Distinction in the dissertation
13.5 or more	16.4 or less	13.5 - 16.4	Pass
13.4 or less	Any value	Any value	Fail
Any value	Any value	13.4 or less	Fail

In addition to a St Andrews GPA of 13.5 over the entire programme, a grade of 13.5 or above is required for the dissertation to be accepted for the degree. If a lower mark is reported for the dissertation or for the St Andrews GPA, the degree should not be awarded, but the candidate may be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma.

A credit-weighted mean grade of 16.5 or above constitutes the threshold for a recommendation of distinction in the taught component. A grade of 16.5 or above constitutes the threshold for a recommendation of distinction in the dissertation. A credit-weighted mean grade of 16.5 or above in both the taught and dissertation elements of the Masters constitutes the threshold for a recommendation that the degree be granted with distinction overall. Some collaborative programmes have a policy to award Distinction only for the overall degree, and not for individual components. In such cases, the School must make this policy clear to students at the outset of their programme and in their programme handbooks.

Calculation protocols

The Senate Regulations specify that at least 180 credits should be gained during an approved Masters programme. For students who have taken extra modules, the calculations of taught average and St Andrews GPA must include all modules (allowing for the exceptions noted below). Thus a student cannot take an extra module with a view to disposing of another with a poorer grade.

The award of a taught postgraduate Masters degree requires 90 credits of the taught component to be at 5000-level. Students are permitted to 'dip-down' for remaining credit. The grades achieved for dip-down modules taken at 1000- or 2000-level as part of a taught postgraduate degree are incorporated into the degree only when the subject of the module is required language training. In all other cases, only grades received for 3000- and 4000-level 'dip-down' modules are incorporated into the St Andrews GPA.

Grades that are achieved (after suitable translation) from modules taken outwith St Andrews (usually abroad) as part of a Masters programme are entered into the algorithmic calculation. If ungraded credits are received from abroad or graded credits that are not formally approved as part of a Masters programme, then these will not influence the algorithmic calculation, although such credits will normally appear on transcripts.