Version 2010.1.0   6 April 2010 – (for approval by Academic Council on 14 April 2010)

Dublin City University
Marks and Standards

Principles

The principles underlying Marks and Standards were approved by Academic Council on 10th December 2008:

i.   Marks and Standards shall be consistent with the National Framework of Qualifications

ii.   The Registrar of the University has ultimate responsibility for the integrity and implementation of Marks and Standards.

iii.   The responsibility for the updating, maintenance and publication of the Marks and Standards document rests with the Registry.

iv.   All amendments and/or additions to Marks and Standards are subject to Academic Council approval regarding both underlying principles and the detailed wording.

v.   Following approval of the revised (2009) Marks and Standards by Academic Council, any future amendments shall be dated, creating a new edition(s). Previous editions of Marks and Standards shall be archived and accessible via the DCU website.

The following is the proposed interim Marks and Standards which, following approval, will apply from the year 2009/2010. The purpose of the interim Marks and Standards is to address the needs of the University for compliance with the National Framework of Qualifications and to ensure that they are easily understood and can be implemented in a straightforward, consistent and equitable way. These Marks and Standards must be applied consistently at all times and to all taught programmes and modules, including taught modules on research programmes; only derogations required by professional bodies will be considered for approval.

Marks and Standards Document: Version 2010.1.0

Date of Academic Council Approval: June 10th 2009
Amendments submitted for approval and approved by Academic Council on June 29th 2009
Amendments submitted for approval and approved by Academic Council on April 14th 2010

Regulations

This Marks & Standards document is subject to change. In any given academic session, a student is subject to the Marks & Standards that are in place at the beginning of that academic session.

Marks and Standards are complemented by programme-specific regulations which are approved by Faculties each Spring, formally approved by the University Standards Committee at its June meeting each year and made available on the Registry website adjacent to Marks and Standards.

Section 1 – Dublin City University (DCU) Awards

1.1 **AWARD:** An award is that which is conferred or granted by DCU and which records that a student has acquired a specified standard of knowledge, skill and competence. The award is made when the required number of credits has been successfully accumulated, at appropriate levels, from approved modules, and over an appropriate period of time.

MAJOR AWARD: A major award is the principal class of award made at a level.

MINOR AWARD: A minor award is for the partial completion of a major award.

SPECIAL PURPOSE AWARD: A Special-purpose award is made for specific, relatively narrow purposes.

SUPPLEMENTAL AWARD: Supplemental awards are for learning which is additional to a previous award. www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/frame_action/levels.html

1.1.1 All DCU Awards are placed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). www.nfq.ie

1.1.2 DCU primarily confers or grants Major Awards at Level 8, Level 9, and Level 10.

1.1.3 DCU also confers Minor, Special Purpose and Supplemental Awards at Level 8, Level 9 and Level 10.

1.1.4   In special circumstances, DCU may confer awards below Level 8.

Table 1: Awards offered by DCU on the NFQ http://www.nqai.ie/awardsframework.html

DCU Award	NFQ Level	NFQ Award Type
Certificate	7	Special Purpose Award
Certificate	7	Minor Award
Diploma	8	Special Purpose Award
Diploma	7	Minor Award
Higher Diploma	8	Major Award
Honours Bachelor Degree	8	Major Award
Certificate of Continuing Professional Development	8 or 9	Special Purpose/ Supplemental Award
Graduate Certificate	9	Special Purpose Award
Graduate Certificate	9	Minor Award
Graduate Diploma	9	Major Award
Professional Diploma	9	Special Purpose Award
Masters Degree (taught)	9	Major Award
Masters Degree (research)	9	Major Award
Doctoral Degree (research)	10	Major Award
Doctoral Degree (professional)	10	Major Award

Section 2 - European Credit Transfer Accumulation System (ECTS) and ECTS Credits

2.1   **ECTS:** (adapted from Education and Culture DG, 2007): ECTS is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills and competencies that a typical student is expected to demonstrate upon successful completion of a process of learning.

WORKLOAD: Workload indicates the time students typically need to complete all learning activities (such as lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study, and examinations) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes.

ECTS CREDITS: ECTS credits are based on the workload a typical student needs to complete in order to achieve expected learning outcomes.

ECTS GRADES: The ECTS grading system translates a grade from one institution to another across Europe.

Regulations pertaining to ECTS and ECTS credits

2.1.1 60 ECTS credits are typically attached to the workload of two full-time semester periods of formal learning and the associated learning outcomes. Therefore student workload whereby one ECTS credit corresponds to 25 hours of work equals 1,500 hours per 60 ECTS credits.

2.2 **ACADEMIC SESSION:** An academic session is the enrolment period covered by the enrolment fee; the maximum duration of an academic session is 12 months.

Regulations pertaining to academic session

2.2.1 A 12-month academic session is normally divided into two semesters during which the teaching and assessment takes place. The taught programmes of the university will normally be based on two teaching semesters (Semester 1 & Semester 2) per academic session. The teaching, learning and assessment activities associated with a module will normally be completed during one formal semester. However, it is recognized that field work, clinical teaching, professional or work experience and other learning activities may take place outside, or be spread across the formal semesters and this will be permitted subject to the approval of Academic Council.

2.2.2 For programmes operating within the Semester-based system, the formal teaching semesters (Semester 1 & Semester 2) will comprise a minimum of 16 weeks of student activity, normally 12 weeks of teaching and learning, 2 study weeks and 2 weeks of assessment.

2.2.3 Post-graduate student research activity and dissertation work need not be constrained by the dates of the formal teaching semesters; this applies to activities for awards by research and to the research elements for taught post-graduate awards.

2.2.4 The normal workload for a full-time under-graduate student will be 60 ECTS credits in a standard 2-semester academic session. The workload may be greater than this where learning activities continue outside the standard academic semesters, for example, in international programmes and clinical placement programmes.

2.2.5 To permit flexibility and facilitate student choice, students may pursue a greater or lesser number of credits in a single academic session, subject to both feasibility and the approval of the Programme Board.

2.2.6 For under-graduate students the maximum allowable number of ECTS credits in an academic session is 75 and the minimum allowable is 5.

2.2.7 For taught post-graduate students the normal workload is 30 ECTS credits per semester. The workload may be greater than this where learning activities continue outside the standard academic semesters, for example, in dissertation or practicum activities.

2.2.8 For taught post-graduate students the maximum allowable ECTS credits in any academic session is 90 credits and the minimum allowable is 5 credits.

Table 2: Award Credit Accumulation Structure

DCU Award	Award Credit Accumulation Structure
Certificate	20 to 60 ECTS credits
Diploma	Minimum of 60 ECTS credits
Higher Diploma	Minimum of 60 ECTS credits
Honours Bachelor Degree	180 to 240 ECTS credits
Certificate of Continuing Professional Development	5 to 10 ECTS credits

Graduate Certificate	**Minimum of** 30 ECTS credits
Graduate Diploma	**Minimum of** 60 ECTS credits
Masters Degree (taught)	90 to 120 ECTS credits
Masters Degree (research)	90 to 180 ECTS credits
Doctoral Degree (research)	270 to 360 ECTS credits
Doctoral Degree (professional)	Minimum of 270 ECTS credits

2.3 For **JOINT or MULTIPLE** awards approved under a duly constituted and processed agreement with one or more approved partner institutions, credit transfer and recognition will be in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the institutions.

2.4 For **MAJOR DCU** awards generally (provided the award is worth a minimum of 60 credits), prior learning in the form of ECTS credits achieved, where such learning supports the desired learning outcomes of the award concerned, and where a major award at the same level has not been conferred on the applicant by another institution on foot of those credits, will be recognised subject to a **MINIMUM of 60 ECTS CREDITS AT THE LEVEL OF THE AWARD** being taken at DCU. (Such DCU credits may be taken at DCU, at its linked colleges, or at an approved partner institution).

For **MINOR, SPECIAL PURPOSE OR SUPPLEMENTAL** DCU awards, prior learning in the form of ECTS credits achieved, where such learning supports the desired learning outcomes of the DCU award concerned, and where an award at the same level has not been conferred on the applicant by another institution on foot of those credits, will be recognised subject to a **MINIMUM OF 50% of the CREDITS** being taken at DCU. (Such DCU credits may be taken at DCU, at its linked colleges, or at an approved partner institution).

2.5 A student may not present the same ECTS credits as qualification for more than one DCU award. Similarly, a student may not claim exemption for ECTS credits towards one award that have already been presented as qualification for another award.

2.6 Module **EXEMPTIONS** may be awarded for prior experiential learning; applications for exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with approved university procedures and subject to the minimums indicated at 2.4 above.

The evaluation of prior learning, whether in the form of experiential learning or of ECTS credits awarded, will be carried out in accordance with approved university entry mechanisms for the awards concerned.

Section 3: Modules

3.1 **MODULES:** A module is defined as a self-contained unit of teaching and learning activities, the learning outcomes of which are assessed during the academic session and which carries a specified number of ECTS credits, at the appropriate level, 8, 9 or 10.

MODULE LEVELS: The following level indicators describe typical modules offered in DCU**:**

Table 3: DCU Module Level Indicators

Awards	NFQ Level	Module Level(s)

Honours Bachelor Degree	8	8
Masters	9	8, 9
Doctoral	10	9, 10

MODULE STRENGTH: module strength indicates the contribution of a module to a specific award. The following strength indicators describe a module's strength contribution to an award: light contribution (LC), moderate contribution (MC), or full contribution (FC). A module may make contributions of different strengths to different awards.

Table 4: Module Strength Indicators

Awards	Module Level	Module Strengths
Honours Bachelor Degree	8	LC, MC, FC
Masters	8, 9	LC, MC, FC
Doctoral	9, 10	LC, MC, FC

Regulations pertaining to Modules

3.1.1 **MODULE SIZE:** From academic year 2010/2011 a module will carry of a minimum of 5 ECTS credits. Modules can carry 5 ECTS credits, 7.5 ECTS credits and integer multiples of 5 ECTS credits.

Where dissertations or research projects form part of an under-graduate programme, these modules can carry 5 ECTS credits, 7.5 ECTS credits and integer multiples of 5 ECTS credits, up to a maximum of 30 ECTS based on the total student effort.

3.1.2 Students should participate in all activities associated with all of the modules they register for, including attendance at lectures, laboratories and other teaching and learning activities, in accordance with any approved programme requirements. Any programme-specific attendance requirements are indicated to students in the programme-specific regulations at http://www.dcu.ie/registry/examinations/prog_specific_regulations.shtml.

Section 4: Programmes of Study / Pathways

4.1 **PROGRAMMES OF STUDY:** Programmes of study are approved, academically coherent sets of modules leading to awards of the University and such professional body recognition as may be established from time to time.

UNDER-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES: programmes of study leading to awards at Level 8 or below are defined as under-graduate.

POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES: programmes of study leading to awards at Level 9 or above are defined as post-graduate.

Programme structures and regulations specify module dependencies, for example pre-requisites and co-requisites, if applicable.

A programme of study may lead to different awards.

Regulations pertaining to Programmes of Study

4.1.1 Normally, under-graduate and taught post-graduate students may not be registered on more than one programme within DCU. Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the University Standards Committee.

4.1.2 Each programme of study will have a **PROGRESSION and AWARD BOARD** to determine the progression or award outcomes of the students registered for that programme. The membership of the Progression and Award Board (PAB) will include appropriate examiners, both internal and external (https://www.dcu.ie/internal/staff/registry/pdfs/Conduct_of_Examinations.pdf).

4.1.3 The Progression and Award Board will meet after the appropriate assessment process for the programme has taken place. The Progression and Award Board will recommend, for the approval of Academic Council, an overall result in respect of each student's performance.

4.2 **PATHWAYS:** describe the approved learning contexts or timeframes e.g. transfer, APEL, part time versus full time, remote versus campus based, in which students have achieved learning outcomes for which associated credits may be awarded after successful assessment, validation or recognition of these learning outcomes.

Section 5: Registration Period

5.1 REGISTRATION PERIOD: A registration period is the total time that a student is enrolled on a programme of study; this includes any transfers from a related programme taken at the same level in DCU. All academic sessions from the date of first registration contribute to the overall registration period irrespective of whether or not the student is registered for such sessions (excluding approved leave of absence).

A student undertaking an award of 180 credits or more is subject to a maximum registration period of 8 years.[1]

A student undertaking an award of less than 180 credits is subject to a maximum registration period of 4 years.

Regulations pertaining to Registration Period

5.1.1 Where a student is undertaking an award of 180 credits or more and a maximum registration period of 8 years is exceeded, any ECTS credits achieved are held in perpetuity but the currency of ECTS credits towards the final award will be evaluated by the Progression & Award Board when considering the possibility of an extension to the maximum registration period and/or alternative exit awards.

5.1.2 Where a student is undertaking an award of less than 180 credits and a maximum registration period of 4 years is exceeded, any ECTS credits achieved are held in perpetuity but the currency of ECTS credits towards the final award will be evaluated by the Progression & Award Board when considering the possibility of an extension to the maximum registration period and/or alternative exit awards.

5.1.3 Where a student wishes to obtain a leave of absence they must apply to the relevant Programme Board. Such leave of absence will not normally contribute to the overall registration period.

5.1.4 Where a deferral has been granted, the deferred period will not extend the maximum overall registration period.

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[1] A transitional period for implementation in Oscail will operate in relation to this regulation until 2012/13.

Section 6: Assessment & Module Marks

6.1   **MODULE ASSESSMENT:** Module assessment normally comprises two assessment components - continuous assessment and a final exam assessment.

Regulations pertaining to Assessment

6.1.1   The weighting of each assessment component for the overall module assessment can range from 0% to 100% as specified in the module descriptor.

6.1.2   The continuous assessment component may contain multiple elements.

6.1.3   For all assessment components and component elements, the assessment methodology, set of assessment criteria and weightings are provided in advance to students.

6.1.4   The workload associated with the assessment components of a module will reflect the number of ECTS credits carried by the module.

6.1.5   The maximum duration of a final exam component for a module of 5 ECTS credits is 2 hours. The maximum duration of a final exam component for a module of more than 5 ECTS credits is 3 hours.

6.1.6   Students are expected to attempt all elements of a module assessment within the academic session and in accordance with the assessment schedule as outlined in the module descriptor. Failure to attempt an element or component of assessment will result in a 0 mark for that element or component.

6.2   **MODULE MARKS:** Student performance in a module can be marked on a scale 0 - 100 or allocated a Pass / Fail grade as described in the approved module descriptor.

Regulations pertaining to Module Marks

6.2.1   In a marked module, the final mark will be calculated in accordance with the assessment breakdown outlined in the approved module descriptor. The required pass mark in such a module is 40% of the maximum marks available.

6.2.2   Where different components of assessment within a module (continuous assessment and final exam assessment) contribute to the final mark, there will be no requirement that a minimum mark be obtained in any one component.

6.2.3   Deferral of an overall module mark will be considered where there are extenuating circumstances http://www.dcu.ie/registry/examinations/regulations.shtml#8

Section 7: Progression

7.1   **PROGRESSION:** Progression is defined as the permission granted by a Progression and Award Board to a student to register in the subsequent academic session for the next diet of modules within their programme of study.

COMPENSATION: Compensation is defined as the process by which a student, who fails to satisfy some of the regulations for credit in a specific module, is nevertheless recommended for credit award on the grounds that the failure is offset by his/her performance in other modules of his/her programme of study.

PRECISION MARK: the precision mark is normally defined as the overall weighted average for the first full presentation of marks for an academic session. For continuous programmes, the precision mark is defined as the overall average weighted mark for the first full presentation of marks for an award.

Where all modules for an academic session are marked as Pass/Fail only (e.g. year long INTRA), then no precision mark will be calculated. The overall classification for the academic session in such cases will be recorded as Pass with Honours or Fail.

Where an individual module is marked as Pass/Fail only, it will have no impact on the precision mark.

When calculating the precision mark, the following rules apply:

A precision mark with a decimal place value of 0.5 or more will automatically be rounded up to next integer value.

Where a precision mark is no more than 1% below a classification threshold, the precision mark with a decimal place value of less than 0.5 will automatically be rounded up to the threshold value if one half or more credits are made up of modules with marks at or above the threshold value.

RESIT: A re-sit assessment offers students a second and separate opportunity within an academic session to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes associated with a module. It does not require that a student resit all the assessment components of the module; passed assessment component marks are carried forward. The maximum number of re-sit opportunities in any one academic session is one.

The re-sit assessment does not have to be identical to the original assessment.

REPEAT: A repeat attempt at a module requires that a student registers for that module (or its equivalent) in the next academic session. It also requires that a student repeats all the assessment components of the module; component marks from previous attempts are not carried forward.[2]

Regulations pertaining to Progression, Compensation and Repeats for Under-graduate Programmes

7.1.1 Progression is determined according to the approved academic requirements of the programme of study (http://www.dcu.ie/registry/examinations/prog_specific_regulations.shtml).

7.1.2 A programme of study may contain specified, approved modules to which compensation cannot be applied. Details of non-compensatable modules are outlined in the programme-specific regulations (http://www.dcu.ie/registry/examinations/prog_specific_regulations.shtml) .

7.1.3 A programme of study may contain specified, approved modules whose credits may not be counted for the application of compensation; in such cases, compensation is applied on a pro rata basis

7.1.4 Compensation is only applied when all of the following conditions are met:

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[2] This regulation will apply to modules taken for the first time from September 2009 onwards.

i.   the modules are being attempted for the first time, i.e. where a full set of exam marks is presented for the first time; compensation is not applied in relation to modules being attempted at a second or subsequent sitting

ii.   a minimum precision mark of 45% must be obtained

iii.   a maximum of 1/6 of the available ECTS credits have been failed (regardless of the semester in which the failure(s) occur or of how these ECTS credits are made up in terms of modules) in the academic session

iv.   the marks obtained in the individual failed module(s) is/are 35% or greater.

7.1.5   A Progression and Award Board may in exceptional circumstances, which are explicitly recorded, recommend that a final decision on a student's progression be deferred to enable the student to complete specific outstanding credit requirements of the programme.

Any deferral of a decision in relation to a student's result shall be for a limited time, not exceeding one academic session.

7.1.6   Where a student has failed a module, s/he may, in order to acquire the credits for the module, repeat the module (or its equivalent) in the next academic session or re-sit the assessment for that module in the current academic session, if a re-sit is offered. Only one repeat academic session is allowed. A student may be required to register for an alternative module to a failed module in the next academic session if the failed module is not available.

7.1.7   Any re-sit opportunity must take place within the academic session and the results are recorded as an additional attempt.

Where a module has a final exam assessment component, a re-sit of the exam assessment component must be offered within the academic session.

Where a module has a continuous assessment component, a re-sit of the continuous assessment may not be feasible within the academic session in all cases.

Marks for all attempts by a student at a module, including re-sit assessments and repeat attempts, in the course of a programme of study must be recorded in the transcript.

Regulations pertaining to Progression, Compensation and Repeats for Taught Post-graduate Programmes

7.1.8   Progression is determined according to the approved academic requirements of the programme of study.

7.1.9   Compensation is not permitted for taught post-graduate programmes.

7.1.10 A Progression and Award Board may in exceptional circumstances, which are explicitly recorded, recommend that a final decision on a student's progression be deferred to enable the student to complete specific outstanding credit requirements of the programme.

Any deferral of a decision in relation to a student's result shall be for a limited time, not exceeding one academic session.

7.1.11 Where a student has failed a module, s/he may, in order to acquire the credits for the module, repeat the module (or its equivalent) in the next academic session or re-sit

the assessment for that module in the current academic session, if a re-sit is offered. Only one repeat academic session is allowed. A student may be required to register for an alternative module to a failed module in the next academic session if the failed module is not available.

7.1.12 Any re-sit opportunity must take place within the academic session and the results are recorded as an additional attempt.

Where a module has a final exam assessment component, a re-sit of the exam assessment component must be offered within the academic session.

Where a module has a continuous assessment component, a re-sit of the continuous assessment may not be feasible within the academic session in all cases.

Marks for all attempts by a student at a module, including re-sit assessments and repeat attempts, in the course of a programme of study must be recorded in the transcript.

Regulations pertaining to Progression from Graduate Diploma to Masters Register

7.1.13 Students registered for a programme leading to a Graduate Diploma award who have successfully completed 60 ECTS credits will be allowed transfer to the associated programme leading to a Masters award, if it exists.[3]

7.1.14 Students registered for a Qualifier Programme to a Masters Programme who have successfully obtained the Qualifier Programme credits with minimum mark of 50% in every Level 8 module and/or a minimum pass mark in every Level 9 module will be allowed transfer to the associated Masters award.

Section 8: Award Classification

8.1 Progression and Award Boards may consider candidates eligible for an award when they have met all the requirements of the programme of study leading to that award.

An award will not be granted to any student who is disqualified in any way by the University.

Regulations pertaining to the classification of a Level 8 Award by the University

8.1.1 **Level 8 Bachelor Degree:** To be eligible for consideration for the award of a Level 8 Bachelor Degree, a student must accumulate the requisite credits as specified in the Award Descriptor. The mark to be used to determine the grade of classification is the precision mark based on the first attempt at the relevant, approved modules. Where the original precision mark is less than 40%, and the student subsequently successfully completes the requisite credits, the student will be awarded a Third Class Honours degree irrespective of the final marks achieved.

The overall precision marks achieved across some or all years of the programme of study may contribute to the classification of the award.

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[3] From 2010/11, Graduate Diploma awards will exist either as exit awards or as awards without follow-on Master's.

Where a precision mark is calculated, the students' results will be classified in accordance with the standards set out below.

Table 5: Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree Award Classification

Precision Mark	Award
Greater than or equal to 70%	First Class Honours
Between 60% and 69% inclusive	Second Class Honours, Grade I
Between 50% and 59% inclusive	Second Class Honours, Grade II
Between 40% and 49% inclusive	Third Class Honours

8.1.2 **Level 8 Certificate or Diploma:** To be eligible for consideration for the award of Level 8 Certificate or Diploma, a student must accumulate the requisite credits as specified in the Award Descriptor. The mark to be used to determine the grade of classification is the precision mark based on the first attempt at the relevant approved modules. Where the original precision mark is less than 40%, and the student subsequently successfully completes the requisite credits, the student will be awarded a Pass classification, irrespective of the final marks achieved.

Where a precision mark is calculated, the students' results will be classified in accordance with the standards set out below.

Table 6: Level 8 Certificate or Diploma Award Classification

Precision Mark	Award
Greater than or equal to 70%	Distinction
Between 60% and 69% inclusive	Credit
Between 40% and 59% inclusive	Pass

Regulations pertaining to the classification of a Level 9 Award by the University

8.1.3 **Classification of Level 9 Awards Taught Masters Degree:** To be eligible for consideration for the award of a Level 9 Masters Degree, a student must accumulate the requisite credits as specified in the Award Descriptor. A taught masters award consists of a minimum of 60 ECTS credits of taught modules and a maximum of 30 ECTS credits for the dissertation/practicum. The mark to be used to determine the grade of classification is the precision mark based on the first attempt at the relevant, approved modules. Where the original precision mark is less than 40%, and the student subsequently successfully completes the requisite credits, the student will be awarded a Pass classification, irrespective of the final marks achieved.

Table 7: Level 9 Taught Masters Degree Classification

Precision Mark	Award
Greater than or equal to 70%	First Class Honours
Between 60% and 69% inclusive	Second Class Honours
Between 40% and 59% inclusive	Pass

8.1.4 **Masters Degree (by Research):** The degree of Masters (by Research and Thesis) is a major Level 9 award and is awarded without classification.

8.1.5 **Level 9 Certificate or Diploma:** To be eligible for consideration for the award of Level 9 Certificate or Diploma, a student must accumulate the requisite credits as specified in the Award Descriptor. The mark to be used to determine the grade of classification is the precision mark based on the first attempt at the relevant, approved modules. Where the original precision mark is less than 40%, and the

student subsequently successfully completes the requisite credits, the student will be awarded a Pass classification, irrespective of the final marks achieved.

Table 8: Level 9 Certificate and Diploma Classification

Precision Mark	Award
Greater than or equal to 70%	Distinction
Between 60% and 69% inclusive	Credit
Between 40% and 59% inclusive	Pass

Regulations pertaining to the classification of a level 10 Award by the University

8.1.6   To be eligible for consideration for the award of a Level 10 a student must accumulate the requisite credits as specified in the award descriptor.

8.1.7   **Doctor of Philosophy:** The award of Doctor of Philosophy is a major Level 10 award and is awarded without classification.

8.1.8   **Taught Doctoral Degree:** The award of Doctoral Degree (by Coursework and Dissertation) is a major Level 10 award and is made without classification.

Regulations pertaining to the classification of Special Purpose, Supplemental and Level 7 Awards by the University

8.1.9   To be eligible for consideration for a Special Purpose or Supplemental Award a student must accumulate the requisite credits as specified in the award descriptor.

8.1.10   Special Purpose and Supplemental Awards are awarded without classification.

8.1.11   **Level 7 awards:** To be eligible for consideration for the award of a Level 7 Certificate or Diploma, a student must accumulate the requisite credits as specified in the Award Descriptor. The mark to be used to determine the grade of classification is the precision mark based on the first attempt at the relevant, approved modules. Where the original precision mark is less than 40%, and the student subsequently successfully completes the requisite credits, the student will be awarded a pass irrespective of the final marks achieved.

The overall precision marks achieved across some or all years of the programme of study may contribute to the classification of the award.

Where a precision mark is calculated, the students' results will be classified in accordance with the standards set out below.

Table 9: Level 7 Certificate and Diploma Classification

Precision Mark	Award
Greater than or equal to 70%	Distinction
Between 60% and 69% inclusive	Credit
Between 40% and 59% inclusive	Pass

8.2   **STAND ALONE MODULE:** A Stand Alone Module (SAM) is a module that can be registered for without reference to any award.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) MODULES: a CPD module is a unit of learning to support individuals in employment in their profession; a stand-alone module may also be a CPD module.

Regulations pertaining to SAM and CPD Modules

8.2.1   An accumulation of SAM credits does not automatically entitle the holder to an award. An award may, however, explicitly allow SAM credits and learning outcomes to be counted towards an award.

8.2.2   An accumulation of CPD credits does not automatically entitle the holder to an award

8.2.3   SAMs and CPDs are subject to the same Marks & Standards as described in Sections 3, 5 and 6

8.2.4   Compensation is not permitted between SAMs and between CPDs

Section 9: Appeals

9.1   **APPEAL:** Students have the right to appeal the decisions of a Progression and Award Board. Such appeals will be processed in accordance with the procedures detailed by Academic Council
http://www.dcu.ie/registry/examinations/regulations.shtml#14

Glossary

1. **ACADEMIC SESSION:** An academic session is the enrolment period covered by the fee; the maximum duration of an academic session is 12 months.

2. **AWARD:** An award is that which is conferred or granted by Dublin City University and which records that a student has acquired a specified standard of knowledge, skill and competence.   The award is made when the required number of credits has been successfully accumulated, at appropriate levels, from approved modules, and over an appropriate period of time

3. **COMPENSATION:** Compensation is defined as the process by which a student, who fails to satisfy some of the regulations for credit in a specific module, is nevertheless recommended for credit award on the grounds that the failure is offset by his/her performance in other modules of his/her programme of study.

4. **CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) MODULES:** a continuous professional development module is a unit of learning to support individuals in employment in their profession; a stand-alone module may also be a CPD module.

5. **ECTS:** (*adapted from Education and Culture DG, 2007*): ECTS is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer based on the transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes.

6. **ECTS CREDITS:** ECTS credits are based on the workload a typical student needs to complete in order to achieve expected learning outcomes.

7. **ECTS GRADES:** The ECTS grading system translates a grade from one institution to another across Europe.

8. **LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills and competencies that a typical student is expected to demonstrate upon successful completion of a process of learning.

9. **MAJOR AWARD:** A major award is the principle class of award made at a level. www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/frame_action/levels.html

10. **MINOR AWARD:** A minor award is for the partial completion of the outcomes of a major award. www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/frame_action/levels.html

11. **MODULES:** A module is defined as a self-contained unit of teaching and learning activities, whose learning outcomes are assessed during the academic session and which carries a specified number of ECTS credits, at the appropriate level, 8, 9 or 10.

12. **MODULE ASSESSMENT:** Module assessment comprises two assessment components continuous assessment and a final exam assessment.

13. **MODULE SIZE:** From academic year 2010 / 2011 a module will carry of a minimum of 5 ECTS credits. Modules can carry 5 ECTS credits, 7.5 ECTS credits and integer multiples of 5 ECTS credits.

14. **PATHWAYS:** describe the approved learning contexts or timeframes e.g. transfer, APEL, part time versus full time, remote versus campus based, in which students have achieved learning outcomes for which associated credits may be awarded after successful assessment, validation or recognition of these learning outcomes.

15. **POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES**: programmes of study leading to awards at Level 9 or above are defined as post-graduate.

16. **PRECISION MARK:** the precision mark is normally defined as the overall weighted **average** for the first full presentation of marks for an academic session. For continuous programmes, the precision mark is defined as the overall average weighted mark for the first full presentation of marks for an award.

17. **PROGRAMMES OF STUDY:** Programmes of study are approved, academically coherent sets of modules leading to awards of the University and such professional body recognition as may be established from time to time.

18. **PROGRESSION:** Progression is defined as the permission granted by a Progression & Award Board to a student to register in the subsequent academic session for the next diet of modules within their programme of study.

19. **REGISTRATION PERIOD:** A registration period is the total time that a student is enrolled on a programme of study; this includes any transfers from a related programme taken at the same level in DCU.

20. **REPEAT:** A repeat attempt at a module requires that a student registers for that module (or its equivalent) in the next academic session. It also requires that a student repeats all the assessment components of the module; component marks from previous attempts are not carried forward.

21. **RESIT:** A re-sit assessment offers students a second and separate opportunity within an academic session to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes associated with a module. It does not require that a student resit all the assessment components of the module; passed assessment component marks are carried forward. The re-sit assessment does not have to be identical to the original assessment.

22. **SPECIAL PURPOSE AWARD:** A Special-purpose award is made for specific, relatively narrow purposes. www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/frame_action/levels.html

23. **STAND ALONE MODULE:** A Stand Alone Module (SAM) is a module that can be registered for without reference to any award.

24. **SUPPLEMENTAL AWARD:** Supplemental awards are for learning which is additional to a previous award. www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/frame_action/levels.html

25. **UNDER-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES: p**rogrammes of study leading to awards at Level 8 or below are defined as under-graduate.

26. **WORKLOAD:** Workload indicates the time students typically need to complete all learning activities (such as lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study, and examinations) required to achieve the expected learning outcomes.