

Guide and worked examples for awards being made in academic session 2022-23, where some contributing assessment took place within the No Detriment period (16 March 2020 – 11 September 2020)

The No Detriment Policy was introduced in response to the emergency situation that developed in the spring of 2020 and was applied to assessment scheduled in the period 16 March 2020 to 11 September 2020. For the vast majority of students, awards being made in the 2022-23 session will not include any assessment results from this time. The examples below show the application of the stages described in the [No Detriment policy](#) on two different programmes – an integrated masters programme (where the student has had a break in study) and a part-time PGT programme where the student is eligible for award in 2022-23.

Volume of assessment completed

In determining eligibility for award, there are thresholds that must be met in terms of 'volume of assessment completed'. This volume is calculated in relation to all relevant assessment associated with the programme. On honours and integrated masters programmes any programme-specific weighting of the different years is ignored. E.g. on an honours programme where a student takes 120 credits in junior honours and in senior honours, if they have completed half of all the assessment in junior honours and all assessment associated with the senior honours year, they will have completed 75% of the volume of programme assessment. The fact that in calculating final classification the junior honours and senior honours years are weighted differently (e.g. 40 : 60) is irrelevant.

For honours awards, including on integrated masters programmes, the usual rules on Incomplete Assessment and Good Cause permit an award to be made where at least 75% of overall programme assessment has been completed. For integrated masters students graduating in 2022-23, this rule will be applied in relation to assessment taking place outwith the period identified in the No Detriment policy (i.e. in relation to all assessment taking place by 15 March 2020 and all assessment taking place after 11 September 2020, including all assessment taking place between 2020-21 and 2022-23). The proportion of assessment that can be missed disregards assessment scheduled during the No Detriment period. This is because in some cases students were unable to complete much of that assessment. However, in the event that a student has not completed 75% of the assessment **outwith** the No Detriment period, if **at least 75% of the total assessment associated with the full integrated masters programme is included in the final GPA**, then they will be eligible for the award of the degree. In order to reach the 75% threshold, it may be necessary to include some assessment component results from the No Detriment period that were below the baseline GPA. In that event, the next best results must be included until the 75% threshold is met. This may reduce the final GPA BELOW the baseline GPA.

On part-time PGT programmes, students will have been progressed from 2019-20 with completion of at least 65% of the assessment offered in that session. From 2020-21 onwards, the usual rules on Incomplete Assessment apply (75% of assessment per course required for the award of credit) and no further calculation of volumes of assessment required for GPA is necessary.

Grade point average

While the No Detriment policy introduced rules to be applied to reflect disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, normal principles relating to calculation of grade point averages still apply: the grade points associated with components of assessment reflect the credit weighting of the course and

the weighting that the component carries for that course. E.g. A component of assessment carrying a 40% weighting on a 20 credit course, will be included in GPA calculations as (component weighting x number of credits), that is, (0.4 x 20).

Calculating the GPA for a full year is normally carried out by aggregating the grade points associated with overall course grades. In relation to GPAs which include assessment taken in the No Detriment period (16 March 2020 – 11 September 2020), this position is varied by the No Detriment policy. The policy requires GPA to be calculated by using specific **components** of assessment:

Baseline GPA is calculated by aggregating

- all components of assessment that were completed in 2019-20 by 15 March 2020; and
- all course grades for assessment completed from 2020-21 to 2022-23; and
- all course grades for any assessment completed in academic sessions prior to 2019-20 that contribute to the award (e.g. on a PGT programme where the student has been studying part-time over more than a five year period).

Final GPA is calculated by aggregating

- the baseline GPA; and
- selected components of assessment completed within the No Detriment period (this is explained further below).

In other words, not all components of assessment associated with a course taken in session 2019-20 will necessarily be included in a calculation.

Even where all components of assessment for a course taken in 2019-20 are to be included in the GPA, they should be included in the aggregation as components and not as overall course grades. E.g. on a course with two components of assessment each weighted 50%, where one is graded A5 (18 grade points) and the other is graded C2 (13 grade points), if both components are to be included in the GPA they should be included as two components (0.5 x 18 and 0.5 x 13) rather than as an overall course (graded B2 carrying 16 grade points).

Where components of assessment outwith the No Detriment period are missing, this should be taken into account in the calculations in the usual way. For example, for a final year integrated masters student where a component of assessment from final year has been missed with good cause and there has been no opportunity to complete the assessment, that component of assessment is discarded entirely from the calculation of GPA with the weighting carried by the year reduced accordingly. If an exam weighted 40% on a 20 credit course was missed with good cause, in GPA calculations the full weighting of that year's assessment would be reduced as follows:

$1.00 - [(0.4 \times 20)/120] = 0.93$, that is to 93%.

Where an assessment has been missed without good cause, in calculating the GPA that assessment is still included in the amount of assessment taken but with an H grade which equates to 0 grade points for the component.

List of Examples

Example 1 – Fifth year integrated masters student who had a year's leave of absence in 2020-21.

Example 2 – Part-time PGT programme studied over four sessions, comprised of 120 credits of taught courses and a 60 credit dissertation.

Example 1: Fifth year integrated masters student.

All third year courses equally weighted, all assessment components completed. Student had a leave of absence in 2020-21. All assessment from 2021-22 and 2022-23 complete. Weighting applied to the final three contributing years in the calculation of final degree classification: 20 : 30 : 50.

A baseline GPA is calculated from all assessment completed outwith the No Detriment period. Results from assessment completed within the No Detriment period that are equal to or greater than the baseline GPA will be included in the final GPA.

In order to be eligible for award of the degree no more than 25% of all the assessment taking place outwith the No Detriment can have been missed either with or without Good Cause.

All six third year courses were worth 20 credits. Components of assessment were taken as follows:

	Semester 1	Semester 2 By 15 March 2020	Component grade points to include in baseline GPA	Completed between 16 March 2020 and 11 September 2020
Year 3				
Course 1 20 credits	Essay (50%) B2 Essay (50%) C1		16 (50% weighting) 14 (50% weighting)	
Course 2 20 credits	Seminar (30%) A5		18 (30% weighting)	Exam (70%) B2
Course 3 20 credits	Essay (30%) B3		15 (30% weighting)	Project (70%) C1
Course 4 20 credits		Project (60%) A5	18 (60% weighting)	Exam (40%) C3
Course 5 20 credits				Essay (60%) B1 Exam (40%) C1
Course 6 20 credits				Portfolio (100%) C1

All **fourth and fifth year** assessment completed in 2021-22 and 2022-23 (in each case 120 credits: 6 x 20 credit courses): overall fourth year GPA, calculated by aggregating overall course results, is 14.9, fifth year GPA is 16.15.

Baseline GPA

The baseline GPA includes assessments taken in all three years. The third year contribution to baseline GPA is calculated from assessment components only, and no reference should be made to rounded course grades (e.g. where all assessment was completed in semester 1 2019-20 and a final overall course grade is available). The fourth and fifth year GPAs are calculated by aggregating course grades, as usual.

Baseline GPA requires two things to be aggregated as follows:

1. GPA from components of third year assessment completed by 15 March 2020

All assessment components (NOT course results) should be aggregated using the appropriate course and component weighting.

Example 1 shows the following components completed by 15 March:

Course 1 - Essay (50%) B2 (16 grade points)

Course 1 - Essay (50%) C1 (14)

Course 2 - Seminar (30%) A5 (18)

Course 3 - Essay (30%) B3 (15)

Course 4 - Project (60%) A5 (18)

Course 5 - no assessment completed by 15 March 2020

Course 6 - no assessment completed by 15 March 2020

All courses carry 20 credits. As the courses carry equal credit weighting, this is not shown here as being factored into the calculation.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Third year assessment components contributing to the baseline GPA} &= (\text{Essay Course 1} + \text{Essay Course 1} + \text{Seminar Course 2} + \text{Essay Course 3} + \\ &\quad \text{Project Course 4}) / \text{weighting of completed components} \\ &= [(16 \times 0.5) + (14 \times 0.5) + (18 \times 0.3) + (15 \times 0.3) + (18 \times 0.6)] / (0.5 + 0.5 + 0.3 + 0.3 + \\ &\quad 0.6) \\ &= 16.2273 \end{aligned}$$

2. GPA from fourth and fifth years

Example 1 gives values of 14.9 and 16.15 that have been calculated by aggregating all the course results. (An unrounded value should be used, so this value can have more than one decimal place.)

Baseline GPA aggregates **1.** and **2.**

In this case the three years are weighted 20 : 30 : 50.

The third year contribution to baseline GPA is based on only 36.6% of the total year's assessment. It is therefore re-weighted in the baseline calculation (16.2273 x 0.2 x 0.366)

The fourth and fifth year GPAs include 100% of the assessment i.e. (14.9 x 0.3) and (16.15 x 0.5).

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Baseline GPA} &= (\text{completed proportion of Year 3 GPA}) + (\text{Year 4 GPA}) + (\text{Year 5 GPA}) / \text{proportion of assessment completed} \\ &= (16.2273 \times 0.2 \times 0.366) + (14.9 \times 0.3) + (16.15 \times 0.5) / [(0.2 \times 0.366) + 0.3 + 0.5] \\ &= (1.1878 + 4.4700 + 8.0750) / 0.8732 \\ &= 15.7270 \text{ rounded to } \mathbf{15.7}\end{aligned}$$

Final GPA

In order to calculate final GPA, only results from within the No Detriment period that were equal to or above the baseline GPA will be included, and any assessment results that were below the baseline GPA or not taken will be disregarded.

Components completed between 16 March 2020 and 11 September 2020:

Course 1 - none

Course 2 - Exam (70%) B2 (16 grade points) – *Include in final GPA*

Course 3 - Project (70%) C1 (14) – *Disregard as < 15.7*

Course 4 - Exam (40%) C3 (12) – *Disregard as < 15.7*

Course 5 - Essay (60%) B1 (17) – *Include in final GPA*

Course 5 - Exam (40%) C1 (14) – *Disregard as < 15.7*

Course 6 - Portfolio (100%) C1 (14) – *Disregard as < 15.7*

The baseline GPA included the 36.6% of third year assessment that had been completed by 15 March 2020. The two additional components to be included in the final GPA from the third year assessment completed within the No Detriment period are weighted appropriately in the calculation:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Contribution of the additional components to be included in final GPA} &= (\text{Course 2 Exam B2 (70\%)}) + (\text{Course 5 Essay B1 (60\%)}) / \text{weighting of} \\ &\quad \text{additional components} \\ &= [(16 \times 0.7) + (17 \times 0.6)] / (0.7 + 0.6) \\ &= 16.4615\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Proportion of third year assessment represented by the additional components (from the 6 JH courses)} &= (0.7 + 0.6) / 6 \\ &= 0.2166\end{aligned}$$

Recalculating baseline GPA to arrive at final GPA as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Final GPA} &= [(\text{proportion of Year 3 GPA in baseline GPA}) + (\text{Year 4 GPA}) + (\text{Year 5 GPA}) + (\text{included proportion of Year 3 assessment completed within ND period})] / \text{total proportion of included assessment} \\ &= [(16.2273 \times 0.2 \times 0.366) + (14.9 \times 0.3) + (16.15 \times 0.5) + (16.4615 \times 0.2 \times 0.2166)] / [(0.2 \times 0.366) + 0.3 + 0.5 + (0.2 \times 0.2166)] \\ &= (1.1878 + 4.4700 + 8.0750 + 0.7131) / 0.0732 + 0.3 + 0.5 + 0.0433 \\ &= 14.4459 / 0.9165 \\ &= 15.7620 \text{ rounded to } \mathbf{15.8}\end{aligned}$$

Example 2: Part-time PGT programme studied over four sessions, comprised of 120 credits of taught courses and a 60 credit dissertation.

Student completed 40 credits of taught courses in 2019-20, 40 credits of taught courses in 2020-21, 40 credits of taught courses in 2021-22, and the dissertation in 2022-23.

A baseline GPA is calculated from all assessment completed outwith the No Detriment period. Results from assessment completed within the No Detriment period that are equal to or greater than the baseline GPA will be included in the final GPA.

Results from 2020-21 and 2021-22 will be calculated in the normal way. (75% of assessment per course is required for the award of credit.)

	Semester 1	Semester 2 By 15 March 2020	Component grade points to include in baseline GPA	Completed between 16 March 2020 and 11 September 2020
Taught courses – 2019-20				
Course 1 10 credits	Essay (50%) B2; Essay (50%) C3		16 (50% weighting) 12 (50% weighting)	
Course 2 10 credits	Seminar (40%) A5 Exam (60%) B2		18 (40% component) 16 (60% component)	
Course 3 10 credits		Project (40%) C2	13 (40% weighting)	Exam (60%) C3
Course 4 10 credits				Literature review (50%) C3 Essay (50%) B2

In 2020-21 and 2021-22 the student completed all assessment for the remaining 80 credits of taught courses. The GPAs (calculated on the basis of aggregated overall course results) are 15.8 for 2020-21 and 14.75 for 2021-22.

Baseline taught courses GPA

The baseline taught courses GPA includes assessments from the taught courses taken in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 that is, all assessment completed outwith the No Detriment period. The contribution from 2019-20 is calculated from assessment components only, and no reference should be made to rounded course grades (e.g. where all assessment was completed in semester 1 and a final overall course grade is available). The contributions from 2020-21 and 2021-22, however, are calculated by aggregating course grades as usual. Baseline taught courses GPA requires two things to be aggregated:

1. GPA from components of 2019-20 assessment completed by 15 March 2020

All assessment components (NOT course results) should be aggregated using the appropriate course and component weighting.

Example 2 shows the following components completed by 15 March:

Course 1: Essay (50%) B2 (16 grade points)

Course 1: Essay (50%) C3 (12)

Course 2: Seminar (40%) A5 (18)

Course 2: Exam (60%) B2 (16)

Course 3: Project (40%) C2 (13)

Course 4: no assessment completed by 15 March 2020

All courses carry 10 credits. As the courses carry equal credit weighting, this is not shown here as being factored into the calculation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{2019-20 assessment components contributing to the baseline taught courses GPA} &= (\text{Essay Course 1} + \text{Essay Course 1} + \text{Seminar Course 2} + \text{Exam} \\ &\quad \text{Course 2} + \text{Project Course 3}) / \text{weighting of completed} \\ &\quad \text{components} \\ &= [(16 \times 0.5) + (12 \times 0.5) + (18 \times 0.4) + (16 \times 0.6) + (13 \times 0.4)] / (0.5 \\ &\quad + 0.5 + 0.4 + 0.6 + 0.4) \\ &= 36 / 2.4 \\ &= 15.000 \end{aligned}$$

2. GPA from 2020-21 and 2021-22 taught courses assessment

Example 2 gives values of 15.8 and 14.75 that have been calculated by aggregating course results for 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. (An unrounded value should be used, so this value might have more than one decimal place.) This represents 100% of the taught courses assessment for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Baseline taught courses GPA aggregates [1] and [2]. The taught courses assessment is split evenly between each of the three years 2019-20, 2020-

21 and 2021-22 carrying 33.3% of the total taught courses assessment for the programme.

The proportion of 2019-20 assessment completed by 15 March 2020:

From the four courses, the completed assessments were: Essay Course 1 (assessment weighting 50%) + Essay Course 1 (50%) + Seminar Course 2 (40%) + Exam Course 2 (60%) + Project Course 3 (40%)

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Proportion of year's assessment completed} &= (0.5 + 0.5 + 0.4 + 0.6 + 0.4) / 4 \\ &= 0.6\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Baseline taught GPA} &= \text{proportion of 2019-20 taught GPA} + \text{2020-21 taught GPA} + \text{2021-22 taught GPA} \\ &= (15.000 \times 0.6 \times 0.333) + (15.8 \times 0.333) + (14.75 \times 0.333) / [(0.6 \times 0.333) + 0.333 + 0.333] \\ &= 13.170 / 0.866 \\ &= 15.208 \text{ rounded to } \mathbf{15.2} \text{ to one decimal place.}\end{aligned}$$

Final taught courses GPA

In order to calculate final taught courses GPA, assessment results from the No Detriment period that are equal to or above the baseline GPA will be included, and any results that are below the baseline GPA or are not taken will be disregarded.

Components completed during the No Detriment period (between 16 March 2020 and 11 September 2020): Course 1 - none

Course 2 - none

Course 3 - Exam (60%) C3 (12) – *Disregard as < 15.2*

Course 4 – Literature review (50%) C3 (12) – *Disregard as < 15.2*

Course 4 - Essay (50%) B2 (16) – *Include in final GPA*

The one additional component, an essay weighted at 50% of one course, represents $(1/4 \times 0.5) = 12.5\%$ of 2019-20 taught assessment.

Recalculating Baseline GPA to arrive at final GPA as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Final taught courses GPA} &= (\text{proportion of 2019-20 assessment included in baseline} + \text{2020-21 GPA} + \text{2021-22 GPA} + \text{additional 2019-20 component from ND period}) / \text{total proportion of included assessment.} \\ &= [((15.000 \times 0.6 \times 0.333) + (15.8 \times 0.333) + (14.75 \times 0.333) + (\mathbf{16 \times 0.125 \times 0.333})) / (0.6 \times 0.333) + 0.333 + 0.333 + (\mathbf{0.125 \times 0.333})] \\ &= 13.8361 / 0.9074 = 15.2481 \text{ rounded to } \mathbf{15.2}\end{aligned}$$

Note: Part-time PGT students studying in session(s) prior to 2019-20

Where taught courses were taken prior to 2019-20, these were taken outwith the ND period and should be included in baseline taught courses GPA, using course results in the same way as for 2020-21,2021-22 and 2022-23 courses.

Degree award

Degree regulations include provisions determining eligibility for the award of Merit and Distinction. This requires calculation of GPA achieved across the programme, i.e. the combined GPA for taught courses and for the project/dissertation.

As described above, students may have satisfied the taught courses requirements for the degree even though not all components of assessment from 2019-20 are completed or included in the final taught courses GPA. Irrespective of the actual amount of taught courses assessment completed or included in the final taught courses GPA, the aggregation of taught courses GPA and independent work (dissertation/project) grade should follow the relative credit weighting reflected in the curriculum, i.e. where the curriculum comprises 120 taught credits and a substantial independent work of 60 credits, the combined GPA should be aggregated using a weighting of 120 : 60, or 66.6% to 33.3%. On a programme where the curriculum comprises 180 taught credits and a substantial independent work of 60 credits, the combined GPA should be aggregated using a weighting of 180 : 60, or 75%. to 25%.

In Example 2, the curriculum comprises 120 taught credits and a 60 credit dissertation. The final taught courses GPA is 15.2.

If, say, the dissertation grade is B2, the overall combined GPA is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Combined GPA across the 180 credits of the curriculum} &= (0.666 \times \text{final taught courses GPA}) + (0.333 \times \text{dissertation grade B2 (16)}) \\ &= (0.666 \times 15.2) + (0.333 \times 16) \\ &= 15.4512 \text{ rounded to } 15.5 \end{aligned}$$