Degree outcomes statement

October 2024

Institutional degree classification profile

In academic year 2018/19 the University Quality and Standards Committee (QSC) created a working group to review the impact of the Academic Progression and Award Regulations (APAR) which were updated in 2015/16. The findings and recommendations were reported to the Teaching and Learning Committee in July 2020 and the decision was made to undertake the following changes from September 2020 for all students entering their qualifying year:

To change the borderlines to an overall average of *9 (2:1/1st) at all borderlines except that between fail and 3rd class where there is no borderline; with promotion occurring if either of two criteria is met:

Two thirds or more of the final stage credits are in the higher class;
Two thirds or more of the final and penultimate stage credits are in the higher class.

The degree outcomes from the degree classification profile as implemented for September 2020 entry have been put into place and the proportion of good honours degrees (1st and 2:1's) awarded by the University of Nottingham (UoN) in the last five academic years is represented in the table below.

Award of UK-registered undergraduate degrees 2019/20 to 2023/24 by classification

Academic year	% of First Class Degrees	% Upper Second Class Degrees	% of Lower Second Class Degrees	% of Third Class Degrees	% Other Classification (General Degree, Ordinary Degree, Pass or Unclassified
2023/24	22.8%	48.6%	16.7%	3.4%	8.5%
2022/23	25.9%	48.5%	14.9%	3.4%	7.3%
2021/22	32.3%	47.8%	10.9%	1.8%	7.2%
2020/21	37%	45.8%	8.8%	1.6%	6.8%
2019/20	31.7%	47.5%	11.4%	1.9%	7.5%

(data source HESA student return)

Assessment and marking practices

Assessment is regulated by the [Assessment Regulations](#). Policies stipulate that the volume, timing and nature of assessment should enable students to demonstrate the extent to which they have achieved the intended learning outcomes. The [Marking and Grading policy](#) covers areas including internal and external examination; marking criteria; moderation of marks, marks calculations and the process for feeding back to students; including marking turnaround times. Policies have been developed with reference to Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Subject Benchmarks and to Professional Sector Regulatory Bodies (PSRB)
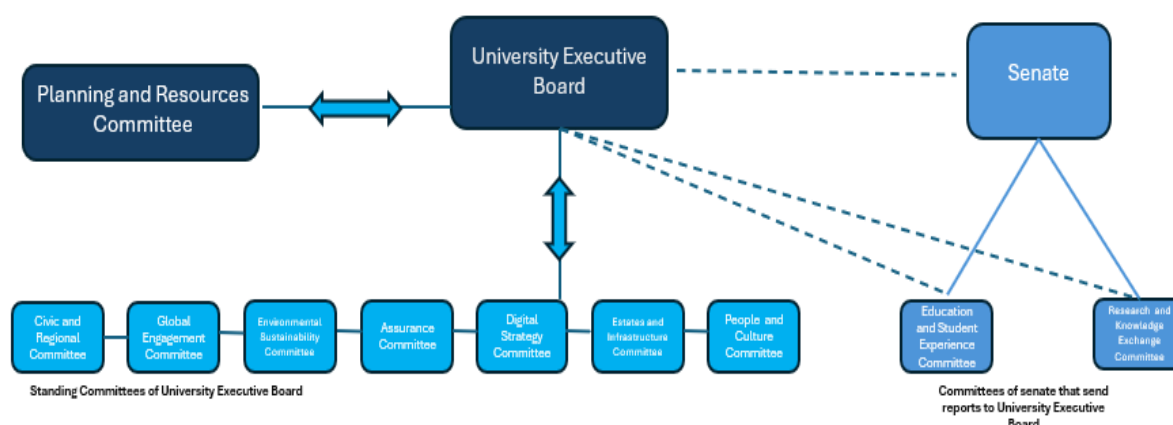
requirements. Reasonable adjustments for students with academic or disability support requirements are made in assessments.
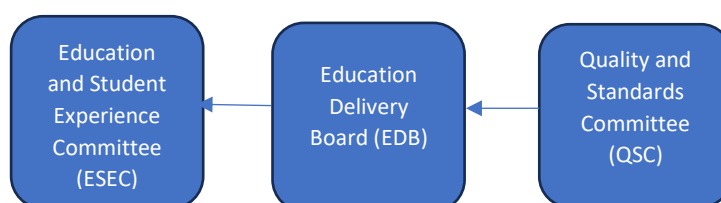
Academic governance

The University aims to maintain the highest standards of excellence in teaching and assessment across all programmes.

Matters relating to academic quality and standards are the responsibility of Senate which is supported by a series of sub-committees. Education and Student Experience Committee (ESEC) has primary responsibility for maintaining academic standards on behalf of Senate, with direction from the University strategy, supported by policies and procedures in the Quality Manual. Quality and Standards Committee (QSC) assists ESEC in overseeing the application of all university regulations, policies and procedures in respect of quality and standards. External assistance is sought at several points in the assurance process; in the development of new programmes, through the role of external examiners and their reports, and through other external reference points including reports from PSRBs and via the inclusion of an external panel member in our periodic review process.

<u>University high level committee structure</u>

<u>Committees of Education and Student Experience</u>

Access, participation (APP) and outreach activity is overseen by Council, Senate and Education and Student Experience Committee, supported by an APP Steering Group, Delivery group and a range of sub-groups. Our current plan covers 2020/21 to 2024/25. A refreshed plan will be in operation from 2025/26 and will cover the period 2025/26 - 2028/29

Classification algorithms

Our classification algorithm for UG and PGT can be found via this link:

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/academic-regulations/academic-regulation.aspx

Enhancement of teaching and curriculum

The University is committed to continually enhancing the quality of our teaching and of the curriculum. The university's Education and Student Experience Strategic Delivery Plan, published in spring 2021, has curriculum as one of its key priorities. Curriculum Nottingham Programme a University level strategic project whose work will enable faculties to accelerate enhancement of all taught curriculum, creating a distinctive education experience and portfolio that reflects the ambitions of the 2019 ESE SDP. 24/25 is a foundational year, focusing on policy, frameworks, curriculum management and insight, prior to enabling university-wide curriculum design and associated digital infrastructure enhancement from 2025/26.

The impact of this work will be evaluated as students' progress through programmes redeveloped using the framework and metrics created and embedded into curriculum approval, management and enhancement.

Identifying good practice, and actions

The University strives to identify and share good practice via several mechanisms. The Periodic Assurance and Continuous Enhancement reviews are our periodic mechanism for reviewing teaching and learning in Schools. Annual School Enhancement Plans seek to draw out good practice and 'community of practice' mechanisms such as the annual Teaching and Learning Conference and the Educational Excellence Group enable sharing across a larger constituency. Information and toolkits are available all year round via the Educational Excellence newsletter and webpages.