

Taught Postgraduate: NAD

When considering classification, we agreed to the following approach.

PGCL6. To ensure that no student is disadvantaged by the outbreak of COVID-19, we are asking exam boards to operate with two routes to classification (for taught modules only):

- (a) operate the [exceptional regulations on PGT classification](#)
- (b) where higher than the classification generated by (a), and where all taught modules in the COVID-impacted period are passed, use a weighted average of marks achieved prior to 15 March 2020 (if such marks exist) as the basis for the average of all taught modules under the normal classification model.

This document explains how we will operationalise these two routes for the purposes of both classification and, where relevant, completion of the taught stage.

1. Provided you pass all of your taught modules in the COVID-impacted period (excluding those that have been treated part for whole and those that are designated COVID-incomplete), we will generate a *safety net mark* for the taught stage based upon your past performance. The safety net mark will *not* apply to the dissertation/project stage
2. We will use that *safety net mark* for the taught stage to generate a number for the purpose of future classification and/or completion of the taught stage.
 - a. For the purposes of decisions about completion of taught stage, we will use whichever of your achieved marks and your *safety net mark for the taught stage* generates the best outcome
 - b. For the purposes of any future classification decisions based on this stage's marks, we will use whichever of your achieved marks and your *safety net mark for the taught stage* is higher
3. The *safety net mark* for the stage will be based on actual achievement from the taught academic stage and current level, as far as reasonable.
4. For Taught Masters students you notionally have two 'stages' in your Programme of Study. A Taught Stage which relates to the Taught modules you take (e.g. 120 one year, full-time programmes; up to 180 two year, full-time programmes) and a Dissertation Stage (normally 60 credits). In calculating your safety net, 'stage' relates to the taught modules you have taken.

5. Your 'level of study' refers to the level of modules that make up the majority of your modules in this academic year: students studying for PGT qualifications typically take mostly level 4 modules, though are sometimes permitted to take upper-level UG modules—level 3 modules are 3rd year modules.
6. Your 'completed credits of assessment' on each module is equal to the number of credits that module counts for x the fraction of the assessment you have completed on that module.

A student on a 20 credit module who has completed 100% of the assessment for that module has completed 20 credits of assessment

A student on a 20 credit module who has completed 50% of the assessment for that module has completed 10 credits of assessment

7. To find your total completed credits of assessment that you have taken this stage, at your current academic level, add up all of your completed credits of assessment on each module this stage at this level, prior to 15 March 2020.
8. In order for the *safety net mark* for the taught stage to be reliable, we need to make appropriate use of the evidence given to us by these completed credits of assessment.
9. We believe that if you have completed 50% of the credits for your taught modules (this does not include the 60-credit Masters Dissertation/Project) through assessments this stage, at your current academic level, and before 15 March 2020, then we have good enough evidence of your performance to simply use the marks secured before 15 March 2020 alone to calculate the *safety net mark* for the taught stage using your weighted average.
10. If you have completed between 16% and 50% of the credits for your taught modules (this does not include the 60-credit Masters Dissertation/Project) through assessments this stage, at your current academic level, and before 15 March 2020, then we cannot be entirely confident that your credit weighted average is a proper representation of your ability at this level. As such, for any such case we will calculate a *provisional safety net mark* for the stage.
11. When considering classification and/or completion of taught stage, exam boards will have sight of the actual mark for the stage, and the *provisional safety net mark* for the stage. If the provisional safety net mark for the stage is either of 2 degree classes (i.e. Pass, Merit, Distinction) or 15 marks higher than the actual stage average, exam boards are asked to *not* use the number generated for the purposes of taught-stage completion or classification.

12. If you have completed less than 16% of the credits for your taught modules (i.e. this does not include the 60-credit Masters Dissertation/Project) through assessment this stage and level, and before 15 March 2020, we cannot generate a *provisional safety net mark* for the stage. Students in this position should complete the remaining assessments to the best of their ability, and if the Exam Board considers that those assessments have been disproportionately affected, then a case can be made to Quality and Standard Committee to consider an optional first sit.