

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

**TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE
GUIDELINES FOR CREDIT AND GRADE TRANSFER FROM 2017/18**

Credits and Grades

A student’s studies towards a taught degree are structured in terms of modules, each of which is assigned a credit value reflecting the proportion of a student’s time devoted to that module. A fulltime student normally takes 60 credits in a semester. Thus, for example, a module worth 20 credits would represent one-third of a normal semester’s workload. Each module is a self-contained unit of teaching, learning and assessment. For the majority of modules the teaching takes place over a single semester in one 11- or 12-week teaching block, followed in most cases by an examination. Others are concentrated into a shorter period, and some are taught over the whole year. A student’s performance in the examination, together with grades for pieces of coursework submitted during the module, determine whether he or she passes the assessment for the module and, therefore, whether he or she is awarded the credits attached to it. Thus a student who passes the module will have gained both credits, reflecting the workload of the module, and a grade, reflecting the quality of their work.

Credit Load

While some degree programmes (*e.g.* MPhil) require more dissertation credits, most full-time taught Masters students take modules worth 180 credits during the course of each year, *i.e.* 60 credits in each semester and 60 credits for the summer dissertation.

Taught Postgraduate Reporting Scale

Grade	Descriptor	Key Characteristics of the Work
16.5 – 20.0	Distinction at 5000 Level	Excellent work at 5000 Level. Work in this category will meet all of the requirements for a Merit and at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional knowledge and understanding beyond core issues. • Demonstrates a very high level of critical awareness. • Excellent structure and sophisticated argument. • Takes an independent or original approach appropriate to the given task.
13.5 – 16.4	Merit at 5000 Level	Strong work at 5000 Level. Work in this category will show all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good knowledge and understanding of the core issues. • Demonstrates a high level of critical awareness. • Clear structure and consistent argument. • Fully addresses the given task.
10.5 – 13.4	Pass at 5000 Level	Competent work at 5000 Level. Work in this category will show three or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable knowledge and understanding of the core issues. • Demonstrates reasonable critical awareness. • Adequate structure and argument. • Mostly addresses the given task.
7.0 – 10.4	Marginal Pass at 5000 Level	Adequate work at 5000 Level. Work in this category will show one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited knowledge and understanding of the core issues. • Demonstrates only basic critical awareness. • Weak structure or inconsistent argument. • Does not fully address the given task.
4.0 – 6.9	Fail with right to reassessment	Inadequate work at 5000 Level. Work in this category will show one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very limited knowledge and understanding of the core issues. • Seriously deficient in critical awareness. • Lacks structure and logical argument. • Does not address the given task.
0.0 – 3.9	Fail without right to reassessment	Inadequate work at 5000 Level. Work in this category will show one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No serious, demonstrable, attempt to carry out the task assigned. • No attempt at analysis and very little understanding or knowledge demonstrated.

Individual modules taken as part of an approved taught postgraduate programme are assessed using the scale shown.