

POSTGRADUATE ST ANDREWS GRADING SYSTEM FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATES FROM 2009/10

Please note: from session 2009/10, the University of St Andrews implemented a new grading scheme moving the pass mark from 5 to 7 for all its degrees.

Modules, 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. Each module is a self-contained unit of teaching, learning and assessment. For the majority of modules the teaching takes place in one 12-week teaching block, usually broken by a reading week, and in most cases followed 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 work 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 a student's work.

The language of instruction for all modules is English, except where the module is intended to develop competence in another language. Details of the content, method of delivery, learning outcomes and assessment patterns of individual modules are available from the University's published Course Catalogue for the year in question.

Credit Load

Postgraduate students on taught programmes may take up to 180 credits in one year.

The following Grade Scale for assessing the taught element has been adopted:-

Combined mean	Definition
16.5 –20.0	Distinction and progression to dissertation
13.5 - 16.4	Progression to dissertation
12.5-13.4	Discretionary progression to dissertation
7.00 – 12.4	Cannot progress to dissertation – award PG Diploma
0 – 6.9	FAIL

A twenty point scale is also used for assessing the M.Litt./M.Res./M.Sc.dissertation. The dissertation has a weight of one-third in the overall assessment of the M.Litt/M.Res./M.Sc.

There are two requirements for the award of the M.Litt./M.Res./M.Sc.: -

- i) Students must achieve a mean of 13.5 or more in the taught element of the programme to secure progression to dissertation;

AND

- ii) The grade achieved in the dissertation itself must be 13.5 or more.

The examiners may recommend that the M.Litt/M.Res./M.Sc. be awarded with a distinction. They may also recommend that a distinction be awarded in coursework alone or in the dissertation alone.

A distinction overall is awarded only if both coursework and dissertation have achieved a level required for the distinction in each. The grade required for a distinction in the dissertation is 16.50, the same as that required for a distinction in coursework.