

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE
GUIDELINES FOR CREDIT AND GRADE TRANSFER FROM 2013/14

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 full-time student normally takes 60 credits in a semester; so, for example, a module in a particular School might be worth 20 credits, this would represent one-third of the credits normally taken in a semester. 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 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.

Credit Load

Normally a full-time taught postgraduate student takes modules worth 180 credits during the course of each year, i.e. 60 credits in each semester and 60 credits for the summer dissertation/project.

**Taught Masters Postgraduate Grading Sheet (MLitt, MSc, MRes)
Module Reporting Scale**

| Grade | Descriptor |
|---|------------------------------|
| 20 19 18 17 16.5 | Distinction at Masters Level |
| 16 15 14 13.5 | Pass at Masters Level |
| 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 | Pass at Diploma Level |
| 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 Fail | Fail |

Individual modules taken as part of an approved taught Masters programme are assessed using the scale shown. Note that students failing any taught module on the first attempt are not eligible to progress to the Masters dissertation.

The Masters degree may be awarded with a distinction, or with distinction in the coursework or dissertation elements alone. To achieve an overall distinction the student must achieve a credit weighted mean at distinction level in the coursework and the dissertation elements (16.5 or above).