

Becoming eligible for an award with “Distinction” or “Merit”: *a guide for continuing postgraduate students*

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▶ **DOES THIS APPLY TO ME??**

- ✓ This guidance applies to ***students on all taught postgraduate courses except PGCE, EdD & MEd who started their course before September 2015.***

1. What do my Module Results Mean?

Your results for each module will include:

- a **credit rating** and
- an **overall mark** on a scale from 0-100.

If your mark is from 70-100:

☺ you have passed the module *at Distinction level.*

If your mark is 60-69:

☺ you have passed the module *at Merit level.*

If your mark is 40-59:

☺ you have passed the module.

If your mark is below 40:

☹ you have not passed the module.

2. What General Award will I be Eligible for?

This is based on credit ratings of the modules you pass.

You will need to pass:

- 180 credits for a **Masters degree**;
- 120 credits for a **Postgraduate Diploma**;
- 60 credits for a **Postgraduate Certificate**.

You will have probably already registered for the relevant award!

However:

- ✓ if you registered for a Masters degree, but leave after passing only 120 credits, you will normally be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma;
- ✓ if you registered for a Masters degree or a Postgraduate Diploma, but leave after passing only 60 credits, you will normally be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate.

3. Am I on Track for a Distinction or Merit?

Postgraduate Certificates

- See slides 6-7

Postgraduate Diplomas

- See slides 8-9

Masters Degrees

- See slides 10-11

Postgraduate Certificates

You **will** get an award “**with Distinction**” if you:

- have Overall Marks of 70+ for all modules.

The Board **may** decide to give you a **Distinction** if you:

- have an Overall Mark of 69 or lower for any module, BUT
- your *aggregate mark across modules* is 70+, AND you passed all modules on initial assessment AND took the full 60 credits at Liverpool Hope.

You **will** get an award “**with Merit**” if you:

- are not eligible for a Distinction, BUT
- have Overall Marks of 60+ for all modules, AND
- started your current course in September 2007 or later.

The Board **may** decide to give you a **Merit** if you:

- have an Overall Mark of 59 or lower for any module, BUT
- your *aggregate mark across modules* of 60+, AND you passed all modules on initial assessment AND took the full 60 credits at Liverpool Hope, AND .
- started your current course in September 2007 or later.

See next slide for examples

Postgraduate Certificates: examples

Student A takes 2 30 credit modules:

- Overall Marks: 70, 70
- *Automatic Distinction*

Student B takes 2 30 credit modules at Hope:

- Overall Marks on initial assessment in 2008/9: 65, 75
- Aggregate = 70
- *Distinction or Merit at Discretion of Board*

Student C takes 2 30 credit modules:

- Overall Marks: 55, 62
- Aggregate = 58.5
- *Not eligible for a Distinction or Merit*

Postgraduate Diplomas:

You **will** get a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 70+ for all modules.

The Board **may** decide to give you a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 70+ for modules to the value of 90-119 credits.

You **will not** get a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 69 or lower for modules to the value of more than 30 credits. **BUT**

You **will** get an award “**with Merit**” if you:

- started your current course in September 2007 or later, and
- have Overall Marks of 60+ for all modules.

The Board **may** decide to give you an award “**with Merit**” if you:

- started your current course in September 2007 or later, and
- have Overall Marks of 60+ for modules to the value of 90-119 credits.

See next slide for examples.

Postgraduate Diplomas: examples

Student A takes 4 30 credit modules:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 70, 70
- *Automatic Distinction*

Student B takes 4 30 credit modules in 2009/10:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 70, 65
- *Distinction or Merit at Discretion of the Board*

Student C takes 4 30 credit modules in 2009/10:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 65, 65
- *Automatic Merit*

Student D takes 4 30 credit modules:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 55, 55
- *No Distinction or Merit*

Masters Degrees:

You **will** get a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 70+ for all modules.

The Board **may** decide to give you a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 70+ for modules to the value of 120-179 credits.

You **will not** get a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 69 or lower for modules to the value of more than 60 credits. **BUT**

You **will** get an award “**with Merit**” if you:

- started your current course in September 2007 or later, and
- have Overall Marks of 60+ for all modules.

The Board **may** decide to give you an award “**with Merit**” if you:

- started your current course in September 2007 or later, and
- have Overall Marks of 60+ for modules to the value of 120-179 credits.

See next slide for examples.

Masters Degrees: examples [students started in 2009]

Student A takes 4 30 credit modules & a Dissertation:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 70, 70 [& 75 for Dissertation]
- *Automatic Distinction*

Student B takes 4 30 credit modules & a Dissertation:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 70, 65 [& 75 for Dissertation]
- *Distinction or Merit at Discretion of the Board*

Student C takes 4 30 credit modules & a Dissertation:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 70, 65 [& 65 for Dissertation]
- *Automatic Merit*

Student D takes 4 30 credit modules:

- Overall Marks: 75, 75, 65, 55 [& 55 for Dissertation]
- *No Distinction or Merit*

4. Where do I find more information?

- ✓ This information is for Guidance Only.
- ✓ Further information about how merits and distinctions are calculated is available on: www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/
- ✓ If you have any queries, please contact your Faculty Office and ask for an appointment to talk to a Senior Academic Adviser.
- ✓ ***Please seek advice immediately if you think you have mitigating circumstances.***