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** you 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** you 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 \textbf{will} get a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 70+ for all modules.

The Board \textbf{may} decide to give you a Distinction if you:

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

You \textbf{will not} get a Distinction if you:

- have Overall Marks of 69 or lower for modules to the value of more than 60 credits. \textbf{BUT}

You \textbf{will} get an award “\textbf{with Merit}” if you:

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

The Board \textbf{may} decide to give you an award “\textbf{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.