**For undergraduate student handbooks only**

**Understanding your marks**

The UK university undergraduate marking system has historically been different from most other systems around the world. The system is also likely to differ from what you are used to from school or college.

**Honours degree** If you study for an undergraduate degree at UCL, you are aiming to graduate with a degree with honours. With this type of degree, the level of your academic performance on your programme is indicated by the ‘class’ of degree – or honours - you are awarded. Most universities award a class of degree based on the marks from the assessed work you have completed. To distinguish between students on the basis of their academic achievement, undergraduate degree awards are classified as follows:

**First-Class Honours (70% and above**)**:** a first class degree, usually referred to as a ‘first’ or 1st, is the highest honours degree you can achieve

**Upper Second-Class Honours (60-69%):** there are two levels of second class degree. An upper second class, known as a 2:1 or two-one, is the higher of the two levels

**Lower Second-Class Honours (50-59%):** a 2.2 or two-two is the lower level of the second class degree

**Third-Class Honours (40-49%):** known as a ‘third’ or 3rd, this degree is the lowest honours degree achievable

**Ordinary Degree:** if an honours student fails to achieve a third class by a small margin, they will be awarded an ordinary degree i.e. without honours.

**BA, BSc, MEng or what?** When you graduate, the honours degree you are awarded depends on the disciplines you study.

* For example, if you take an undergraduate degree in biochemistry, the qualification you will receive is BSc, where ‘B’ signifies ‘Bachelor’ and ‘Sc’ signifies ‘Science’.
* If you take an integrated Master's degree (a four year honours degree course which combines three years of undergraduate study with a fourth year at postgraduate level) the qualification you will receive is MEng, MSci or MPharm, depending on your discipline.

At UCL, at the successful completion of your UCL taught undergraduate programme, you will be awarded one of the following degrees, according to your discipline:

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BASc)

Bachelor of Education (BEd)

Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

Bachelor of Science (Economics) (BSc (Econ))

Master of Engineering (MEng)\*

Master in Science (MSci)\*

Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)\*

\*integrated Master’s degree

**Assessment at UCL** The way your assessments are marked is likely to be different to your previous school or college. Percentage marking is scaled differently according to your discipline - in particular the use of marks below 40 and above 70 - so it’s important to get to know the marking criteria for your programme. [TAILOR THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR FACULTY]. **To understand how your performance will be assessed, look at the marking criteria for your assignment**. (See the [UCL Student Guide to Assessment and Feedback](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/student-guide-assessment-and-feedback))

**What is your assessor looking for?** UCL’s [Academic Manual](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/) states that to successfully complete your undergraduate degree at UCL, you will have to demonstrate:

* a systematic understanding of key aspects of your field of study, including coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your field of study
* an ability to use accurately the established techniques of analysis and enquiry within your field of study
* a conceptual understanding that enables you to devise and sustain arguments and solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of your field of study
* a conceptual understanding that means you can describe and comment on aspects of current research in the field of study
* an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
* an ability to manage your own learning
* an ability to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources

Professional institutions will have different or additional learning outcomes.

**Your UCL transcript** Your UCL transcript will show the title, code, credit value and final UCL percentage mark of each module that you take at UCL, as well as your programme and programme route. UCL Student Records provides general advice about the interpretation of UCL grades on an information sheet which is included with each transcript.

**Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)** In addition to your grade transcript, you will receive a HEAR, which provides a single digital record of your achievement at UCL, including activities beyond the traditional transcript or degree result such as your participation in clubs and societies, voluntary activities, education enhancement, prizes etc.

[Find out more about HEAR on the UCL website](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hear).

**Award of different classes of honours degrees** See the percentage of each class of honours degree awarded across the UK, by year, and compare it to the breakdown of honours degrees awarded by UCL. [Find out more](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/results/uk-honours-degree-system-undergraduates).

**International equivalencies/grade translation** Find out [how UK marking compares to other countries](https://www.grb.uk.com/recruiter-research/international-degree-equivalents).