

## EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT FOR EXAM RESULTS (September 2024)

### Module outcomes

The module mark is a combined mark for the exam and coursework of the module. The pass mark is 40 for modules at FHEQ levels 4, 5 and 6. It is 50 for FHEQ7 (MSci-level) modules whether you take the module in the third or fourth year.

**If your module mark is at or above the pass mark**, the outcome would be a *Pass* [P]. Otherwise, the outcome would be a *Fail* [X].

**If your module mark is below the pass mark**, you will ordinarily be required to take a resit. Without approved mitigating circumstances, this resit will be capped at the pass mark. You are allowed three exam attempts at passing each module.

**However, for some modules (electives and some compulsory modules), if your module mark is less than 10 marks below the pass mark**, your result is a 'marginal fail'. In this case, the module may be eligible for compensation.

Compensation means that the marginal fail will not impede your progression/graduation (but the recorded mark is not uplifted to the pass mark.) This is allowed for up to 15 ECTS of modules at each FHEQ level, provided that your year average is above the pass mark.

Typically, the difference between a capped resit or compensation and the impact on your year average after a successful resit will be small. However, for a small number of students, the small mark increment after a successful resit may lead to a higher degree classification if your final degree average mark ends up being very close to a degree boundary. Also, some students may prefer to have a Pass recorded on their transcript for a module of direct relevance to their future plans.

If you decided not to return to resit a module in August where you had marginal fail, or if you have a marginal fail in the August exam, the September Exam Board has approved compensation for that module. This is provided that your year average is above the pass mark and that you have passed all your other modules. Effectively, compensation is offered so that you can be allowed to graduate or progress to the next academic year.

Compensation is at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and is not possible for core modules or some compulsory modules.

If you did return for a resit in August, we will keep the higher mark of the two attempts.

The department must offer a resit opportunity for students with marginal fails. So, if you sat an exam with the status of first attempt in August and have a marginal fail in the module, you must inform us if you are not returning to resit the exam in the next available exam period for a marginal-fail module as soon as possible. You can contact Sebastien Guenneau (Senior tutor, [ph.stutor@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ph.stutor@imperial.ac.uk)) or Victor Urubusi (Examinations and information officer, [v.urubusi@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:v.urubusi@imperial.ac.uk)). If you are uncertain about your options, please discuss with your personal tutor or the senior tutor and then contact Sebastien Guenneau or Victor Urubusi as soon as possible

*Compensated Pass:* [CP] This outcome is recorded after the Exam Board has approved the compensation of the module.

*Incomplete:* [IN] This outcome is recorded if you have deferred exams or coursework.

## **Progression status**

You cannot progress or graduate unless you have passed all modules. The progression outcomes explain the next steps for your academic progress. They are defined in [Annex C to the Board of Examiners](#).

*Award (Completion):* [AW] You have graduated on your degree programme.

*Award (Exit):* [AT] You did not complete your degree programme but you have been awarded a different award. Typical exit awards are the Certification of Higher Education for completion of Year 1, the Diploma of Higher Education for completion of Years 1 and 2, and a BSc degree if the fourth year of the MSci programme cannot be completed.

*Proceed:* [PP] You can progress into the next academic year of your degree programme.

*Proceed (Transfer):* [PT] You can progress into the next academic year but you have been transferred to a different degree programme. This is typically used at the end of Year 2 for a transfer to a BSc-level degree if you have not satisfied the requirements of a MSci-level programme.

*Referral (next session):* [FR] You have not passed all the modules. You cannot progress to the next year of your degree programme. You are returning to sit exams in the next academic year. (Jan 2025 for Mechanics & Relativity and Computational Physics, May 2025 for other exams).

*Deferral (next session):* [MN] You have not completed all modules. You have deferred exams in the next academic year.

*Re-take (full year):* [FY] You are retaking all modules of the current year of your programme. It is a fresh start with all previous marks erased. This is offered to students who have mitigating circumstances that affected their study so seriously that they have failed nearly all modules. This decision is made after a discussion between you and the senior tutor.

*Re-take (part year):* [FP] You are retaking failed modules of the current year of your programme. You will not be repeating modules that you have passed. This is offered to students who have mitigating circumstances that affected their study so seriously that they have failed many modules. This decision is made after a discussion between you and the senior tutor.

*Fail (required to withdraw):* [FW] You have been unable to complete the degree programme. Reasons for withdrawal on academic grounds are as follows.

- A student has not passed one or more modules after three attempts at the exam.
- A student will not be able to complete the degree programme within the maximum period of registration (i.e. within 5 years of your initial enrolment at Imperial for a BSc degree and within 6 years for a MSci degree).

- A student has passed less than 30 ECTS in the academic year. This is used rarely in cases of serious non-engagement.

*Decision Pending:* [DP] You would need to contact the Senior Tutor for a discussion about next steps.

### **For graduating students only**

#### *Degree boundary zone*

All students with a degree average within 2% to the next degree classification have been considered for uplift by the Exam Board, e.g. 58.00 to 59.50 for consideration for a 2.1 degree. (59.50 is rounded up to 60 for the determination of the degree class.)

The Physics department has a specific criterion for uplift considerations. We examine the student's entire history of approved mitigating circumstances requests since the start of the degree programme. Where a module has been significantly impacted by mitigating circumstances and where mitigation could not be applied at the module level, the examiners will consider the effect of the module's marks on the degree average to determine whether the candidate would otherwise be eligible for the higher classification. We re-calculate the degree average by removing the affected module from the calculation. If the re-calculated degree average (rounded to the nearest integer) reaches the degree boundary, then the uplift is applied.

It is important to note that we cannot apply this procedure to so many modules that a large fraction of the total ECTS credits for an academic year is discounted.

#### *Fair assessment policy*

For students who started in 2019 and 2020, the fair assessment policy for the impact of Covid and remote teaching has been applied. The degree average is calculated in two ways: with and without the Year 1 average. The higher of the two results is taken to be your degree average.

### **For Year 2 MSci students only: Progression from Year 2 to Year 3**

The [programme specification for the MSci programmes](#) has a condition on the Year 1&2 result. A student can stay on the MSci programmes if

- the Yr1&2 average is above 60; or
- the Yr1&2 average is between 55 and 60 and the Yr2 average is above 60.

A student is transferred automatically to a BSc degree (from F390 to F325 BSc Theory or F303 to F300 BSc) if the Yr1&2 average is below 55. This is done after we have a complete set of marks for progression.

If your Yr1&2 average is between 55 and 60 but the Yr2 average is below 60, you can discuss your progression with the senior tutor. The risk of staying on the MSci programme is that it may be difficult for you to pass all the fourth-year modules which have a pass mark of 50.