



## UNIVERSITY APPROACH TO AWARD CALCULATION ALGORITHMS

Applicable to students in all Stages/years of programmes

Further information can be found in the University's [Credit and Qualifications Framework](#).

### Award Calculation Algorithms

Aston University is committed to clearly defined and transparent award calculation algorithms for all taught programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The University publishes the method by which all awards are calculated within the General Regulations appropriate to the Level of the final award:

[General Regulations for Undergraduate and Integrated Master's Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for Foundation Degree Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for Graduate Diploma Programmes](#)

[General Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes](#)

Where programme outcomes are determined by an alternative algorithm, due to Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) or other requirements, this will be clearly detailed in the relevant Programme Specification.

### Undergraduate Bachelor's Programmes

Stage 1 of Aston University Bachelor's programmes are designed with the principles of widening participation and inclusion mind, providing all students with the skills and

knowledge required to succeed in higher Level study. As such, Stage 1 of Aston undergraduate programmes are not recognised in final degree calculations, but do contribute 120 credits to the final award and remain a vital part of student development and achievement.

The University recognises the consistency of student application and performance, with Stage 2 contributing 15%, or 25% in the case of undergraduate degree programmes without a Placement Year, to the student's final degree calculation.

The University views the Placement Year as a key aspect of undergraduate programmes, and aims to offer placements on 100% of applicable undergraduate degree programmes. The University recognises the importance and transformational nature of the Placement Year by the award of 120 Stage P credits, contributing 10% to the student's final degree calculation.

Stage F, the final Stage of every University undergraduate Bachelor's programme, contributes 75% to the student's degree calculation. The University recognises the importance of exit velocity in student achievement, and this is reflected in the significant weighting placed on the final Stage of study.

Bachelor's awards are classified, with the classification being based on the final degree calculation.

### **Integrated Master's Programmes**

Integrated Master's Programmes follow a similar pattern to undergraduate Bachelor's programmes, but have distinct degree algorithms appropriate to their discipline, detailed in the relevant Programme Specification.

### **Foundation Degree and Graduate Diploma Programmes**

For Foundation Degree and Graduate Diploma programmes, all credits contribute to the final programme calculation. Foundation Degrees and Graduate Diplomas may be awarded with 'Merit' or 'Distinction' based on the overall mark across all credit.

### **Postgraduate Taught Programmes**

Postgraduate taught programmes are formed of one or two Stages, the taught Stage (typically 60 credits for a Postgraduate Certificate, or 120 credits for a Postgraduate Diploma or Master's), and the dissertation Stage (typically 60 credits for Master's programmes). The University recognises the importance of earned credit, including all 60, 120 or 180 credits in the postgraduate award calculation. Postgraduate Certificates, Diplomas and Master's may be awarded with 'Merit' or 'Distinction' based on the overall mark across all credit. Additionally, for the award of a 'Merit' or 'Distinction' at Master's level, students must achieve a consistent level of achievement across both Stages of their programme.