

## **FACULTY OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES, UCL**

### **SCHEMES OF AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES**

Following the decision by the College Board of Examiners (endorsed by Academic Committee) that the Faculty of Engineering Sciences must follow a modified Faculty version of the College's "default" Scheme for the Award of Honours for its undergraduate degree programmes for all students first registering in September 2005, the following two schemes (A-B) have been approved by the Faculty Undergraduate Degree Committee and submitted to the College Board of Examiners for approval.

#### **NOTES:**

Scheme A is suitable for all three-year degree programmes, scheme B is suitable for all four-year degree programmes, including all four-year degree programmes with a year abroad.

In section 2 of each scheme the phrase "satisfied the examiners in courses" is used to indicate that each course has achieved at least the minimum pass mark at 40%.

In several places in the schemes, reference is made to "local rules". This is added to enable departments to specify separately the particular requirements they may have for their degrees, e.g. students must pass named compulsory courses. It will also enable departments to make adjustments to the way their degree programmes operate without the need for constant alteration of the SHS Faculty scheme of award. All that will be required in future, is for departments to report to the Faculty Undergraduate Degree Committee their current particular requirements, and to notify the Faculty Undergraduate Degree Committee of any subsequent alterations to them that they may wish to make. Students must be informed of these requirements in departmental literature.

#### **"LOCAL RULES" PERTAINING TO THE HARMONISED SCHEMES OF AWARD**

Following the adoption of the Faculty's harmonised scheme of award, it will be necessary for each degree programme to specify separately which elements are compulsory, must be passed, etc. So that this information can be presented in a uniform way, it is proposed that the scheme which follows the Faculty schemes be completed by all degree programme organisers. Additionally, students need to have clear guidelines concerning what is expected of them during their Year Abroad: since this is also, in effect, "local rules" relating to the scheme of award, a section should be included in the relevant scheme to cover that as well. The scheme can then be used in departmental literature alongside the relevant scheme of award, and also be used to inform the Faculty Undergraduate Degree Committee what departments' "local rules" are, as well as providing a mechanism for notifying the Committee of any changes to them a department may subsequently wish to make. "Local rules" should always follow the student's year of admission to a degree programme, unless there has been a significant interruption in their studies.

#### **SCHEME A. THREE-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

##### **1. PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS**

Students registered for the degree are required to undertake a programme of study comprising courses to the value of 4.0 course units in each year; the courses taken will be subject to local departmental rules and guidelines, as appropriate.

In order to proceed to the second year of the programme, all students must have passed a minimum of 3.5 course units. In order to proceed to the third and final year of the programme, all students must have passed a minimum of 7.0 course units. In each year, students must have passed any courses deemed compulsory for progression, *subject to local rules*.

The pass mark for each course unit is 40%.

## **2. AWARD OF DEGREE**

To be awarded an honours degree, a student must have completed courses to the value of 12.0 course units, and satisfied the examiners in courses to a minimum value of 11.0 course units, fulfilling all attendance and coursework requirements, submitting all written work prescribed for assessment purposes and taking all parts of any examination in those courses.

To be awarded a degree with honours in the field of study for which the student is registered, the student must have taken and passed any course units deemed compulsory for such an award, *according to local rules*.

Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in 11.0 or more course units, but who have nevertheless passed a minimum of 10.0 course units, including at least two at advanced level and two in their final year, together with any deemed compulsory according to local rules, may be awarded an Ordinary Degree in their registered field of study. Students who are eligible for the award of an Ordinary Degree under these requirements, but who have not satisfied the examiners in one or more courses deemed compulsory, will be awarded an Ordinary Degree in a different field of study, to be determined by the Board of Examiners.

## **3. CLASSIFICATION OF HONOURS**

The class of honours degree shall be determined by the relevant Board of Examiners on the basis of the results obtained in all 12.0 course units.

Classification will be based in the first instance on a consideration of the average of the marks from the 12.0 units of assessment. The units are to be weighted 1 : 3 : 5, as follows:

- a) Year 1: 1
- b) Year 2: 3
- c) Year 3: 5

Marks for retaken or substitute course units will be included in the calculation for the mark of the year in which that course unit was first attempted, rather than in the year it was actually taken, if that is different.

## **4. CONSIDERATION OF BORDERLINES**

Candidates whose average mark falls close to a class boundary (with “close” being defined according to local rules) may be considered for raising to the higher class. Such consideration will be at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

Reports of academic performance may be taken into account.

Reference may be made to the grading of extenuating circumstances agreed in an appropriate pre-meeting of a special committee in cases where there are good reasons for supposing a candidate’s performance may have been adversely affected by illness, bereavement or similar circumstances. The committee’s decisions will be based on available medical certificates and related documentation. Full details of any such circumstances **MUST** be submitted by candidates well **IN ADVANCE** of the final Board of Examiners Meeting and in any case before the end of the summer term in order for them to be considered.

## **5. APPLICATION OF CLASSIFICATION SCHEME**

In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may exercise discretion in the application of this Faculty Scheme. The general Regulations of the College and of the University are assumed to apply in conjunction with the above Scheme, as are the local rules and guidelines produced by the relevant Department(s).

## **6. EXTRA-MURAL YEAR (EMY)**

Students may choose to spend one year in industry between their penultimate and their final year, thus adding one year (Extra-Mural Year, or EMY) to the overall length of their degree. Their placement must be approved by their Department and by the Faculty Teaching Committee, which will make sure that adequate, identifiable supervision and training are provided by the host company, that adequate supervision is provided by the student’s home department, and that the student’s plan of work for the year is related to his/her field of study and of adequate level.

Upon completion of his/her placement, the student will complete a report, which shall be submitted to the host company for approval and to the student’s home department for assessment. The grade allocated to the report will be worth 1.0 course unit and the unit will be weighted at final year level, i.e. 5.

In order to graduate, students who have been on EMY will need to have taken and passed one more unit, i.e. to have taken 13 course units instead of 12 and to have passed 12 course units instead of 11.

## **SCHEME B. FOUR-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

### **1. PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS**

Students registered for the degree are required to undertake a programme of study comprising courses to the value of 4.0 course units in each year; the courses taken will be subject to local departmental rules and guidelines, as appropriate.

In order to proceed to the second year of the programme, all students must have passed a minimum of 3.5 course units. In order to proceed to the third of the programme, all students must have passed a minimum of 7.0 course units. In order to proceed to the final year, all students must have passed a minimum of 11.0 course units. In each year, students must have passed any courses deemed compulsory for progression, *subject to local rules*.

The pass mark for each course unit is 40%, with the exception of M-level modules where the pass mark is 50%.

### **2. AWARD OF DEGREE**

To be awarded an honours degree, a student must have completed courses to the value of 16.0 course units, and satisfied the examiners in courses to a minimum value of 14.5 course units, fulfilling all attendance and coursework requirements, submitting all written work prescribed for assessment purposes and taking all parts of any examination in those courses.

To be awarded a degree with honours in the field of study for which the student is registered, the student must have taken and passed any course units deemed compulsory for such an award, *according to local rules*.

Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in 14.5 or more course units, but who have nevertheless passed a minimum of 13.0 course units, including at least two at advanced level and two in their final year, together with any deemed compulsory according to local rules, may be awarded an Ordinary Degree in their registered field of study. Students who are eligible for the award of an Ordinary Degree under these requirements, but who have not satisfied the examiners in one or more courses deemed compulsory, will be awarded an Ordinary Degree in a different field of study, to be determined by the Board of Examiners.

### **3. CLASSIFICATION OF HONOURS**

The class of honours degree shall be determined by the relevant Board of Examiners on the basis of the results obtained in all 16.0 course units.

Classification will be based in the first instance on a consideration of the average of the marks from the 16.0 units of assessment. The units are to be weighted 1 : 3 : 5 : 5 , as follows:

- e) Year 1: 1
- f) Year 2: 3
- g) Year 3: 5
- h) Year 4: 5

The year abroad will be taken in either year 3 or year 4, depending on local rules, and will have a value of 4.0 course units with a weighting of 5.

Marks for retaken or substitute course units will be included in the calculation for the mark of the year in which that course unit was first attempted, rather than in the year it was actually taken, if different.

### **4. CONSIDERATION OF BORDERLINES**

Candidates whose average mark falls close to a class boundary (with “close” being defined according to local rules) may be considered for raising to the higher class. Such consideration will be at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

Reports of academic performance may be taken into account.

Reference may be made to the grading of extenuating circumstances agreed in an appropriate pre-meeting of a special committee in cases where there are good reasons for supposing a candidate’s performance may have been adversely affected by illness, bereavement or similar circumstances. The committee’s decisions will be based on available medical certificates and related documentation. Full details of any such circumstances MUST be submitted by candidates well IN ADVANCE of the final Board of Examiners Meeting and in any case before the end of the summer term in order for them to be considered.

## **5. APPLICATION OF CLASSIFICATION SCHEME**

In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may exercise discretion in the application of this Scheme. The general Regulations of the College and of the University are assumed to apply in conjunction with the above Scheme, as are the local rules and guidelines produced by the relevant Department(s).

## **7. EXTRA-MURAL YEAR (EMY)**

Students may choose to spend one year in industry between their penultimate and their final year, thus adding one year (Extra-Mural Year, or EMY) to the overall length of their degree. Their placement must be approved by their Department and by the Faculty Teaching Committee, which will make sure that adequate, identifiable supervision and training are provided by the host company, that adequate supervision is provided by the student's home department, and that the student's plan of work for the year is related to his/her field of study and of adequate level.

Upon completion of his/her placement, the student will complete a report, which shall be submitted to the host company for approval and to the student's home department for assessment. The grade allocated to the report will be worth 1.0 course unit and the unit will be weighted at final year level, i.e. 5.

In order to graduate, students who have been on EMY will need to have taken and passed one more unit, i.e. to have taken 17 course units instead of 16 and to have passed 15.5 course units instead of 14.5.