

Degree Classifications

What to do if you are unhappy with your degree classification.

The university regulations specifically preclude appeals on the grounds of academic judgement (see paragraph B4.1 below) and the review process focuses on procedural grounds:

- whether the process by which that academic judgment was reached was carried out in accordance with agreed procedures, and,
- whether there were any circumstances affecting a student's performance which might have caused the board of examiners to reach a different judgement had the circumstance been known at the time that judgement was made.

B4.1. (R) Matters relating to a mark or grade for any assessment or an overall result shall be subject to the authority of the University, and agents acting on its behalf, in reaching academic judgements. The University, exercising its authority under its Statutes, acting through the decisions of boards of examiners as confirmed by the Committee of the Senate, has sole authority to determine whether or not a degree, certificate or diploma should be awarded to a particular student and, if so awarded, the specific class or other description of attainment, appropriate to the level of the award, whether undergraduate or postgraduate.

Students who wish to challenge, on procedural grounds, the class of degree awarded shall be entitled to have their cases reviewed by the Part II Review Committee whose decision shall be final. Any student who is not prepared to accept this judgement shall be deemed to have exhausted all internal procedures and will be referred to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator.

(R) In all cases the grounds for review and appeal shall be limited to:

- ***material administrative error or irregularity in conduct of assessment which has affected the student's results;***
- ***the production of significant new evidence concerning extenuating or mitigating circumstances, which for good reason had not been available to boards of examiners.***
- ***other grounds where unfair treatment or discrimination is alleged which is outwith the exercise of academic judgement and which for good reason had not been brought to the attention of the boards of examiners.***

If you do wish to challenge on one of the grounds mentioned above, you should put your case in writing to the Head of the Student Registry. In the event of your case not meeting any of the grounds for appeal you will be notified by the Head of the Student Registry that you have exhausted all internal procedures. Where there are grounds for appeal, your case will be forwarded to the Part II review committee and you will be notified of those procedures in due course.

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