

##: NUS will adopt new academic terminologies from 1 August 2023 - "Module" will be renamed "Course", "Modular Credit (MC)" will be renamed "Unit". The definition of a Module/Course and MC/Unit will remain the same.

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## Students who are conferred LLB degrees from 30 June 2020 onwards

### Calculation of Class of Honours (COH)

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Will this unfairly cause some students to get a lower honours degree, because they are pushed down by those who benefit most from the policy?**

No. As a result of reforms to our Class of Honours (COH) policy introduced in 2016, the distinction between our Second Class (Upper) Honours and Second Class (Lower) Honours is objective and based on a Cumulative Weighted Numerical Average (CWNA) equivalent to a "B" average. What this means is that this new measure cannot push anyone down to a Second Class (Lower) Honours. It also will not result in pushing anyone down from a First Class Honours to a Second Class (Upper) Honours. It is likely that it will raise a few people up.

It is true that the award of First Class Honours is relative to other students, based on the top 10% of the cohort; however our objective criteria also permits more than 10% of First Class Honours to be awarded in any particular year, so long as you have obtained a Cumulative Weighted Numerical Average for all modules taken at NUS that is equivalent to a grade of "A-" or better. Nonetheless, in view of the numerous challenges posed by COVID-19, and having taken into account the high standards that we have to uphold for the NUS LLB degree, we decided that the new provision was the least bad way of giving everyone an opportunity to strike out grades. The Board of Examiners can, however, review the final Class of Honours and we will review the First Class Honours in particular to ensure that no one is adversely affected. If that means a very slight increase in the number of First Class Honours in a given year taking into account "exceptional circumstances" under para 10, that is within their power.

**2. Is there a minimum number of graded modules required for the COH calculation?**

Yes, students must have a minimum of 100 MCs of graded modules for the COH calculation. This is to ensure that there is a consistent benchmark for the award of COH across all the different law degree programmes and student exchange arrangements (e.g. 4-year LLB, Double Degree Programmes, Concurrent Degree Programmes, Exchange Plus Programmes, Law+Minor, Law+USP etc).

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**3. Does the exclusion of grades from the calculation of COH include Law modules taken in semesters other than Semester 2, AY2019/2020?**

Yes, it could include Law modules taken in any semester during your LLB studies. The grades will still appear on your transcript even if the grades of particular subjects have been excluded from the calculation.

**4. Does the exclusion of grades include non-law modules?**

No, it is only applicable to Law modules.

**5. Can I opt out of the exclusion of grades?**

No, the new calculation will be applied automatically when calculating your COH for graduation purposes.

**6. Can I select the modules to be excluded?**

No, the algorithm will automatically exclude your lowest grades according to the stipulated rule when calculating your COH for graduation purposes. Your CWNA will not be worse off after this exclusion. See examples in Q12 below.

**7. Is this new calculation the same as the S/U Option Policy?**

No, there will not be any conversion to S/U grades for the Law modules which are excluded from the COH calculation. Modules read at the Faculty of Law are different from other faculties at NUS – there is no S/U policy applicable to the Faculty of Law.

**8. Does it apply to students who were on exchange in Semester 2, AY2019/2020?**

Yes, the new COH calculation will apply to all students who are conferred their LLB degrees from 30 June 2020. This new COH calculation policy was previously approved for those who matriculated in AY2018/2019, but in light of the extraordinary disruptions and stress brought about by the COVID-19 virus, it was decided the policy will take effect immediately for this graduating cohort onwards. i.e. for all degrees conferred from 30 June 2020.

**9. Does the Additional 10 S/U MCs for Semester 2, AY2019/2020 policy recently announced for modular faculties apply to USP, Minor and other non-law modules taken by Law students?**

As indicated in the NUS Bulletin, the NUS S/U Option Scheme is not applicable to undergraduate students from Law, Medicine (except Nursing), Dentistry and Yale-NUS College. Exceptions only apply to Law DDP students (See Q10 below). As modules taken in the USP and Minor programmes count toward the COH calculation, the S/U Option Scheme will not apply.

**10. I am an existing DDP student, can I exercise my S/U options for the non-law degree?**

Yes, DDP students may continue to exercise S/U options for the non-law modules which count towards the non-law degree only, subject to the [NUS S/U Option Policy](#).

**11. I am an existing DDP student, will the grades of the Law modules excluded from COH calculation for the Law degree be excluded from the CAP calculation for the non-law degree?**

No, the exclusion of grades for the COH calculation only applies to the Law degree.

**12. Are there any examples for the new COH calculation policy?**

Assuming the following modules are the worst grades. Here are some illustrative scenarios to show you how the policy operates:

Mod1	C+
Mod2	C (higher mark)
Mod3	C (lower mark)
Mod4	D+

**Scenario 1**

Mod1	8MC	C+	
Mod2	2.5MC	C (higher)	x
Mod3	4MC	C (lower)	x
Mod4	5MC	D+	x

**Scenario 3**

Mod1	4MC	C+	
Mod2	5MC	C (higher)	
Mod3	5MC	C (lower)	
Mod4	8MC	D+	x

**Scenario 2**

Mod1	8MC	C+	
Mod2	4MC	C (higher)	
Mod3	5MC	C (lower)	x
Mod4	5MC	D+	x

**Scenario 4**

Mod1	5MC	C+	
Mod2	4MC	C (higher)	
Mod3	4MC	C (lower)	x
Mod4	8MC	D+	x