

Disclaimer

The information provided in this document is for **guidance only** because of the differences between the Canadian and UK grading systems.

Overview

These notes offer an interpretation of the Law School grades, or marks, for Canadian students. Our grading system may not be familiar and our numerical marks mean something quite different from the same numbers when used in Canadian marking. **Percentage marks are not comparable across the two jurisdictions.**

The National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) in Canada provides useful information on the minimum academic performance for the Certificate of Qualification, which is required when LLB qualifications have been gained outside of Canada.

NCA policy states that “an applicant with poor overall academic performance will not receive any recognition for his or her legal education. By way of example, the NCA considers an applicant who has achieved Third Class or lower standing in the United Kingdom to have poor overall academic performance. The NCA will not recognize any competencies arising from a course in which the applicant has demonstrated poor academic performance. Poor academic performance constitutes a failing grade or a grade within 5% of the passing grade in the relevant institution. An applicant with these low grades has not shown sufficient command of the subject. For example, in the United Kingdom, a grade of 40% constitutes a passing grade. Therefore, all grades of 45% and lower are considered by the NCA to be poor academic performance.”

Exeter Law School

Exeter Law School is the Law department of the University of Exeter. We are a research intensive department (ranked 11th in the country in the latest REF). Teaching on our LLB programmes includes regular (normally weekly) small-group seminars as well as whole class lectures. Our students are exposed to a range of ethical and social justice issues as well as given a rigorous training in legal analysis. We now have some years’ experience of successfully training Canadian students intending to qualify and practice in Canada.

More information about the Law School is available online at <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/law/>

Course Modules

In common with other English Universities, the University of Exeter uses a system of classes to grade individual course modules and assessed elements within them.

First Class	70-100%
2.1	60-69%
2.2	50-59%
Third Class	40-49%
Fail	0-39%

There is no formal University conversion scale to Canadian GPA.

However, having consulted colleagues with relevant experience, the conversion opposite offers a practical guide.

A+	72+
A	69-71
A-	66-68
B+	63-65
B	59-62
B-	56-58
C+	53-55
C	49-52
C-	46-48
D	40-45
F	0-39

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The narrative interpretation may be more helpful:

First Class marks

Any First Class mark is excellent. It is highly unusual for students to be awarded marks of 80% and above and any such mark is outstanding. The majority of First Class marks are in the range of 70-74%.

2.1 marks (sometimes called Upper Second)

Any 2.1 mark is good to very good.

2.2 marks (sometimes called Lower Second)

Satisfactory

Third Class marks

Third Class marks are of degree standard but weak

Overall Degree Results

A similar system of classes is used to calculate overall degree results. The marks on individual course modules (120 credits in each of the two stages taken) are aggregated in this way:

- For a First Class degree a student needs a stage-weighted final average of 69.50% or more across all modules **OR** a stage-weighted average of 68.00% or higher with 120 stage-weighted credits at First Class level
- For a 2.1 degree a student needs a stage-weighted final average of 59.50% or more across all modules **OR** a stage-weighted average of 58.00% with 120 stage-weighted credits in the 2.1 band or higher.
- For a 2.2 degree a student needs a stage-weighted final average of 49.50% or more across all modules **OR** a stage-weighted average of 48.00% with 120 stage-weighted credits in the 2.2 band or higher.
- For a Third class degree a student needs to pass all modules.

In calculating an overall average there is a 1:2 weighting of stage 1 and stage 2.

In June 2012 out of about 250 students completing their degree with Exeter Law School, 8% achieved a First Class degree and 68% achieved a 2.1.