



Maynooth International Engineering College

MIEC Grading Document

Revision 1 Updated in September 2021

Maynooth system

Maynooth University uses a standard set of grade descriptors adopted from the National University of Ireland, which can be summarised as follows (full descriptors in Appendix A). The pass mark is 40%.

Grade	Description	Mark
1st CLASS Honours	Supreme performance,	90-100
	Exceptional performance,	80-89
	Excellent performance,	70-79
2nd CLASS Honours (Grade 1)	Very Good performance,	60-69
2nd CLASS Honours (Grade 2)	Good performance	50-59
3 rd Class Honours	Satisfactory performance	45-49
PASS	Acceptable performance	40-44
Fail	Unacceptable performance	35-39
Fail	Wholly unacceptable performance	0-34

Compensation: A mark below 35 is always “not passed”. A mark in the range 35-39 can be passed by compensation where the average mark for the year is 40 or more AND at least half the credits have marks over 40. In multi-year undergraduate degrees, compensation is calculated at the end of the academic year. If a student passes by compensation, the mark is not changed, but the module result is changed from NP (Incomplete or not passed) to PC (Passed by compensation). A student with a PC result may resit a module to improve the result. The set of modules to be considered for compensation in a **period of study** includes all modules for which the student has registered.

The Compensation

A student who does not pass a module may resit in the supplemental resits which are held in August each year.

Progression: In a single subject degree, in order to progress to the next year of study a student must:

- Get an average mark of 40 or more.
- Earn 60 credits (that is, all the modules must have a pass or a PC result).
- Have a mark of 40 or more in any required modules (a required module is one that must be passed without compensation to progress in the subject).

Progress with a deficit. A Department may decide to allow a student to progress with a deficit into the next year, if the deficit is not more than 10 credits per semester. The student must then make up the deficit before graduating, by repeating the modules not passed, or taking alternative modules.

FZU system

FZU uses a GPA system with a mark for each module, which is translated into a GPA score between 0 and 4. The pass mark is always 60%.

Mark out of 100	GPA
90–100	4.0
85–89	3.7
81–84	3.3
78–80	3.0
75–77	2.7
72–74	2.3
68–71	2.0
64–67	1.7
60–63	1.3
0-59	0

Compensation: In the FZU system there is no compensation, and all modules must be passed.

In FZU, a student who does not pass a module (mark under 60), can resit the exam at the beginning of the next semester. If the student does not pass, then the student can progress and repeat the module in the following year.

Progression: A student may progress from one year to the next with some modules not passed, and resit the examinations and pass.

A student is given a warning, or advised to withdraw, if there are too many credits not passed. The thresholds for this are:

	In the semester	In the year
Study warning	10 credits	20 credits
Advised to withdraw	15 credits	30 credits

MIEC marking and grading

Principle: The students must be marked using the MU norms, as this is a MU degree. If this is not done, then the students doing the degree in Maynooth will be marked on a different scale from those in FZU, which would not be proper.

As the MU Marks and Standards are already published, we cannot make any changes which would make progression more difficult for these students. If changes are needed, they can be made for later cohorts.

Marking and grading: The students work will be marked using the MU marking conventions. Student annual results will be calculated by MU. After the results are calculated, the MU marks for each module will be converted to GPA and the GPA will be provided for upload to the FZU system.

The GPA conversion will be as follows:

Description	Letter	MU mark	GPA	FZU equivalent
Excellent (First honours standard)	A	80-100	4.0	90—100
	A-	70-80	3.7	85—89
Very good (2:1 standard)	B+	67-69	3.3	81—84
	B	63-66	3.0	78—80
	B-	60-62	2.7	75—77
Good (2.2 standard)	C+	57-59	2.3	72—74
	C	53-56	2.0	68—71
	C-	50-52	1.7	64—67
Pass	D	40-49	1.3	60—63
Pass by Compensation	E	35-39	1.3	59
Not passed	F	0-34	0	0-59

If a student with a mark in the range 35-39 is awarded a Pass by Compensation in the module, the GPA will be recorded as 1.3. This means that GPA for the year cannot be finalised until after the exam boards.

Resit options: If a student does not pass a module, the student can resit within the same academic year, in the supplemental examination period. The supplemental examinations are held in the late summer, prior to the start of the first semester. The date of the supplemental examinations may be later than in Maynooth (possibly in early September).

For modules that are assessed by Continuous Assessment only (*no scheduled exam at the end of the semester*), the Department will provide a supplemental assessment within the same academic year, applying the following rules:

- If a student achieved a grade lower than 25% they must repeat in the next academic year.
- If a student achieves a mark in the range of 25 – 39% they are permitted to complete an assignment during the current academic year (August period) ahead of the new term.
- Generally students must repeat the Critical Skills modules in the next academic year not in the August supplemental period, due to the team work style of assessment, except in special circumstances approved by the Head of Department.

100% Continuous Assessed modules – Repeat rules:

Grade	Repeat Option
25% - 35%	Complete repeat work within the academic year (August, before the next academic year starts) The final grade will be capped at 40%
Lower than 25%	Repeat the module in the next academic year, (A student may be permitted to repeat in the current academic year in exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the MIEC Head of Department) The final grade will be capped at 40%

The Work Experience Modules cannot be repeated in the same academic year. The student must repeat the work experience module the following year.

Progression: A student may be allowed to progress with a deficit of up to 20 credits, and repeat these modules in tantum with the next year of study. In this case the Department may decide to waive attendance requirements and allow the student to submit the work (for CA), carry forward the CA mark from the previous year, or do the exam (for written exams). [Note that an exception to allow progression with a 20 credit deficit will require approval from MU Academic Council].

If the student has completed their CA work successfully on the initial completion of the module, they may carry their CA grade .

English Language Classes:

The grading rules applied to the English Language classes are applied separate to the degree programme. The degree programme aligns to the European Credit Transfer System where upon a year of full-time study equates to 60 credits. The English language module is not included in the 60 credits band.

in order to progress a student must obtain an average mark of 40% in each English module. If a student achieves a grade between 35% and 39% they are deemed to have 'Passed by Compensation' provided the overall degree average grade is 40% or above.

The English module exams take place around the same calendar period as the degree module exams.

<u>Main exam timeline</u>	<u>Repeat exam timeline</u>
December	January
July	August

English Exam Repeats:

If a student does not meet the standard to progress in the English module, they must repeat on the next scheduled exam sitting. The repeat assessment will include an exam and an assignment.

If a student was unsuccessful passing the year 1 English repeat sitting, they may progress with their fellow students on to year 2 English, but they must repeat the year 1 English module until it is passed. Students must pass All English modules before obtaining their degree award.

Exam results Implementation details.

Issue	Proposed response
Semester 1 results uploaded	MIEC internal exam board takes place in mid-February. GPA grades are communicated to FZU Head of School, Provisional results are communicated to students. Grades uploaded to the exams system mid-February (Date specified by Maynooth University Exams Office)
Semester 2 results uploaded	MIEC Exam board takes place in Mid-July. Grades uploaded to the exams system in mid -August in synch with Maynooth Month 8 upload. Grades communicated to FZU Senior staff in mid-July. Only Students with grades below 40% receive their provisional grade, enabling students to prepare for repeat exams in late August. MIEC students receive their grades formally on the Month 8 release (1 st week of September)
Repeat Results upload	Repeat exams take place on the last week of August and into the first week of term. MIEC internal Repeat Exam Board takes place in the 2 nd week of September. The grades are converted to GPA format and reviewed by MIEC and FZU. Repeat grades are manually uploaded to the exams office in mid-September after the MIEC / FZU review.
University Exam Board with Registrar	The final exam board (post repeat exams) takes place in late September after the grades have been uploaded on the exams system attended by the MIEC head of school and the MU Registrar.
Conversion to GPA	GPA calculation completed by MIEC . MIEC Communicate the grades in GPA format to FZU. The grades must be approved by FZU and the MU Exam Board before formal communication to the FZU students.
Can a student repeat the year?	Yes, a student can choose to repeat a year. Note that they may have to start late if results are not available on time.
MU transcript	Will show the modules and MU marks.
FZU transcript	Will show the modules and GPA

Appendix A: National University of Ireland grade descriptors.

1st CLASS HONS	<p>Supreme performance, engaging profoundly, systematically and comprehensively with question set, brilliantly demonstrating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a superlative mastery of the subject matter, richly supported by evidence and citation, reflecting deep and broad knowledge and understanding as well as extensive reading • an outstanding ability to organise, analyse and express ideas and arguments in an original, sophisticated and discriminating manner • an optimal capacity for critical analysis • the display of rare penetrative insight, originality and creativity 	90-100
	<p>Exceptional performance, engaging deeply and systematically with the question set, with consistently impressive demonstration of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive mastery of the subject matter; amply supported by evidence and citation, • reflecting deep and broad knowledge and critical insight as well as extensive reading • an exceptional ability to organise, analyse and present arguments fluently and lucidly with a high level of critical analysis • a highly-developed capacity for original, creative and logical thinking; 	80-89
	<p>Excellent performance, engaging closely and systematically with the question set, with consistently strong evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive mastery of the subject matter, ably supported by evidence and relevant citation • excellent ability to organise, analyse and express arguments fluently and lucidly with a high level of critical analysis • a highly-developed capacity for original, creative and logical thinking 	70-79
2nd CLASS HONS (Grade 1)	<p>Very Good performance, engaging substantially with the question set, demonstrating strong grasp of the subject matter, well supported by evidence and relevant citation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well-developed capacity to analyse issues, organise material, present arguments clearly and cogently • some original insights and capacity for creative and logical thinking 	60-69
2nd CLASS HONS (Grade 2)	<p>Good performance - intellectually competent answer (i.e. factually sound) with evidence of a reasonable familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acceptable grasp of the subject material • ideas stated rather than developed and insufficiently supported by evidence and relevant citation • writing of sufficient quality to convey meaning but some lack of fluency and command of suitable vocabulary • omission of parts of the subject in question or the appearance of several minor errors • average critical awareness and analytical qualities • limited evidence of capacity for original and logical thinking 	50-59
3rd CLASS HONS	<p>Satisfactory performance – intellectually adequate answer with evidence of some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic grasp of subject matter, but somewhat lacking in focus and structure • main points covered in answer, but lacking detail • some effort to engage, but only a basic understanding of the topic portrayed • some development of argument • only some critical awareness displayed • no evidence or relevant citation included in answer • appearance of several minor errors or one major error 	45-49

PASS	<p>Acceptable performance – intellectually adequate answer with limited familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic grasp of subject matter but limited focus on question asked unclear presentation of argument, random layout, with some omissions or inaccuracies in answer • argument insufficiently developed • no evidence or relevant citation supplied • appearance of one major error and minor errors • inclusion of unsubstantiated statements and/or irrelevant material • descriptive rather than argumentative or analytical answer presented • an attempt to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and an attempt to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner only partially successful • an incomplete or rushed answer e.g. the use of bullet points through part / all of answer 	40-44
Fail	<p>Unacceptable performance, with either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - insufficient understanding of the question displayed - failure to address the question resulting in a largely irrelevant answer - a display of some knowledge of material relative to the question posed, but with very serious omissions / errors and/or major inaccuracies included in answer - or answer left somewhat incomplete for lack of time <p>Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited understanding of question displayed • a random layout / underdeveloped structure - not planned sufficiently • poor analytical skills, with an absence of argument • random and undisciplined development - limited structure • lack of clarity, poor spelling • material of marginal relevance predominating 	35-39
Fail	<p>Wholly unacceptable performance, with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deficient understanding of the question displayed - complete failure to address the question resulting in an irrelevant answer - inadequate knowledge displayed relative to the question posed - or answer left incomplete for lack of time <p>Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very poor analytical skills, with an absence of argument • random and undisciplined development –poorly structured answer • confused expression, poor spelling • irrelevant material predominating 	0-34

Revision History:

Revision 1 : Changes made in September 2021

Page 1: Compensation clarification , relating to the Period of study.

Page 3: GPA conversion table: Specify the GPA grade allocated to 35-39% = 1.3

Page3: 100% Continuous Assessed (CA) modules , clarifying when a student may repeat a failed grade in August.

Page 4: English Exam policy clarifying the PC rule and the progression rules. Noted that the English exams are handled slightly differently to the Degree programme modules.

Page 5: Clarification of the MIEC exam grade processing steps and release of grades to FZU.

Revision 2: Change made in January 2021

Page 4: Under the heading 'Progression', clarifying the management of the CA grade, if a student is carrying a deficit.