

Study Abroad Mark Conversion

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to ensure that undergraduate students who study abroad receive a fair and equitable mark in line with SHU grade boundaries. Different countries use different mark scales. The following principles have been adhered to in order to convert each mark scale:

- The pass mark threshold maps to the threshold at Sheffield Hallam (i.e. 40%).
- A mark of zero achieved at a partner university achieves a mark of zero at Sheffield Hallam.
- Where possible marks are mapped in a linear manner.
- For European universities the ECTS conversion table is used to standardise the translation of marks (see below).
- There is a single scale for each country or institution, regardless of subject area.

ECTS conversion

The grading system designed in the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) framework by the European Commission intends to provide a common measure for the interpretation of grades from one institution to another. In considering this at Sheffield Hallam we have designated the following marks for each grade:

Grade	Definition	UK degree classification	SHU Mark
A	Exceptional	First	80
B	Very good	Upper Second	68
C	Good	Upper Second	63
D	Fair	Lower Second	55
E	Sufficient/minimal pass	Third	45
FX	Insufficient/near fail	Fail	35
F	Fail	Fail	25

The mid-point in the UK degree classification has been taken for the majority of the grades. Where grades B and C map to the same UK classification, an even distribution within this grade boundary has been given. The top mark in grade A has been capped at 80 to recognise the small number of cases where this grade is used. The country information found in Appendix A has been converted using the approach above. A further rationale has been provided within Appendix A when the individual country marking system cannot be mapped to the ECTS table above.

The mark conversion schemes listed in this document will be introduced for the conversion of marks awarded to students studying abroad from the 2019/20 session onwards.

This document will be reviewed after the first year of use, and then on a three yearly basis. It is the responsibility of departments to highlight to Student Policy and Compliance any issues with the approved mark conversion schemes.

Appendix A

Australia

There are a number of different academic grading schemes in place in Australia.

Method 1: grading - based on [Deakin University](#)

Result	Description	Deakin Mark range	Deakin Mark	SHU Mark
HD	High Distinction	80% and over	exact mark to be used	
D	Distinction	70-79%	exact mark to be used	
C	Credit	60-69%	69	69
			68	67
			67	66
			66	64
			65	63
			64	61
			63	60
			62	58
			61	57
P	Pass	50-59%	60	55
			59	54
			58	52
			57	51
			56	49
			55	47
			54	46
			53	45
			52	43
N	Fail	below 50%	51	42
			50	40
			49	39
			48	38
			47	37
			46	36
			45	35
			44	34
			43	33
			42	32
			41	31
40	30			
39-1	29			
0	0			

Rationale for conversion: It is very hard to obtain the highest grades (HD) therefore the mark that is achieved should remain as is and transposed to SHU systems. A Pass mark is 50% in Australia and this therefore needs to be converted to a mark of 40% at Sheffield Hallam.

Method 2: grading - based on [La Trobe University](#)

Grade	Mark Range	SHU Mark Range	SHU Mark
A	85-100%	80-100%	90
	80-84%	70-79%	75
B	70-79%	55-69%	62
C	60-69%	40-54%	47
D	50-59%		
Fail (N)	40-49%	30-39%	35
	25-39%	20-29%	25
	<25	<20	12

Method 3: Grade point average (GPA) - based on [Queensland University of Technology](#)

Grade	Description	Grade Range	SHU equivalent range	SHU Grade
7	High Distinction	85-100%	80-100%	90
6	Distinction	75-84%	70-79%	75
5	Credit	65-74%	55-69%	62
4	Pass	50-64%	40-54%	47
3	Near Pass	47-49%	30-39%	35
2	Fail	25-46%	20-29%	25
1	Low Fail	0-24%	0-24%	12

Austria

Austria uses a 5 point grading scale. 4 is the lowest passing grade with a grade of 5 equalling a failure.

Grading Scale	Grade	FH Kufstein Percentage	ECTS Grade	SHU Mark
1 = Very good	0.7-1.0	90-100%	A	80
	1.1-1.2			75
	1.3-1.4			70
	1.5-1.7			68
	1.8-2.0			63
2 = Good	2.1-2.3	80-89%	C	60
	2.4-2.7			58
	2.8-3.0			53
3 = Satisfactory	3.1-3.3	70-79%	D	45
	3.4-4.0			43
4 = Adequate	4.1-4.9	60-69%	E	40
5 = Unsatisfactory	5	1-59%	F	20
		0	F	0

Rationale for conversion: the standard Sheffield Hallam mapping against the ECTS grades has provided the baseline for this conversion, with an even distribution between each FH Kufstein grade.

Belgium

Belgian universities use a linear scale of 0-20 with 10 as a pass and 17 denoting the border between 1st and 2:1. The information contained in the table below is based on Université de Liege.

Grade	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
20	80	First
19	78	First
18	73	First
17	70	First
16	68	Upper Second
15	63	Upper Second
14	60	Upper Second
13	55	Lower Second
12	50	Lower Second
11	45	Third
10	40	Third
9	35	Fail
8	30	Fail
7	20	Fail
6	10	Fail
5-0	0	Fail

Canada

The majority of universities in Canada operate a 12 point system of letter grades which can then also be translated into a grade point equivalent. The information contained in the table below has been based on Carleton University.

Grade	Point Equivalent	Numerical Grade Range	Mid-Point	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
A+	12	90-100%	95	80	First
A	11	85-89%	87	75	First
A-	10	80-84%	82	70	First
B+	9	77-79%	78	68	Upper Second
B	8	73-76%	74.5	63	Upper Second
B-	7	70-72%	71	60	Upper Second
C+	6	67-69%	68	58	Lower Second
C	5	63-66%	64.5	53	Lower Second
C-	4	60-62%	61	50	Lower Second
D+	3	57-59%	58	47	Third
D	2	53-56%	54.5	43	Third
D-	1	50-52%	51	40	Third
F	0	0-49%	25	25	Fail

Croatia

A five point grade scale is used at all levels of education in Croatia. Grades 2-5 are passing grades and grade 1 a fail. On occasions a minus or plus symbol is used as a grade modifier, e.g. "-5" denotes a grade slightly lower than "excellent". Half-grades such as "4/5" are also used. However these modifiers are typically unofficial and do not appear in final grade reports. The information contained in the table below is based on Zagreb School of Economics and Management.

Grade	Definition	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
+5	90-100%	80	First
5		75	First
-5		70	First
+4	80-89%	68	Upper Second
4		63	Upper Second
-4		60	Upper Second
+3	70-79%	58	Lower Second
3		53	Lower Second
-3		50	Lower Second
+2	51-69%	48	Third
2		43	Third
-2		40	Third
+1	0-50%	25	Fail

Czech Republic

There are a number of different gradings in place in the Czech Republic higher education system.

Method 1: 4-point system. This was previously a numerical scale though in recent years many universities have adopted a letter based scale to align with the ECTS grades.

New classification	Old classification	Czech Grade Boundaries	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
A	1	90-100	80	First
B	1.5	80-89	68	Upper Second
C	2	70-79	63	Upper Second
D	2.5	60-69	55	Lower Second
E	3	50-59	45	Third
F	4	0-49	22	Fail

Method 2: as per method 1 however without decimal points, e.g. Charles University Prague

Grade	Definition	ECTS Grade	SHU Mark
1	Excellent	A	80
2	Very Good	B	68
3	Satisfactory	D	55
4	Fail	F	25

Method 3: textual classification, e.g. University of Economics, Prague

Textual classification	Numerical classification	Points acquired	SHU Mark
Excellent	1	90-100	80
Very good	2	80-89	65
Good	3	70-79	55
Retake option	4+	50-59	35
Fail	4	0-69	25

Rationale for conversion: whilst no ECTS grades are given by the University of Economics, a similar mapping to that of the Sheffield Hallam standard mapping against ECTS grades is used. 4+ permits the student the option to be able to retake the exam in order to achieve above the 60 points cut-off. This could be considered equivalent to the use of compensation in Sheffield Hallam, therefore a mark of 35 is listed.

Denmark

Denmark has a 7-step-scale which is designed to be compatible with the ECTS scale.

Mark	Definition	ECTS equivalent	SHU Grade Boundaries	SHU Mark
12	Excellent	A	First	80
10	Very good	B	Upper Second	68
7	Good	C	Upper Second	63
4	Fair	D	Lower Second	55
2	Adequate	E	Third	45
0	Inadequate	Fx	Fail	35
-3	Unacceptable	F	Bad Fail	25

Estonia

A grading scale of 0-5 is used in Estonia.

Grade	Grade Definition	SHU Mark
5	Excellent	80
4	Very good	68
3	Good	55
2	Satisfactory	45
1	Poor	35
0	Fail	25

Finland

A grading scale of 0-5 is used in Finland.

Grade	Definition	ECTS	SHU Mark
5	Outstanding	A	80
4	Very good/excellent	B	68
3	Good	C	55
2	Satisfactory	D	45
1	Pass	E	40
0	Fail	X	25

France

French universities use a 0-20 scale and the cut-offs for top marks, as well as what the Pass mark is varies between departments.

Grade	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
20	80	First
19	75	First
18	70	First
17	68	Upper Second
16	65	Upper Second
15	63	Upper Second
14	60	Upper Second
13	55	Lower Second
12	50	Lower Second
11	45	Third
10	40	Third
9	35	Fail
8	30	Fail
7	25	Fail
6	20	Fail
5-0	0	Fail

Germany

Akin to Austria, a 1 (high) to 5 (fail) scale is used in Germany with marks further differentiated by either +/- or +/-0.3.

Grading Scale	Grade	ECTS Grade	SHU Mark
1 = Very good	0.7-1.0	A	80
	1.1-1.2		75
	1.3-1.4		70
	1.5-1.7		67
	1.8-2.0		63
2 = Good	2.1-2.3	C	60
	2.4-2.7		55
	2.8-3.0		50
3 = Satisfactory	3.1-3.3	D	47
	3.4-4.0		43
4 = Adequate	4.1-4.9	E	40
5 = Unsatisfactory	5	F	25

Rationale for conversion: The mapping of grading is in line with ECTS guidance of grades to UK degree classifications. A mark of 0 in Germany will receive a mark of zero at Sheffield Hallam.

Greece

A grading scale of A-F is used in Greece.

Grade	Grade Definition	SHU Mark
A	Excellent	80
B	Very good	68
C	Good	55
D	Satisfactory	45
E	Sufficient	40
F	Fail	25

Hong Kong

Grade	SHU Mark
A+	80
A	75
A-	70
B+	67
B	63
B-	60
C+	57
C	53
C-	50
D+	45
D	40
F	25

Rationale for conversion: Hong Kong considers a D a pass so using this as the starting point the grades have been unpacked to ensure a spread of marks across the grades.

Hungary

Hungary operates a 5-point grade system. One credit is equal to 30 student working hours, on average.

Grade	Grade Definition	SHU Mark
A	Excellent	80
B	Very good	68
C	Good	55
D	Satisfactory	45
E	Sufficient	40
F	Fail	25

Ireland

Marks in Ireland are provided in percentage format which is comparable to the UK system. Therefore the mark that is provided by an Irish institution should be directly transposed to a SHU mark.

Italy

Italian universities use a 0-30* scale where 18 represents a Pass.

Italian Grade	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
29.00-30.00	80	First
28.00-28.99	78	First
27.00-28.99	73	First
26.00-26.99	68	Upper Second
25.00-25.99	65	Upper Second
24.00-24.99	63	Upper Second
23.00-23.99	58	Lower Second
22.00-22.99	55	Lower Second
21.00-21.99	53	Lower Second
20.00-20.99	48	Third
19.00-19.99	45	Third
18.00-18.99	43	Third
9.00-17.99	35	Fail
0.00-8.99	25	Fail

Lithuania

The information contained in the table below has been based on [Lithuanian University of Health Sciences](#) and [Vilnius Gedimino Technikos Universitetas](#).

Grade	Description	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
10	Excellent	80	First
9	Very Good	68	Upper Second
8	Good	63	Upper Second
7	Highly Satisfactory	55	Lower Second
6	Satisfactory	45	Third
5	Sufficient	40	Third
4	Unsatisfactory	30	Fail
3	Poor	20	Fail
2	Very Poor	10	Fail
1	Completely Poor	0	Fail

Luxembourg

All grades are on a 20 point scale, with 10 being sufficient to pass a "course" through compensation.

Mark	Mark Definition	SHU Mark
17-20	Excellent	80
15-16	Very Good	68
13-14	Good	55
11-12	Fair	45
10-11	Pass	35
<9	Fail	25

Malta

Malta Mark	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
90.00-100.00	80	First
80.00-89.00	75	First
75.00-79.00	68	Upper Second
70.00-74.00	63	Upper Second
65.00-69.00	58	Lower Second
60.00-64.00	53	Lower Second
55.00-59.00	50	Lower Second
45.00-54.00	40	Third
35.00-44.00	30	Fail
0.00-34.00	25	Fail

Rationale for conversion: Having been under British control, Malta's grading system is based upon the UK's. However, the mark range for the grades differs, focusing around the Lower Second. This leads the conversion to 'unpack' at that point in the UK grading structure.

Malaysia

The information contained in the table below has been based on the University of Malaya.

Marks	Grade	Grade Point	Level of Achievement	SHU Mark
90-100	A+	4.0	High Distinction	80
80-89	A	4.0	Distinction	75
75-79	A-	3.7	Distinction	68
70-74	B+	3.3	Good	63
65-69	B	3.0	Good	55
60-64	B-	2.7	Good	50
55-59	C+	2.3	Pass	45
50-54	C	2.0	Pass	40
45-49	C-	1.7	Fail	35
40-44	D+	1.3	Fail	30
35-39	D	1.0	Fail	25
0-34	F	0.0	Fail	0

Netherlands

Dutch universities use a 0-10 linear scale. 10 is relatively rare ('Good First') and a Pass is 5.5. The highest grades are rarely achieved with 9 instead of 10 as the reachable grade. Grade conversion is based on the frequency of distribution of grades to be compared fairly.

Marks	SHU Mark
10	80
9	75
8	70
7.5	68
7	63
6.75	55
6.5	50
6.25	45
6	40
5	30
4	20
3	10
2	5
1	0

Rationale for conversion: In the Netherlands, a mark of '9' is only given in 2.75 of cases and a mark of '10' given in only 0.1% of cases. Given the rarity of achieving the highest grades, a grade of 10 has been converted to 80. The Netherlands' own study website claims that 'only excellent students achieve grade 8 or higher' (<https://www.studyinholland.nl/education-system/dutch-grading-system>). Resultantly, a Dutch grade of 8 has been mapped to a UK grade 70. Given that the Dutch pass mark is 6 and that a UK grade of 70 has been mapped to a Dutch grade of 8, the conversion gets very cramped in the middle with Dutch grades 6-8 converting to UK grades 40-70. Decimal points are common in the Dutch grading system, which offers some opportunity to 'unpackage' the conversion.

Norway

Norway operates a 5-point grade system, with A being a 'Good First' and D a Pass. E is a Fail (unlike the ECTS system where E is a Pass). B and C marks therefore correspond to 2.1 and 2.2 respectively. One credit is equal to 30 student working hours, on average. Although the grade Pass/Fail is still sometimes used, Norway uses the ECTS grading scale in most of its higher education institutions. This means they can be converted directly based on how SHU has mapped its grades to the ECTS.

Grade	SHU Mark
A	80
B	68
C	63
D	55
E	45
FX	35
F	25

Poland

Polish universities use a 5-point scale; however the University of Warsaw awards a higher distinction grade 5.

Grade	Grade Definition	SHU Mark
(5.0!)	Higher Distinction	80
5.0	Excellent	68
4.5	Very good	63
4.0	Good	55
3.5	Satisfactory	45
3.0	Sufficient	40
2.0	Fail	35
1.0	Absolute Fail	25

Portugal

Grade	Grade Definition	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
17.5-20 (Excellent)	18.5-20	80	First
	17.5-18.4	75	First
15.5-17.4 (very Good)	17.0-17.4	68	Upper Second
	16.5-16.9	65	Upper Second
	16.0.5-16.4	63	Upper Second
	15.5-15.9	60	Upper Second
13.5-15.4	15.0-15.4	58	Lower Second
	14.5-14.9	55	Lower Second
	14.0-14.4	53	Lower Second
	13.5-13.9	50	Lower Second
9.5-13.4	12.5-13.4	48	Third
	11.5-12.4	45	Third
	10.5-11.4	43	Third
	9.5-10.4	35	Fail
3.5-9.4	3.5-9.4	25	Fail

Rationale for conversion: Portuguese institutions calculate results using an average mark. The results are usually at most between 16 and 17, with anything a grade between 18-20 being 'almost impossible'. Recognising this, other UK universities map a 2.2 to 13.5/14, a 2.1 to a grade of 15.5/16, with a First beginning from 17.5/18 onwards. (<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/international/study-with-us/your-country-info/portugal-equivalencies.aspx>, <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/international/country-information/portugal>)

Romania

Most students achieve between a '7' or '8', meaning this maps to a UK Upper Second, the most common UK grade. This also keeps in line with other UK institutions which consider a '9' to be a Upper Second, while allowing for the space to distinguish between students achieving this grade. (<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/international/study-with-us/your-country-info/romania-equivalencies.aspx>)

Grade	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
10	80	First
9	68	Upper Second
8	63	Upper Second
7	55	Lower Second
6	45	Third
5	35	Fail
4	25	Fail

Slovakia

Slovakia uses the ECTS for academic grading, however the ECTS letter grade is sometimes swapped for a number grade, which can also be found below.

Grade	Number Grade	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
A	1	80	First
B	1.5	68	Upper Second
C	2	63	Upper Second
D	2.5	55	Lower Second
E	3	45	Third
FX	3.5	35	Fail
F	4	25	Fail

Spain

Spain uses a linear scale 0-10, with 5 as a Pass and 8 a First/Upper Second border. Spanish Universities have a special distinction MDH (Matricula de Honor) which is rarely achieved. MDH equals an extra 5% on top of the converted mark, so 80%, this maps to practice within other UK institutions for conversion. Marks 0-4 are 'clear fail' and therefore convert to a Fail mark.

Grade	Grade Definition	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
4	10	80	First
3	9	75	First
2	7	65	Upper Second
1	6	55	Lower Second
1	5.5	45	Third
	0-4	25	Fail

Sweden

Whilst there is some commonality in grading scales in Sweden, there are also a number of unique grading scales and a range of practices at differing universities, and even within different departments in a university.

Pass with Distinction/Pass/Fail (3 grade system): the below table should be used to convert marks. This mapping is based on the Sheffield Hallam standard mapping against ECTS grades.

Grade	ECTS Grade	SHU mark
Pass with Distinction	A	80
Pass	D	55
Fail	Fx	35

Pass with Distinction/Pass with Credit/Pass/Fail (4 grade system): the below table should be used to convert marks. This mapping is based on the Sheffield Hallam standard mapping against ECTS grades.

Grade	ECTS Grade	SHU mark
Pass with Distinction	A	80
Pass with credit	C	63
Pass	E	45
Fail	Fx	35

Five-Four-Three-Fail: the below table should be used to convert marks. This mapping is based on the Sheffield Hallam standard mapping against ECTS grades.

Grade	ECTS Grade	SHU mark
5	A	80
4	C	63
3	E	45
F	Fx	35

Switzerland

Switzerland uses a 6 point grading system, in which grades are often presented to '.5', and sometimes '.25'. Grades between '5.5' and '6' are considered very rare and a grade of 6 is considered almost impossible. The Swiss pass mark is '4', with '3.5' being considered 'insufficient'. However, most results in Switzerland are between '4' and '5' and other UK institutions have mapped a Swiss '4' to a UK '50'.

Grade	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
6	80	First
5.5	75	First
5	68	Upper Second
4.5	63	Upper Second
4	55	Lower Second
3.5	45	Third
3	35	Fail
2.5	25	Fail

Thailand

Thailand's primary grading system is loosely based on the USA's, with letter grades being converted in a GPA. However, the grade boundaries and letter grades differ from that of the USA.

Grade	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
A	80	First
A-	75	First
B+	68	Upper Second
B	63	Upper Second
C+	55	Lower Second
C	50	Lower Second
D+	45	Third
D	35	Fail
F	25	Fail
Incomplete	0	NA
Withdrawn	NA	NA
Withdrawn due to failure	NA	NA

Turkey

The grading scale used is the same as the US 4.0 scale.

Grade	Grade Point	SHU Mark
A+	4.0	80
A	4.0	75
A-	3.67	70
B+	3.33	68
B	3.0	63
B-	2.67	60
C+	2.33	55
C	2.0	50
C-	1.67	45
D+	1.33	40
D	1.0	35
D-	0.67	25
F	0.0	0

USA

Grade	Grade Point	SHU Mark	SHU Grade
A+	4.0	80	First
A	4.0	75	First
A-	3.67	70	First
B+	3.33	68	Upper Second
B	3.0	63	Upper Second
B-	2.67	60	Upper Second
C+	2.33	55	Lower Second
C	2.0	50	Lower Second
C-	1.67	45	Third
D+	1.33	40	Third
D	1.0	35	Fail
(D-)	(0.67)	25	Fail
F	0.0	0	Fail