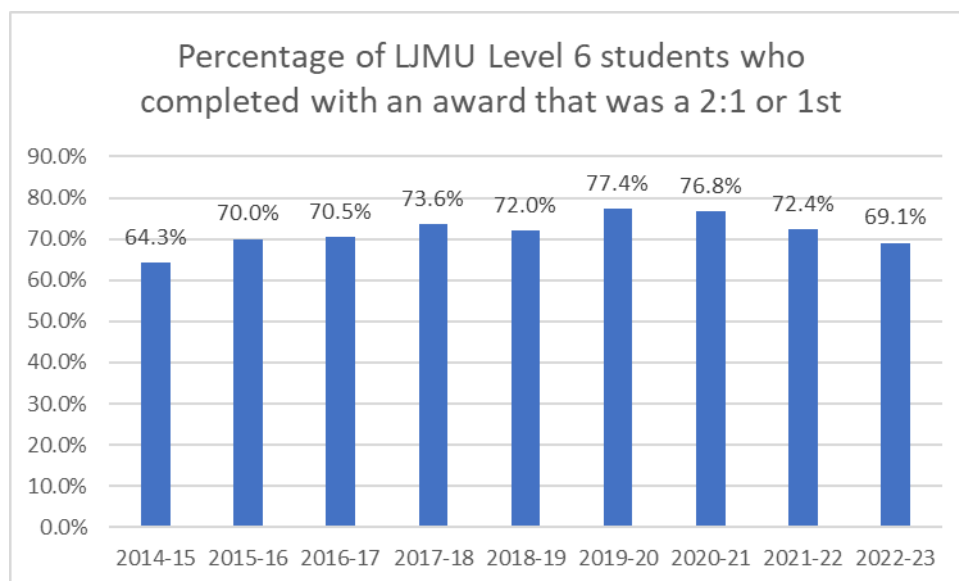


Degree Outcomes Statement

Institutional Degree Classification Profile

The following table details the percentage of Level 6 students who were awarded a Good Honours Degree¹ between academic year 2014-15 and 2022-23.

Academic Year	Percentage of Level 6 students who were awarded a Good Honours Degree
2014-15	64.3%
2015-16	70%
2016-17	70.5%
2017-18	73.6%
2018-19	72%
2019-20	77.4%
2020-21	76.8%
2021-22	72.4%
2022-23	69.1%



Over the reporting period:

- An average of 71.8% of Level 6 students were awarded a Good Honours Degree.

¹ A 'Good Honours Degree' is defined as either First Class Honours or Upper Second Class Honours (2:1).

- The university's current classification algorithm (see [Classification Algorithm](#)), used for the first time in 2018-19, saw the number of Good Honours Degrees awarded:
 - Decline slightly overall (-1.6%).
 - Decline in three out of five Faculties.
 - Decline in 11 Schools.
- On average, a higher percentage of Good Honours Degrees were awarded to female students in comparison to male students (76% compared to 66.8%). Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the percentage of female students awarded Good Honours Degrees declined by 2.1%, whilst the percentage of male students awarded Good Honours Degrees decreased by 4.7%.
- On average, a higher percentage of Good Honours Degrees were awarded to White students in comparison to ethnically diverse students (74% compared to 57.5%). Between academic session 2021-22 and 2022-23, the number of ethnically diverse students awarded Good Honours Degrees decreased by 7.9%, whilst the number of White students awarded a Good Honours Degree declined by 2.5%. Over the reporting period, the number of Good Honours Degrees awarded to ethnically diverse students increased by 8.4%, whilst the percentage of White students awarded Good Honours Degrees increased by 5%.
- On average, a higher percentage of Good Honours Degrees were awarded to UK and EU students in comparison to international students (72.7% and 70.5%, respectively, compared to 49.1%). It is worth noting that, between academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23, the number of international students who were awarded a Good Honours Degree decreased by 12.8%, whilst the number of UK students who were awarded a Good Honours Degree declined by 3.3%. In comparison, the number of EU students awarded a Good Honours Degree increased by 11.4% between academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23. Over the reporting period, the number of international students awarded Good Honours Degrees increased by 21%. This is in comparison to the number of UK and EU students awarded Good Honours Degrees, which increased by 4.7% and 14%, respectively.
- On average, 72.1% of students without a declared disability were awarded a Good Honours Degree in comparison to 69.4% of students with a declared disability. Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the percentage of Good Honours Degrees awarded to students without a declared disability declined by 3.1%, whilst the percentage of Good Honours Degrees awarded to students with a declared disability declined by 2.9%.
- A higher proportion of Good Honours Degrees were awarded to students who entered with A-Levels in comparison to students who entered with other qualifications. On average, 80.9% of students who entered with A-Levels were awarded a Good Honours Degree in comparison to 61.8% of students who entered with other qualifications. On average, 69.4% of students who entered with an A-Level and a BTEC were awarded a Good Honours Degree. Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the percentage of students who entered with A-Levels,

awarded Good Honours Degrees, declined by 3.9%. Over the same period, the percentage of students who entered with other qualifications, who were awarded Good Honours Degrees, decreased by 1.8%.

Assessment and Marking Practices

The university ensures that its assessment criteria meets sector reference points through the following mechanisms:

- The design and development of programmes aligned to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, National Credit Frameworks, Subject Benchmark Statements, Apprenticeship Standards², and the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies³. Programme approval/re-approval processes require programme teams to articulate how these external reference points have informed the design/review of a programme(s).
- Engaging external expertise in the programme approval/re-approval process.
- Engaging External Examiners to:
 - Provide impartial and independent comment on the quality and standards of programmes, in relation to national standards and frameworks.
 - Comment on the reasonable comparability of standards achieved at other UK providers, with whom the examiner has experience.
 - Approve all summative assessments associated with their programme(s), for the coming academic year, in order to ensure that students are assessed fairly.
 - Moderate a sample of assessed work, and judge whether students have fulfilled the objectives of the programme, the learning outcomes of the modules, and reached the required standard.
 - Participate in the university's Boards of Examiners, where marks and awards are confirmed.
- The university's External Examining mechanisms are cognisant of, and aligned to, the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment's [External Examining Principles](#).
- The professional development of academic staff through:
 - Comprehensive staff development.
 - Engagement in subject/discipline specific networks.
 - Research and scholarship.
 - Acting as External Examiners at other Institutions. To support colleagues, the university was an early adopter of Advance HE's External Examiner Professional Development programme.
- A sample of assessed work is second marked, for the purposes of internal moderation. Second marking ensures consistency by confirming the marks

² As applicable.

³ Ibid.

awarded by the first marker(s). The sample of assessed work provided to External Examiners is required to include evidence of second marking.

- In order for a Board of Examiners to proceed, confirmation must be provided that internal and external moderation has taken place.
- In relation to Collaborative Provision, where the responsibility for setting, marking, and moderating assessment is delegated to the partner organisation, this must be approved via the programme approval process, which takes into consideration the academic experience of the programme team.

Academic Governance

Academic Board is accountable to the Board of Governors, and has overall responsibility for the university's awards, the quality and standards of its academic programmes, the university's Academic Framework Regulations, and its Framework for Academic Quality and Standards.

Academic Board has distinct sub-committees, which have delegated responsibility for the oversight of academic quality and standards⁴ and teaching, learning and the student experience⁵.

A range of reports and data are considered through the governance structure, each academic year, which provide assurances of the value, standards and quality of the university's awards, including those delivered through partnership arrangements.

The university's Boards of Examiners are established by, and responsible to, Academic Board.

Classification Algorithm

The class of degree awarded to students is based upon the Award Mark.

In order to get a traditional Bachelor's with Honours degree, students are required to achieve 120 credits at each level.

Students are required to pass Level 4, but these marks are not taken into consideration when calculating the Award Mark. Marks achieved at Level 5 are weighted at 25%, and those at Level 6 are weighted at 75%. The Award Mark is calculated from 120 credits achieved at Level 6 and from 120 credits⁶ achieved at Level 5.

Only modules carrying a numerical mark (i.e. not a pass/fail grade) may contribute towards classification. All Level 6 credits contributing to an award must be mark bearing.

⁴ Academic Quality and Standards Committee.

⁵ Education and Student Experience Committee.

⁶ Or 240 credits where students have completed a sandwich placement or additional study abroad year.

The Class of Degree, determined by the Award Mark, is as follows:

- <40% = Fail
- 40% - 49% = Third class (3rd)
- 50% - 59% = Lower second class (2:2)
- 60% - 69% = Upper second class (2:1)
- >70% = First class (1st)

A student is awarded the higher classification of degree where the Award Mark is 1% below the classification boundary, and more than half of the mark-bearing credits at Level 6 are in a class above that indicated by the Award Mark.

As part of the university's measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on award outcomes, an Award Mark Safeguard was introduced. This comprised both a discount of credit, from the calculation of the final award mark, and a temporary extension to the classification borderline (see [COVID-19 section](#)).

The above approach applies to students studying at Liverpool John Moores University and its collaborative partners.

The current algorithm for calculating degree classifications arose out of a review of the university's Academic Framework Regulations, and was used for the first time in 2018-19.

All students have the right to two referral opportunities in any failed module(s). No further attempts are permitted.

The pass mark for all the referral attempts is the same as the pass mark for the initial attempt, except where the pass mark for the subsequent attempt is different as a consequence of referral in a new module or module version. The maximum module mark achievable from a referral attempt is 40% or the minimum pass mark for the module. The maximum module grade achievable is pass.

Subject to a valid personal circumstances/special mitigation application, students who have experienced difficult personal circumstances are permitted to request to defer an assessment(s), undertaking it at the next appropriate opportunity.

A deferred assessment attempt is not capped to the minimum pass mark and is marked as if the student were attempting it for the first time.

In some instances, as a result of a valid special mitigation application, the student will not undertake the assessment again. Instead, the module leader will assign a mark for the assessment item. However, this is only permissible where there is sufficient evidence to do so, and it is subject to approval by the Chair of the Board of Examiners.

Students who fail an element(s) of a level are eligible to be compensated⁷. The extent of compensation is agreed in the context of students' overall performance at that level, in accordance with the following criteria:

- A mark of at least 30% at Levels 3-6 or other compensatable grades must have been achieved in failed modules.
- Where compensation is applied, credits are awarded to the eligible module(s), but the mark/grade for the module(s) will not be changed.
- At least 100 credits at the level must have been passed, meaning that a maximum of 20 credits of the target credit is permitted to be compensated.
- Compensation is only applied once a student is permitted a referral attempt at the module. Compensation can then be applied to any attempt at the module.

The university's classification algorithm, referral and deferral arrangements are included within students' Programme Guides and the university's Student Handbook.

Teaching Practices, Learning Resources and Good Practice

A range of practice, which positively impacted upon student outcomes, has been identified through the university's quality assurance mechanisms, including feedback from External Examiners. Common and recurring themes include:

- The consistency and quality of the feedback provided to all students, including those who perform highly, and the use of mechanisms to facilitate the provision of "feedforward" to inform and support students' engagement with future assessments.
- The wide range of assessment types, and learning activities utilised, which accommodate the needs of all learners.
- The coherence of programmes' teaching, learning and assessment strategies.
- The use of technology to support learning.
- The design of delivery of innovative, cutting-edge curricula.
- The quality of student support and assignment guidance.

In addition, within the School of Sport and Exercise Science, in response to an increase in the number of students entering from a vocational background, the School modified its approach to teaching and module development, for all Level 4 students. To this end, the School moved away from a didactic approach to teaching, towards a more active learning approach. This change in approach was informed by support from Further Education providers, who spoke to academic staff, within the School, with regard to BTEC styles of teaching and content.

⁷ Excluding Higher and Degree Apprenticeships or programmes where Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirements prohibit compensation.

COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in April 2020, the university's Executive Leadership Team approved a No Detriment Framework. The No Detriment Framework was developed to enable students to complete their studies, assess achievement reliably and award qualifications securely. The primary purpose of the framework was to ensure that no student was unfairly disadvantaged, as a consequence of national and/or local restrictions, whilst ensuring that institutional standards and the requirements of the Office for Students were not compromised.

The Framework included five key components; extensions, alternative assessments, waivers, award mark safeguard and experiential credit and was designed to support students to complete assessment and mitigate the impact of the global health crisis on award outcomes.

A review of the effectiveness and impact of the No Detriment Framework, in 2019-20, was considered through the university's governance structures during academic session 2020-21. Key points included:

- The impact of extensions was twofold. Firstly, marks and consequently pass rates increased slightly. Secondly, the number of Personal Circumstances applications and therefore deferrals remained relatively low.
- Alternative assessment was used extensively in all Faculties. Arrangements were understood by students and supported by External Examiners.
- The use of waivers was not extensively used across the institution. Only 0.6% of modules recorded waivers.
- Two thirds of final year students received at least a 10 credits discount. For 98% of this group, 20 credits were discounted. Only 26 students received the 40-credit deduction.
- Only a minority of students with an award mark of 68% were awarded a first-class degree classification.
- The use of the Award Mark Safeguard resulted in a 2% overall increase in the number of students who were awarded a Good Honours Degree.
- Nine students were awarded experiential credit. In all cases, the award of credit enabled them to progress to the next level, rather than contribute to a final award.

Positive feedback was received, from the university's External Examiners, with regard to the No Detriment Framework and the integrity of award marks.

Actions Update

The first iteration of the university's Degree Outcomes Statement identified the following actions:

1. To address the differences in the degree awards of ethnically diverse students, in accordance with the university's [Access and Participation Plan](#).
2. To expand the scope of the university's Continuous Monitoring and Enhancement process, at all levels, to include a focus upon performance, by student group. This will further facilitate the identification of specific strategies to address identified award gaps, and support student achievement.

In relation to action number one, the university's Access and Participation Plan outlines a range of initiatives to address a gap between the degree awards of students from ethnically diverse backgrounds and that of their white peers. The scale of the gap meant that the Plan was subject to enhanced monitoring by the Office for Students. Despite some disruption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, steady improvement has been made. Following consideration of the university's first Access and Participation Plan monitoring report to the Office for Students the requirement for enhanced monitoring was removed.

In accordance with the Access and Participation Plan, the university will continue to seek to further reduce the differences in the degree awards of students from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

With regard to the second action, the review of the Continuous Monitoring and Enhancement process concluded in December 2021 following approval of the resultant recommendations by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee. One of the recommendations approved by the committee was to "embed the facility to view performance by student group".

The revised version of the Continuous Monitoring and Enhancement process launched in academic session 2022-23, with each level of the process subject to phased implementation. To this end, the module-level interface launched in February 2023, whilst the programme-level and School-level interfaces launched in June 2023 and October 2023, respectively.

In-line with the approved recommendation referenced above, the measures of "Continuation", "Progression", "Attainment" and "Recruitment" utilise Split Metrics to contextualise these data sets, enabling programme teams to explore demographic variations that might sit behind their overall programme performance.

The table below confirms the Split Metrics that are utilised.

Metric	Split
Age on Entry	For undergraduate levels of study: Under 21; 21 to 30; and 31 and over. For postgraduate levels of study: under 25; 25 to 30; 31 and over.
Disability	Specific learning disability, Other disability, No disability reported.
Ethnicity	Asian; Black; Gypsy, Roma, Traveller; Mixed; Other; White

Sex	Female; Male
Domicile	UK (with additional split for Northern Ireland); Non-UK
English Index of Multiple Deprivations (IMD, 2019)	Quintiles 1 or 2; Quintiles 3, 4 or 5
POLAR4	Quintiles 1 or 2; Quintiles 3, 4 or 5

This approach ensures that programme teams can use the monitoring process holistically and to its fullest potential.

In addition, enhancements have been made to the university's Periodic Programme Review process, which require programme teams, as part of their quinquennial review of their programmes, to address diversity in the curriculum and, as applicable, measures to address identified degree award gaps.