

Exam Results



John Aldrich

February 2017

These slides will be emailed to students

Tomorrow you should get your results

- You will get an email saying that your results are available through SUSSED.
- You will **not** get an official letter from the university **unless** you have done very badly(see below) The letter is sent by email, not by post.

Today I want to talk about

- Interpreting the results
- The future

But first a **warning** about future exams

There is a strict code of behaviour in exams and beware of violating it.

- ❑ Students must **not look at** the questions until they are given permission.
- ❑ Students who **do** look, whether deliberately or accidentally, are breaking the rules.
- ❑ The current punishment is to treat the student as though (s)he had taken an extra 5 minutes and reduce the mark by

120/125

Lessons

- Take care not to misbehave.
- If you are judged to have misbehaved then it is **not** a disaster

Results

- What you get is a mark for each module,
e.g. for four modules 98, 54, 83, 65.
- You do **not** get your ranking in the class
1st, 42nd, 9th, 20th.
- We do **not** publish (or collect) these rankings

UK terms and what they mean in Soton

Degree class	Average mark	
First I	70+	
Upper second II/i	60+	
Lower second II/ii	50+	
Third III	40+	

Good results and bad

- A **first** or **upper second** is the usual requirement for admission to a Master's course.
- A **fail** is a mark < 40 . (Visiting students get **no** credit for modules they fail)
- A **bad fail** is a mark < 25 . DipHE and 2+2 students **must resit** badly-failed papers or withdraw from the programme.

Passing the year (general points only)

- You will not know whether you have passed the year until you have taken the Semester 2 exams. The results are out in **June**.
- If you already have a bad fail (<25) you know that you must resit. (Resits are in August)
- If a mark <40 then you may have to resit but if your average mark is high enough you do not have to. You will know in June.

Further details on the rules

- The regulations governing results appear under Progression, Determination & Classification of Results on

<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

(This is not an easy read and I do not recommend you read it. It's what I look at when students ask me what the rules are. Most students pass through without having to ask!)

If you have done **very badly**

- You will get a letter by email from the university in about a week's time. It will explain the consequences for you.
- The letter is important. So study it and keep it.
- In addition I will talk to you about **your plan** for doing better in future.

Can I resit to **improve** my marks?

Basically No!

- The university decides whether you have to resit a paper.
- It will tell you to resit if you have done badly enough.
- Your mark on the resit is **capped** at 40. So however good your effort, the best you can get is 40%.

Making sense of your results I

- Read the Exam feedback for the courses you have taken
- This is on the course's Blackboard page.
- Here the lecturers report on how well students have done individual questions

Making sense of your results II

You can ask to see your script.

- This is an opportunity to see why you got the mark you did.
- It is **not** an opportunity to argue for a higher mark.
- It is individual feedback on your performance **not** part of the assessment.

Is it worth seeing your script?

- Usually it is **not** worthwhile because all you learn is that you did not answer the questions well enough.
- Knowing why exactly your answer to a **particular** question is unsatisfactory will **not** usually help you in your future work.

When is it worth seeing your script?

When you can learn something useful

- If your marks are **very** different from your expectations—say you get an average of 40% and you expect 80%—it is urgent that you find out what is going wrong.
- If you have to retake the exam because your mark < 25 , it may be worth looking at your script because you will be taking a very similar exam in the resit period.

Looking ahead: for everybody

- Semester 1 and Semester 2 results carry equal weight.
- The Semester 1 exams are the first ones you have done in Southampton.
- You **should be better** prepared for the Semester 2 exams just because you will be more used to the system here.

Looking ahead: for 2+2 students

- In the averaging 2nd year marks carry $\frac{1}{2}$ **the weight** of 3rd year marks.
- So it is possible to improve on a bad performance this year by a good one next year.
- Equally it's possible to spoil a good performance this year by a bad one next year.

2+2s: applying for Master's courses

For a Master's course in 2018/19 students will usually apply in semester 1 of 2017/18.

The university you are applying **to** wants to know

- How well you have done in Southampton
- How good your English is

So now

- get the best marks you can in your courses (the only results available when you apply)
- work to improve your English
- talk to third year students about their experience in applying for Master's courses.

If you want more information ...

There are some old links (under Tutees) on my personal webpage

<http://www.economics.soton.ac.uk/staff/aldrich/aldrich.htm>

Student Office—a reminder

At certain times the Student Office is very busy writing letters on behalf of students.

You can speed the flow for yourself and other students by

- making sure that all your details are correct
- by not returning to ask for the same letter to be rewritten.

Thanks

Questions?????