



University of Essex

# **Year Abroad... ...How it counts**

## **Grade Conversion Pass/Fail**

### **Essex Students Guidance**

**1<sup>st</sup> year of degree  
from 2020-21**

### How your year counts (Full Year Abroad) Grade Conversion for Pass/Fail Essex Students Guidance

The required credit load and the grading scales abroad are always different from University of Essex. While you would take 120 Essex credits per academic year when studying at Essex, this may equal to 60 ECTS credits in most of the European Universities or 30 credits at most US Universities. To pass the Year Abroad you must obtain an overall pass from the host University.

The year abroad will be assessed on a pass/fail basis with a pass outcome worth 120 Essex credits. The degree classification be based on a weighted average of year 2 and the final year using a 40/60 split.

To calculate the outcome of your Study Abroad Year we:

1. Take the grade achieved from your host University as per the transcript and pass requirements there
2. Calculate what the weighted year mark would be
3. Divide the best 75% of those marks from the successful modules to determine if you have passed or failed

For example:

| Module Name  | Credit    | Credit Awarded | Module Grade | Module Grade Letter | PASS/FAIL   |    |
|--|-----------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|----|
| Chinese Culture and Society  | 3         | 3              | 57.0         | C+                  | PASS        |    |
| China's Cultural Heritage  | 3         | 3              | 63.0         | B                   | PASS        |    |
| Politics and Governance in Contemporary China                          | 3         | 3              | 50.0         | C-                  | PASS        |    |
| History of Western Philosophy I  | 3         | 0              | 0.0          | F                   | FAIL        |    |
| Bioethics  | 3         | 3              | 60.0         | B-                  | PASS        |    |
| Culture and Mind   | 3         | 3              | 50.0         | C-                  | PASS        |    |
| Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia                                 | 3         | 3              | 0.0          | F                   | FAIL        |    |
| Buddhism and Contemporary Life   | 3         | 0              | 0.0          | F                   | FAIL        |    |
| Topics in Medieval Western Philosophy                                  | 3         | 0              | 0.0          | F                   | FAIL        |    |
| Mainstream Chinese Philosophical Thought                               | 3         | 0              | 0.0          | F                   | FAIL        |    |
| Magic, Myth and the Supernatural                                       | 3         | 3              | 50.0         | C-                  | PASS        |    |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>33</b> | <b>21</b>      | <b>330.0</b> | <b>0.0</b>          | <b>41.3</b> |    |
| GPA (USA only)   |           | GPA            |              |                     |             |    |
| <b>Best 75% rule applied, modules highlighted in yellow discounted</b> |           | <b>24</b>      |              |                     | <b>PASS</b> |    |
| Extenuating Circumstances  |           |                |              |                     |             | No |

|                          |                        |           |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| University               | The Chinese University | Hong Kong |
| Country                  | Hong Kong              |           |
| Academic Year            | 2018/19                |           |
| Credit load per semester | 15 credits             |           |

#### 75% Rule

This rule is applied to the year abroad to recognise the challenges which students encounter on a year abroad (YA) including academic differences.

Up to 25% of the lowest YA marks (based on correct credit load enrolment) will be 0 weighted and discounted from the calculations.

N.B. over enrolled credits will not be included due to students requiring to take the correct credit load.

Total Year Mark

Total Year Mark divided by number of modules in best 75%

Outcome of year abroad e.g. Honk Kong, China PASS = mark of 40.

Host PASS = Essex PASS  
Host FAIL = Essex FAIL

**Please note that the grade conversion process is unique to University of Essex and other Universities may use different conversion process. It is important that you only take advice from Essex Abroad team about the conversion of your grades.**

Below is guidance on how the grades from abroad will be converted to Essex grades, by country. Some institutions in the same country may have some variations and this is not reflected in the guidance below. The grading at your host institution will be different to Essex. While at Essex a pass mark would be 40, this may be a D or 50 at some other institutions abroad.

| Country   | Country PASS = Essex PASS |
|---|---------------------------|
| Argentina   | 4                         |
| Australia   | 50                        |
| Austria   | 4                         |
| Belgium   | 10                        |
| Botswana  | D                         |
| Brazil  | 5                         |
| Canada  | 50                        |
| Canada (UVIC)   | 1                         |
| Chile   | 4                         |
| China (Hong Kong and Macau)   | 1.0 (D)                   |
| China (mainland)  | 60                        |
| Colombia  | 3                         |
| Czech Republic  | 4.5                       |
| Denmark   | 6                         |
| Finland   | 1 - E                     |
| France (10) or France (20)  | 5 or 10                   |
| Germany   | 4                         |
| Ireland   | 40                        |
| Israel  | 56 (D-)                   |
| Italy   | 18                        |
| Japan   | 1.0 (D)                   |
| Malta   | 50                        |
| Mexico  | 70                        |
| Morocco   | GPA 1.0 or D-             |
| Netherlands (varies - please check with host university)                                  | 5 to 6                    |
| New Zealand   | C-                        |
| Norway  | E                         |
| Peru  | 11                        |
| Poland  | 3                         |
| Portugal  | 10                        |
| Romania   | E - 5                     |
| Singapore   | 1 or D                    |
| South Korea   | D-                        |
| Spain   | 5                         |
| Sweden  | E                         |
| Switzerland   | 4                         |
| Turkey  | 50                        |
| Uruguay   | 3                         |
| USA (and ISEP for GPA)  | GPA 1.0 or D-             |
| <b>Grading system from host institution – usually available on transcript from abroad</b> |                           |

### Additional Examples

#### FAIL Example

| Module Name  | Credit    | Credit Awarded | Module Grade | PASS/FAIL    |  |  |
|--|-----------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| Game Theory  | 6         | 0              | NP           | FAIL         |  |  |
| Principles of Economics  | 6         | 0              | NP           | FAIL         |  |  |
| Political Representation and Electoral Analysis                        | 6         | 0              | NP           | FAIL         |  |  |
| Public Marketing   | 6         | 0              | NP           | FAIL         |  |  |
| Political Advising   | 6         | 6              | 5.1          | PASS         |  |  |
| Intergovernmental Relationships  | 6         | 0              | NP           | FAIL         |  |  |
| Structure and Social Change  | 6         | 6              | 5            | PASS         |  |  |
| Statistics I   | 6         | 0              | 2.7          | FAIL         |  |  |
| Security, Peace and Conflicts Resolution                               | 6         | 6              | 7            | PASS         |  |  |
| Multidisciplinary Research Design in Social Sciences                   | 6         | 6              | 7.5          | PASS         |  |  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>60</b> | <b>24</b>      | <b>24.6</b>  | <b>3.075</b> |  |  |
| <b>GPA (USA only)</b>  |           | <b>GPA</b>     |              |              |  |  |
| <b>Best 75% rule applied, modules highlighted in yellow discounted</b> |           | <b>48</b>      |              | <b>FAIL</b>  |  |  |
| Extenuating Circumstances  |           |                |              |              |  |  |

|                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| University               | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid |
| Country                  | Spain                            |
| Academic Year            | 2019/20                          |
| Credit load per semester | 30 ECTS credits                  |

Up to 25% discounted.  
Modules cannot be split.

Outcome of year abroad  
Host PASS = Essex PASS  
Host FAIL = Essex FAIL

#### PASS Example – LETTER GRADES (where no numerical grade – GPA used)

| Module Name  | Credit                      | Credit Awarded | Module Grade Letter | GPA Grade   | PASS/FAIL   |    |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|----|
| Marine Ecology   | 5                           | 5              | A                   | 4.0         | PASS        |    |
| Animal Behaviour Lecture   | 5                           | 5              | B+                  | 3.3         | PASS        |    |
| Introduction to Naval Science  | 2                           | 0              | F                   | 0.0         | FAIL        |    |
| Introductory Oceanography  | 4                           | 4              | A-                  | 3.7         | PASS        |    |
| Understanding Global Climate Change                                    | 4                           | 0              | F                   | 0.0         | FAIL        |    |
| Weight Training  | 1                           | 1              | D-                  | 0.7         | FAIL        |    |
| Introduction to Psychology   | 3                           | 3              | D-                  | 0.7         | PASS        |    |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>24</b>                   | <b>18</b>      | <b>0.0</b>          | <b>12.4</b> | <b>2.48</b> |    |
| <b>Best 75% rule applied, modules highlighted in yellow discounted</b> |                             | <b>18</b>      |                     |             | <b>PASS</b> |    |
| Extenuating Circumstances  |                             |                |                     |             |             | NO |
| University   | Florida Dominion University |                |                     |             |             |    |
| Country  | USA                         |                |                     |             |             |    |
| Academic Year  | 2019/20                     |                |                     |             |             |    |
| Credit load per semester   | 12 credits                  |                |                     |             |             |    |
| Essex Credit requirement for grid                                      | 60 credits                  |                |                     |             |             |    |

Up to 25% discounted.  
Modules cannot be split.

Total GPA Year Mark

Outcome of year abroad  
Host PASS = Essex PASS  
Host FAIL = Essex FAIL

Total GPA Year Mark  
divided by number of  
modules in best 75%