

WSU Policy Number: To be filled in by the SU

Policy Proposal: University Grading and Postgraduate Application Support

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Student Number:	Vice President Education
Facts: What is the issue you're trying to address? What do we already know about this issue?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worcester's grading system involves converting a letter grade to a numerical value out of 19, (A+ = 19, A = 18, A- = 17, ..., D- = 8)• Not all assignments are marked in the same way. Some are just graded with a letter and number out of 19, others are also given a percentage. This adds an extra step, for example 55% is a C, which is also 12/19.• Many other universities offer a simpler grading system, where assignments are graded as a % which is then simply converted to a classification. E.g. 40-49% = 3rd, 50-59% = 2:2, 60-69% = 2:1, 70% and above = 1st. This bypasses the need to convert assignment scores multiple times.• <u>The University is proposing a new grading system that, while it will not introduce percentage marking, it will bring in a more equitable system that the current SU officers support.</u>	

Impacts: How does this issue affect students, and in what way? Is it negative?

- Students find the grading system unnecessarily complicated, and some have reported mistakes being made by staff. Whilst this has always been rectified before going to exam board, it is an extra stress which could be avoided.
- The marking scheme applied is not consistent with some other universities, which can make it difficult when making postgraduate applications. Not all assignments are marked as a % out of 100, it is not possible for students to give their % average. We need the University to commit to supporting us to convert grades when needed by other institutions.
- Many students are confused by the grading process, and struggle to see how the grades they are achieving will translate into their overall classification.

Reacts: What would you like the Students' Union to do to address the issue? How do we need to take it forward?

- ~~Lobby Support the to University to adopt a consistent, UpToDate and their new degree classification algorithm more straightforward grading system.~~
- ~~Remove the 19 point system and lettered system.~~
- ~~Give all assignments a % score out of 100 and a classification style grade (1, 2:1, 2:2, 3rd) inline with other universities. Where 70% and above = 1st; 60-69% = 2:1, 50-59% = 2:2 and 40-49% = 3rd.~~
- Work with the University to Ensure that students who are marked on the current and new grading schemes have the resources to enable them to convert it to percentages to support them in postgraduate applications.