

School of Electrical Engineering & Telecommunications

Honours Policy for Bachelor of Engineering Degree

The award of Honours is based on (i) a weighted average mark (*WAM*), and (ii) the mark awarded in the thesis:

If ($WAM \geq 75$ and thesis B mark ≥ 65) then Honours Class 1 is awarded.
Else if ($WAM \geq 70$ and thesis B mark ≥ 60) then Honours Class 2 Division 1 is awarded.
Else if ($WAM \geq 65$ and thesis B mark ≥ 55) then Honours Class 2 Division 2 is awarded.

The formula used to calculate the *WAM* for a sequence of n courses with weights w_i , units of credit (UOC) u_i and marks m_i is:

$$WAM = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i u_i m_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i u_i}$$

Each course has a fixed weight based on the course level: 10% for level 1, 20% for level 2, 30% for level 3, and 40% for level 4. The course level is determined by the first digit in the four-digit course identifier, e.g. ELEC3105 is a level 3 course. The exceptions to this rule are general education and the final year thesis:

- General education courses are always calculated at a course level of 1.
- The thesis comprises two parts. Thesis A is considered to be a 4.5 UOC, level 4 course. Thesis B is considered to be a 13.5 UOC, level 4 course.

Generally, results for all courses undertaken as part of the BE degree (in Electrical Engineering or Telecommunications) are included in the *WAM* calculation, but courses taken as part of another degree in a joint or combined-degree program are not included.

The *WAM* is calculated to one decimal place (rounded up). It is calculated on first attempts only. If, for example, your first attempt at ELEC1111 was 42 (failed), and you repeated it and got 56 (pass), the mark used to calculate your *WAM* is 42 (not 56).

Substitution, by approval, for equivalent courses taken in other schools (at UNSW) is counted in the *WAM*, and the weighting is determined by the School depending on the level of difficulty of the course.

Where electives are taken in addition to the stipulated number of electives for a student's program, their *WAM* will comprise the marks from the first n courses taken at each level, where n is the stipulated number of electives for that year of the student's program. Subsequent electives for that year do not contribute to the *WAM*.

Course exemptions are not included in the calculations. This applies to advanced standing students as well as to students on exchange programs. The exception to this rule is students completing a thesis on an exchange with an institution approved by the School.