

## Kemmy Business School Policy on the use of the University of Limerick Discretionary Bands

University regulations stipulate the final degree category with which you will graduate. The categories are determined by your overall final (cumulative) QCA as described below:

Award Classification	Cumulative QCA (at or above)
First class honours	3.40
Second class, grade 1 (2.1)	3.00
Second class, grade 2 (2.2)	2.60
Third class honours	2.00

### Discretionary bands:

The University's academic regulations however ([Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures, MS 2.6](#)), allow candidates whose final cumulative QCA value is within 0.10 of a higher classification to be considered for that degree classification (e.g. a candidate whose final QCA falls between 3.30 and 3.39 inclusive, can be considered for a first class honours degree). Please note that there is no discretion in terms of a third class honours - you must meet the minimum requirements of 2.00. Therefore, the degree classification bands can be more fully described as per the table below:

Award Classification	Cumulative QCA
First class honours	3.40 (Discretionary between 3.30-3.39)
Second class, grade 1 (2.1)	3.00 (Discretionary between 2.90-2.99)
Second class, grade 2 (2.2)	2.60 (Discretionary between 2.50-2.59)
Third class honours	2.00 (No discretion)

### Criteria used for considering students in the discretion band for both KBS undergraduate and postgraduate awards

All students in 3rd class/2.2 discretion bands receive the higher award (ie a 2.2 is awarded at 2.5)

Students in the 2.2/2.1 discretion band with a final QCA between 2.95 and 2.99 receive the higher award. Students in the 2.2/2.1 discretion band with a final QCA between 2.90 and 2.94 receive the higher award if either their major option QCA or their final year QCA is at or above 2.95. In the case of postgraduate/Masters awards the dissertation component will be at or above 2.95.

Students in the 2.1/1st discretion band with a final QCA between 3.35 and 3.39 receive the higher award. Students in the 2.1/1<sup>st</sup> discretion band with a final QCA between 3.30 and 3.34 receive the higher award if either their major option QCA or their final year QCA is at or above 3.35. In the case of postgraduate/Masters awards the dissertation component will be at or above 3.35.