APPENDIX 1 - Worked examples of benchmark calculations

The worked examples below show how a benchmark CWA may be calculated for various scenarios using the general principles outlined above. Please remember that there may be programme-specific variations for your degree, which will be communicated to you in due course by the programme team. Benchmarks CWAs will only be generated for the appropriate finalist summer exam boards and will not be published before then, nor calculated in response to requests.

Please note that, for clarity, the results of each stage of the calculations shown below have been given to 2 decimal places. As a result, the final benchmark CWA will only be accurate to 1 decimal place. The actual benchmark CWAs used in final exam boards will be calculated in line with standard University protocols and will produce a result accurate to two decimal places.

Bachelor’s degrees – finalists

Please note that the calculations shown below are based on completed semester one modules. For some degrees, additional final year modules (year-long or 2nd semester) may be approved for use in the calculation if this is in the students’ best interests. If this is the case it will be communicated to you by the programme team.

| Student on a 3-year degree with 60 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 74.56% for these modules. |
| Benchmark CWA = 74.56% |
| Explanation – more than 45 credits have been completed in semester one this year, so the CWA for all those is used to calculate the benchmark. |

| Student on a 3-year degree with 45 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 63.45% for these modules. |
| Benchmark CWA = 63.45% |
| Explanation – exactly 45 credits have been completed in semester one this year, so the CWA for all those is used to calculate the benchmark. |

| Student on a 3-year degree with 30 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 74.23% for these modules. Their year 2 CWA is 68.56% |
| The benchmark CWA calculation will be as follows: |
| Contribution from this year \( = 30/45 \times 74.23\% \) = 49.49% |
| Contribution from year 2 \( = 15/45 \times 68.56\% \) = 22.85% |
| Benchmark CWA \( = 49.49 + 22.85 \) = 72.34% |
| Explanation – only 30 credits were completed in semester one and so these modules contribute \( 30/45 = 2/3 \) towards the benchmark. The remaining contribution comes from the year 2 CWA which contributes \( 15/45 = 1/3 \). The overall benchmark is the total of these two contributions. |
Student on a 3-year degree with **15** completed credits from semester one and a CWA of **64.12%** for these modules. Their year 2 CWA is **58.56%**

The benchmark CWA calculation will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution from this year</th>
<th>Contribution from year 2</th>
<th>Benchmark CWA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>= (15/45) x 64.12%</td>
<td>= (30/45) x 58.56%</td>
<td>= 21.37 + 39.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 21.37%</td>
<td>= 39.04%</td>
<td>= <strong>60.41%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation – only 15 credits were completed in semester one and so these modules contribute $15/45 = 1/3$ towards the benchmark. The remaining contribution comes from the year 2 CWA which contributes $30/45 = 2/3$. The overall benchmark is the total of these two contributions.

Student on a 3-year degree with **0** completed credits from semester one. Their year 2 CWA is **63.21%**

**Benchmark CWA = 63.21%**

Explanation – no completed year 3 credits so the benchmark is based on the year 2 CWA.

Student on a 3-year degree with **0** completed credits from semester one. However, for this degree we can include a **30** credit year-long module where all the assessment was complete prior to the covid-19 disruption; the mark for this module is **63.21%**. Their year 2 CWA is **57.32%**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution from this year</th>
<th>Contribution from year 2</th>
<th>Benchmark CWA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>= (30/45) x 63.21%</td>
<td>= (15/45) x 57.32%</td>
<td>= 42.14 + 19.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 42.14%</td>
<td>= 19.11%</td>
<td>= <strong>61.25%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation – although no modules were complete from semester one there is a 30 credit module where all assessment had been finished prior to the covid-19 pandemic and so the mark for this module has been used in the benchmark calculation.

**Integrated Master’s degrees & 4 year Bachelor’s degrees (where years 2,3 and 4 contribute to degree classification, e.g. Modern Languages) – finalists**

The general principles are the same as for a 3 year Bachelor’s degree except that where there are fewer than 45 credits from the final year then marks from years 3 and 2 will also contribute. This contribution will be weighted in accordance with the relative weighting of these years to the degree.

Student on a 4-year degree with **60** completed credits from semester one and a CWA of **74.56%** for these modules.

**Benchmark CWA = 74.56%**

Explanation – more than 45 credits have been completed in semester one this year, so the CWA for all those is used to calculate the benchmark.
Student on a 4-year degree with 45 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 63.45% for these modules.

Benchmark CWA = 63.45%

Explanation – exactly 45 credits have been completed in semester one this year, so the CWA for all those is used to calculate the benchmark.

Student on a 4-year degree with 30 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 74.23% for these modules. Their year 3 CWA is 68.56% and the year 2 CWA is 72.13%.

First a CWA for years 2 & 3 combined is calculated as follows:

Combined years 3 & 2 CWA = (0.6 x 68.56%) + (0.4 x 72.13%) = 69.99%

Then the benchmark CWA calculation will use this combined average as follows:

Contribution from this year = (30/45) x 74.23% = 49.49%
Contribution from years 3 & 2 = (15/45) x 69.99% = 23.33%

Benchmark CWA = 49.49 + 23.33 = 72.82%

Explanation – only 30 credits were completed in semester one and so these contribute 30/45 = 2/3 towards the benchmark. The remaining contribution comes from a combined year 3&2 CWA which contributes 15/45 = 1/3. The overall benchmark is the sum total of these two contributions.

The combined year 3&2 CWA is calculated from each separate year CWA. In this calculation year three contributes more (0.6 contribution) than year 2 (0.4 contribution) in line with their relative weightings to the overall degree (year 3 - 30% & year 2 - 20%).

Please note that for some programmes additional final year modules (year-long or 2nd semester) may also be used in the calculation. If this is the case it will be communicated to you by the degree programme team.

Non-finalists (years 2 and 3 only)

The general principles are the same as for finalists except that 30 credits of completed semester 1 modules are now the minimum to allow a benchmark to be calculated from this year’s marks. Where there are fewer than 30 credits then marks from the last academic year will also contribute.

A 2nd year student with 45 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 74.56% for these modules.

Benchmark CWA = 74.56%

Explanation – more than 30 credits have been completed in semester one this year so use the CWA for all those to calculate the benchmark.

A 2nd year student with 30 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 63.45% for these modules.
**Benchmark CWA = 63.45%**

Explanation – exactly 30 credits have been completed in semester one this year so use the CWA for all those to calculate the benchmark.

A 3\textsuperscript{rd} year student on a 4-year integrated Masters degree with 30 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 74.56% for these modules.

**Benchmark CWA = 74.56%**

Explanation – exactly 30 credits have been completed in semester one this year so use the CWA for all those to calculate the benchmark.

A 2\textsuperscript{nd} year student with 15 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 68.23% for these modules. Their year 1 CWA is 71.56%

The benchmark CWA calculation will be as follows:

- Contribution from this year: \( \frac{15}{30} \times 68.23\% = 34.12\% \)
- Contribution from year 1: \( \frac{15}{30} \times 71.56\% = 35.78\% \)
- Benchmark CWA: \( 34.12 + 35.78 = 69.90\% \)

Explanation – only 15 credits were completed in semester one and so these contribute \( \frac{15}{30} = \frac{1}{2} \) towards the benchmark. The remaining contribution comes from the year 1 CWA which contributes \( \frac{15}{30} = \frac{1}{2} \). The overall benchmark is the sum total of these two contributions.

A 3\textsuperscript{rd} year student on a 4-year integrated Masters degree with 15 completed credits from semester one and a CWA of 65.21% for these modules. Their year 2 CWA is 61.23%

The benchmark CWA calculation will be as follows:

- Contribution from this year: \( \frac{15}{30} \times 65.21\% = 32.61\% \)
- Contribution from year 2: \( \frac{15}{30} \times 61.23\% = 30.62\% \)
- Benchmark CWA: \( 32.61 + 30.62 = 63.23\% \)

Explanation – only 15 credits were completed in semester one and so these contribute \( \frac{15}{30} = \frac{1}{2} \) towards the benchmark. The remaining contribution comes from the year 2 CWA which contributes \( \frac{15}{30} = \frac{1}{2} \). The overall benchmark is the sum total of these two contributions.

Please note that for some programmes additional modules from this year (year-long or 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester) may also be used in the calculation. If this is the case it will be communicated to you by the degree programme team.