

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee - Friday 24 May 2013

Monitoring of UG Degree Classification Data

Cover Sheet

Ms Helen Butcher, Clerk to the Committee

Background

Previously, in February 2013, ASC reviewed data on degree classifications for both Honours degrees and PGTs covering the last two graduating cohorts (2010-11 and 2011-12). Some comment was raised on the variability in the proportion of graduates in different subject areas receiving first class and upper second Honours degrees. The report was referred to EdPSC where it was agreed that more historical data was required before further taking action to investigate the variation in degree classifications across subject areas.

It was agreed that at least three years of data were required. This paper provides comparative data on Honours degree classifications spanning graduating cohorts from the last three academic sessions (2009-10 to 2011-12) and is presented in three tables:

Table 1

Summary, by percent, of Firsts and 'Good Honours degrees' awarded in each Subject Group for the last three graduating cohorts. Cohort totals are also given to add some context to the percentage figures.

Table 2

Detailed breakdown of Glasgow data for the last three years showing degree plans within Subject Group and Joint/Combined degree awards.

Table 3

External league table information showing the percentage of graduates achieving Good Honours degrees over the last five years at Russell Group Institutions.

The information in Tables 1 and 2 is derived from Planning Office data used in the University's HESA return. 'Good Honours degrees' refer to the combination of First and Upper Second classifications. Comparative Data in Table 3 for other Russell Group institutions has been drawn from *The Complete University Guide* league tables. Figures for Glasgow as presented by *The Complete University Guide* are included – these appear to be at slight variance to the total figures shown in Tables 1 and 2, however we have no information on how this league table information was derived.

Action

ASC is invited to consider these data and consider what further action could be taken to investigate the variation in the level of achievement of first and second class Honours degrees across subject areas.