

# Jarada's Degree Calculator (JDC) Version 3.0 Manual

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## 1 Introduction

Thank you for downloading Jarada's Degree Calculator. The JDC is designed specifically for Goldsmiths College, University of London, undergraduate degree specification as listed on [http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/registry/courseunit\\_calculation.php](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/registry/courseunit_calculation.php) for degrees from 2005/06. All calculations used in this program are identical to the ones specified on that page; the only difference is this program does the calculations for you and then presents them in many different wonderful ways!

## 2 Basic Usage

When you first load the JDC you will see that the program is divided into four sections. The first three sections list the three different years your degree covers, while the fourth sections covers the entire degree information.

## 2.1 Years

Each year section has three common items; a selection of 'Unit Boxes', where you fill in the results you got in each unit/half unit; a 'Total Box', where an average of your result's are shown, and a 'Grade Box', where the grade for your year is calculated. Both the Total Box and the Grade Box only show something if you have entered something into a Unit Box for that year.

Each Unit Box can be set to represent either a whole unit (lasting two terms) or a half unit (lasting one term). Notice the project (in the third year) is locked in as whole unit (two terms). If you have to represent the project as more than one unit, then you can just have one or more other Unit Box's to represent the project as well. Just set that Unit Box to the other 'half' of your project (such as 1 Unit if your project is worth 2 Units, or set two Unit Box's to 1 Unit each if it's worth 3) and enter the same result as you have entered in your project Unit Box into each box and it will be calculated accurately.

If you notice under each Total Box there is a checkbox with a tick. When you tick that box, that year will be included when the program calculates your final degree mark. It will not affect anything shown in that year's Total or Grade Box's, but instead will change what is shown in the Points, Total and Grade boxes shown in the Degree section. By default, all these boxes are ticked; but you can untick them so as to only calculate certain years, most useful to see how many points you missed from getting that first you wanted in a particular year!

## 2.2 Degree

As stated before, underneath the three year sections is the Degree or Stats section. The Degree section lists relative information about your degree, depending on which checkbox's you have checked, including the points you have got, the total percentage and the grade that gives you. It also tells you what total percentage you need to achieve each grade, as well as the points required and needed to achieve each grade.

There are two buttons here. The first links to the charts, which will be looked at in the next section. The second clears the entire program's data; that is, all the results you have entered in the Unit Box's. It does not reset any of the Unit Box's representations (1 Unit / 1/2 Unit) to their default values, nor does it reset the checkbox's. If you wish to do that, you can use the reset command from the menu.

### 3 Predictions

A new feature of Version 3 is that the program can predict what (on average) you need in each year in order to get the mark you desire. There are two ways for you to predict, the first being by year and the second being by degree. Note that the prediction calculator is influenced by which checkbox's are checked, and will therefore only look at the years that are checked.

If you are predicting by year, the calculator will treat each year independently and will try and give you the highest mark you need for your chosen level (1st, 2.1, 2.2 or 3rd) for each checked year only. As you may guess, this may not be enough to ensure you get the same level on your entire degree, as the calculator doesn't take into account the other years.

If you are predicting by degree, the calculator will then take into account all years that have been checked. It will then give you the marks you need in order to reach your particular chosen level over the entire degree. You may find that you require marks that go over the 100% boundary. If this happens, then these marks will go red. This means you cannot reach your chosen level with the current marks you have input.

### 4 Charts

The charts are just another way to view the data shown in the main program. Each Yearly chart simply shows the total percentage each given unit/half unit provides to your result for that year. Your degree chart is linked directly with the Degree section above, and is affected by the checkbox's you select in the main program.

Each chart also shows you how many missed marks you have from the Top. If you wish to see this as points or percentage, then simply look at the Degree section in the main window and it will tell you. To see a particular year, you will need to un-tick the year's you don't want to see so that the Degree chart represents the result for that year, then look at the Degree section.

Should you open the chart's window and then not be able to find it underneath other windows, simply go back to the main program and click on the chart's button again, and the chart's window will be brought forward.

### 5 Saving and Loading

Another new feature of Version 3 is the ability to save and load your marks. This can be done easily by using the menu's Save or Load option and following the on-screen prompts. The program saves your marks as a .jdc file (Jarada's

Degree Calculations file) which contains your marks and their calculations. You can then pass these onto other people who have Jarada's Degree Calculator and they will be able to view those marks.

## 6 Points

The program uses a points system to calculate your degree accurately. All these points represent is a weighted average of that particular section. Each year is weighted differently, on a 1:3:5 ratio. So a unit in your first year gives you 200 points (that's 100% times 2 for both half-units). A unit in your second year, however, gives you 600 points (that's 100% times 2 for both half-units, times 3 for the weight given to that year). And a unit in your third year gives you a whopping 1000 points (that's 100% times 2 for both half-units, times 5 for the weight given to that year).

## 7 Looks

The program uses a Look and Feel Swing plugin called NapkinLAF [1]. This plugin also comes with a specific font. This font is a commercially available font; that is, it costs money to get hold of the font, called Felt Tip Roman [3]. The Charts are created using JFreeChart [2]. Everything else was coded by Jarada Productions.

## 8 Credits

Special thanks to Saqib A Kakvi for his help on the mathematics behind the degree predictor; it was invaluable!

## References

- [1] Ken Arnold and Alex Lam S.L. NapkinLAF (<http://napkinlaf.sourceforge.net/>), 2006.
- [2] Object Refinery Ltd. JFreeChart (<http://www.jfree.org/jfreechart/>), 2008.
- [3] Mark Simonson. Felt Tip Roman font (<http://www.ms-studio.com/FontSales/felttproman.html>), 2003.