

## Description of the Institute of Technology Grade Database.

The database records the number of each grade awarded in Honours Bachelor's Degrees, Higher Certificates (previously National Certificates), and Ordinary Degrees (previously National Diplomas) in each Institute of Technology for each year. It does not include information on candidates who failed to graduate in each of those years as that information was not available.

The grades are separately reported under the four discipline areas of Business, Engineering, Humanities and Science/Technology. The absolute number of graduates awarded each grade is recorded in each case. Because the SPSS programme, through which the statistical analysis of the data was conducted, used to require that variable names not exceed 8 digits in length, a slightly complex system was necessary to allocate distinct yet meaningful names to the large number of variables required to record the data for this project.

Apart from the variable 'Year' which designates the year to which that row of data refers, all other variable names are made up of four separate codes. Each variable begins with a single letter distinguishing the individual Institute of Technology (Crawford, now a part of Cork Institute of Technology is included as a separate institute in the earlier years). The Institute code is followed by an underscore and then by the code for discipline. The discipline code, again a single letter, distinguishes which discipline area (Business, Engineering, Humanities, Science/Technology) the variable refers to. The qualification code, a single letter attached to the discipline code, indicates whether the variable refers to Honours Bachelor's Degrees, Higher Certificates (formerly National Certificates) or Ordinary Degrees (formerly National Diplomas). The final code, divided from the qualification code in all cases by an underscore, designates the grade of award.

The codes used in each case are listed below:

### Institute Codes

a = Athlone Institute of Technology  
b = Blanchardstown Institute of Technology  
k = Carlow Institute of Technology  
c = Cork Institute of Technology  
f = Crawford College  
d = Dundalk Institute of Technology  
x = Dun Laoghaire Institute of Technology  
g = Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology  
z = Institute of Technology Tallaght  
t = Institute of Technology Tralee  
y = Letterkenny Institute of Technology  
l = Limerick Institute of Technology  
s = Sligo Institute of Technology  
w = Waterford institute of Technology

Discipline Codes:

b = Business  
e = Engineering  
h = Humanities  
s = Science and Technology

Qualification Codes:

b = Honours Bachelor's Degree  
c = National Certificate/Higher Certificate  
d = National Diploma/Ordinary Degree

Grade Codes:

1 = First Class  
21 = Second Class Grade One/Upper Second  
22 = Second Class Grade Two/Lower Second  
p = Pass  
d = Distinction  
m = Merit  
m1 = Merit Grade 1  
m2 = Merit Grade 2

Examples:

a\_bc\_m2 is Athlone Institute of Technology\_BusinessHigherCertificate\_Merit Grade 2.  
s\_sb\_1 is Sligo Institute of Technology\_Science Bachelors Degree\_First Class

**ERRATUM**

In O'Grady and Guilfoyle (2007a) the rate of Firsts for Waterford for 2002-2004 was quoted in error as 18.39% in Table 8. The rate should have been 11.25%. The error resulted from a transcription mistake which caused the number of 2.2 awards for 2003 to be entered as Firsts and vice versa in the database. The database was corrected and extensive checks made to identify if any similar errors had been made. None were identified. Apart from causing Waterford IOT to be misrepresented in O'Grady and Guilfoyle(2007a) as having a rate of increase in Firsts between 1994-1996 and 2002-2004 of 64.2% when the actual increase was only a negligible 0.45%, the error resulted in an overestimate of the national rate of increase in Firsts over the period. The national rate of Firsts for 2002-2004 quoted in Table 8 of O'Grady and Guilfoyle (2007a) was 15.07% with an increase of 51.9% over the 1994-1996 average. The corrected rate for 2002-2004 is 13.82%, an increase of 39.3% over the 2002-2004 figure. The updated SPSS database available on the Network for Irish Educational Standards website now includes the corrected 2003 figures for Waterford.