Taught Postgraduate Academic Framework

1. Modular Structure

1.1   The academic year will be delivered in three equal trimesters.

1.2   The credits for level seven taught postgraduate awards are set out in the University's Qualifications Credit Framework.

1.3   Modules will normally be 15 credits in size or multiples thereof.

1.4   Modules of 5 credits will be permitted under certain circumstances (eg. For Continuing Professional Development programmes, specific skill/workshop-based modules, pass/fail modules approved under the University's Co-Curricular Credit Framework). Within the Taught Postgraduate Framework these should normally be offered in bundles of three to be equivalent to one 15 credit module.

1.5   The largest module size permitted is 60 credits.

1.6   The default structure for a full-time taught postgraduate programme is:

Trimester One *60 credits*	Trimester Two *60 credits*	Trimester Three *60 credits*
2 x 30 credit modules *or* 4 x 15 credit modules *or* 1 x 30 **+** 2 x 15 credit modules	2 x 30 credit modules *or* 4 x 15 credit modules *or* 1 x 30 **+** 2 x 15 credit modules	1 x 60 credit module
OR		
3 x 15 credit modules *or* 1 x 15 **+** 1 x 30 credit modules	3 x 15 credit modules *or* 1 x 15 **+** 1 x 30 credit modules	1 x 60 credit module
1 x 30 credit modules		
OR		
1 x 30 credit module *or* 2 x 15 credit modules	1 x 30 credit module *or* 2 x 15 credit modules	1 x 60 credit module
2 x 30 credit modules		

Trimester One *60 credits*	Trimester Two *60 credits*	Trimester Three *60 credits*
OR		
4 x 30 credit modules		1 x 60 credit module

1.6.1 Where full-time taught postgraduate programme are comprised of more than three trimesters (eg. extended programmes, programmes with integrated placements) the default structure applies, with programme teams able to add an additional trimester with either one non-credit bearing module, one credit bearing pass/fail module, or the existing alternatives up to a total of 60 credits.

1.6.2 If a programme is offered part-time, the normal expectation is that there are 30 credits per trimester, and that the programme should normally be completed within two years.

1.6.3 For part-time postgraduate programmes, the 60-credit module should normally be taken over two trimesters.

1.6.4 Any programme wishing to deviate from the structures outlined above must make the proposal as part of the approval process.

1.7 Modules can be 'Core' (these must be taken and passed by all students in the subject), 'Required' (these must be taken and passed by all students on a particular route or pathway), 'Required*' (these are modules within a defined list from which a selection must be taken and passed by students on a particular route or pathway), or 'Optional'.

1.8 At least 60 credits must be identified as Core.

2. Types of award

2.1 Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Education (MEd), Master of Fine Art (MFA), Master of Music (MMus), Master of Research (MRes), Master of Teaching (MTeach), Masters of Professional Studies (MProf), Master of Laws (LLM),

2.1.1 These awards will comprise a minimum of 180 credits, as per the University's Qualifications Credit Framework, of which a minimum of 60 credits must be core as outlined above. There must be at least 60 credits of differentiation between programmes.

2.1.2 It is permissible, though not obligatory, for programmes to include a minor component of level six credits where this supports and enhances student experience or is a requirement within a programme (eg. Integrated Masters). The maximum number of level six credits by

award are 15 credits for a Postgraduate Certificate, 30 credits for a Postgraduate Diploma, and 30 credits for all Masters awards.

2.2 Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)

    2.2.1 This award will comprise 60 credits.

2.3 Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)

    2.3.1 This award will comprise 120 credits.

2.4 Pathways

    2.4.1 On named pathways a minimum of 60 credits must be pathway specific.

    2.4.2 A named pathway will be reflected in the final award title when the credit weighting indicates a specialisation in one defined area over any others that may be available on that programme.

3. Module assessment

3.1 The pass mark for all modules is 50%.

3.2 All assessments within a module must achieve the minimum mark of 50 in order for the module to be passed. Failure in one assessment cannot be compensated by a higher mark on another assessment within the module nor can success in one module compensate for failure of another one.

3.3 Where an item has been failed, the mark for any assessment item that is passed following reassessment will be capped at 50. The module mark will not be capped unless as a consequence of comprising only one assessment item weighted at 100%.

4. Module achievement, reassessment attempts and outstanding credit

4.1 Where an outcome of 'fail' has been recorded for a module, the student must re-take it with attendance (this may necessitate the student going part-time); where an outcome of 'defer' or 'refer' has been recorded, only the outstanding assessments need to be attempted.

4.2 Failure of 60 credits or more will automatically result in exclusion.

5. Determination of final award classification

5.1 The final degree mark for all Masters degrees will be calculated from all 180 credits.

5.2 For awards where students have taken a combination of pass/fail and graded modules, the overall classification of the award will be determined on the basis of the graded modules, providing all other eligibility criteria for the Award have been met. The 60 credit dissertation module must be a graded piece of work and therefore for Masters qualifications a maximum of 120 credits can be pass/fail modules.

5.3 For all Masters level programmes listed under 2.1 above, degrees are

classified as follows:

Distinction	70.00% and above
Merit	60.00-69.99%
Pass	50.00-59.99%
Fail	49.99% and below

5.4 For Postgraduate Certificates and Postgraduate Diplomas programmes, awards are classified as pass/fail as follows:

Pass	50.00 and above
Fail	49.99% and below

6. Transfer

6.1 Students who wish to transfer between modules must normally do so within the first two weeks of the trimester. After that point, they will be considered to be taking the module and an assessment outcome must be recorded.

6.2 The latest opportunity for transfer between awards will be dependent on the precise nature of the transfer and students should seek advice as early as possible.

Document Details