UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme

The Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (*the Scheme*) applies to all taught programmes in the University and all collaborative provision.

1. Introduction

The Scheme allows students to qualify for awards of the University through the accumulation of credit points for modules which are the building blocks of programmes of study. Programme specifications define which modules students may take to assemble individual programmes according to their needs and interests, and credit points may be given for prior learning. Modules taken and credits obtained are recorded on a transcript, which also shows where credits have been "cashed in" for an award, available to the student.

The Scheme also permits students to study individual modules, for example continuing professional development modules, without the immediate aim of achieving an award.

2. Definitions

Regulations and Definitions Applying to Progression for all Credit-Bearing Programmes. In this Framework the following additional terms are used:

Credit: A quantified means of expressing equivalence of learning. Credit is awarded to a learner in recognition of the verified achievement of designated learning outcomes at a specified level.

(continued…)

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

Credit Level: An indicator of the relative demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. The level identifies the relative demands of learning that will be required of a learner undertaking a module of learning. The University has developed generic Credit Level Descriptors which describe the characteristics of learning demand which the learner will encounter at each credit level. The levels used articulate with the National Qualifications Frameworks and map to the corresponding cycle of the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA).

Typical HE Qualification	2008 FHEQ level	FQ-EHEA Cycle	2001 FHEQ level	Pre-2001 FHEQ level
Doctorates (Eg: PhD, EdD, DBA, DClinPsych)	8	Third cycle (end of cycle)	D	
Masters degrees (eg: MPhil, MLitt, MRes, MA, MSc)	7	Second cycle (end of cycle)	M	
Integrated Masters degrees (eg: MEng, MChem, MPhys, MPharm)				
Primary qualifications (or first degrees) in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science (eg: MB ChB, MB BS, BM BS, BDS, BVSc, BVMS)				
Postgraduate Diplomas			M	
Postgraduate Certificate in Education				
Postgraduate Certificates				
Bachelors degrees with Honours [eg: BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), BEng (Hons)]	6	First cycle (end of cycle)	H	3
Bachelors degrees (eg: Ordinary degree)				
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)			H	3
Graduate Diplomas				
Graduate Certificates				
Foundation degrees (eg: FdA, FdSc)	5	Short first cycle (within or linked to the first cycle) qualifications	I	2
Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)				
Higher National Diplomas (HND)				
Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)	4		C	1

Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Notional Learning Time: The number of hours that it is expected a learner (at a particular level) will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes. The amount of student effort equivalent to 1 ECTS is between 20 hours and 25 hours. Previously the University used the UK Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme where the notional learning time ratio used is 1 CAT credit being equivalent to 10 hours of student effort.

Programme of Study: The named award for which a student is registered. A student's programme of study may be taken by full-time or, where permitted, by part-time study and may incorporate credits for appropriate prior learning (see below) and for the successful completion of employment-based training. A programme of study may be composed of modules of any size but the University Senate agreed in 2010 that for 3-year undergraduate degree programmes the normal module size will be 7.5 ECTS and multiples thereof.

Recognition of Prior Learning: The University has devolved arrangements for the management and assessment of prior learning within the policy set out in the *Quality Handbook*.

Condonement: The process by which a Board of Examiners, in consideration of the overall performance of a student, decides that, without incurring a penalty, one or more modules that have been failed do not need to be redeemed. Condonement is not permitted except in special circumstances within the responsibility of a Special Considerations Board.

Re-use of Credit: Credit may be kept and used to satisfy the credit requirements of any award for which the credit learning is deemed relevant. Mechanisms must be in place to record declarations by students that the credit presented has not been used for a previous claim. More information can be found in the policy set out in the *Quality Handbook*.

Back Tracking and Forward Tracking: Back tracking and forward tracking by one level are allowed up to 15 ECTS credits, provided the minimum credit requirements at each level are satisfied at the time of the award.

3. Credit Requirements for University Awards

The following table sets out the details of credit requirements for all University awards.

Qualification	FHEQ level	Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits	Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award	Additional Criteria
Professional Doctorate	8	at least 270	180	Remaining 90 ECTS credits to be at level 7[1].
MRes	7	at least 90	90	Normally 30 ECTS credits taught, 60 ECTS credits research element.
Masters Degree	7	at least 90	75	Normally 30 ECTS credit are derived from the independent study element of the programme. Normally all credit will be at 7 level but up to 15 ECTS credits at 6 level may be permitted
MSci, MEng (Integrated 4-year Masters degree)	7	at least 240	60	Based on 60 ECTS credits in Part 1 (level 4) + 60 ECTS credits in Part 2 (level 5) + 60 ECTS credits in Part 3 (level 6) + a minimum of 60 to a maximum of 75 ECTS credits in Part 4 (level 7)

---

[1] Graduate in time but not in level

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Qualification	FHEQ level	Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits	Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award	Additional Criteria
Postgraduate Diploma	7	at least 60	45	N/A
Postgraduate Certificate	7	at least 30	20	N/A
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	7	at least 30	20	N/A
Graduate Diploma*	6	at least 60	45	N/A
Graduate Certificate*	6	at least 30	20	N/A
Double Honours degree	6	at least 240	45 in each subject (ie: 90 in total)	Based on 60 ECTS credits per year. There must be study at level 6 in both subjects of which at least 45 ECTS credits must be passed.
Honours degree	6	at least 180	45	N/A
Intercalated degree	6	N/A	N/A	Successful completion of the Intercalated programme shall result in the award of an Honours degree. The Intercalated programme is based on Honours level work alone.
Ordinary degree	6	at least 150	30	An Ordinary Degree can only be awarded as an exit award.
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education	6	at least 30	20	N/A
Diploma of HE / Foundation degree	5	at least 120	45	N/A
Certificate of HE	4	at least 60	45	N/A

Note: The EWNI credit bodies recommend that the programmes leading to the Honours degree and the Ordinary degree reflect planned progression and credit attainment throughout the levels spanned by the qualification.

The Certificate of HE, Diploma of HE, Foundation degree, Ordinary degree, Intercalated degree, Honours degree and Double Honours degree and Integrated Masters programmes are dealt with collectively for the purposes of progression and classification in Section IV: General Regulations *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*.

The Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, MSc, MSc(Ed), MSc (Social Science), MA, MA(Ed), MMus, LLM & MRes, are known collectively as Standalone Masters programmes and are dealt with collectively for the purposes of progression and classification in Section IV: General Regulations *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results:Standalone Masters Programmes*.

The awards of Certificate of HE, Diploma of HE, Ordinary Degree and Graduate Certificate are not classified awards.

4. Assessment

Arrangements for the assessment and re-assessment of modules will be as specified by the School Programme Committees and described in the Programme Specification.

The University does not regulate the amount of assessment (eg: essay wordage or length of examination) which must be completed for each credit-bearing module; however examples of practice are provided in the Quality Handbook bearing in mind the demands of the discipline.