

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDIT FRAMEWORK

The University's Qualifications and Credit Framework was updated from 2009 when designations of levels were changed. It had been previously revised from 2002 to change the designations of some levels and to introduce some new awards. The Framework aligns with those in use in the rest of the UK Higher Education sector and with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) of the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. Levels 1, 2 and 3 (previously A) are pre-undergraduate levels and there are restrictions on the amount permitted in programmes. Levels 4, 5, 6 (previously 1, 2, 3 or B, C and D/M1) are the levels associated with undergraduate study, with level 6 being the highest, Honours, level. Level 7 (M/M2) is the postgraduate level and level 8 (D) is associated with doctoral study. The minimum requirements for each award in the current and previous frameworks are set out in the following tables. Actual requirements may exceed the minima identified. Candidates must gain the specified credits and successfully complete the programme assessment requirements to receive the award.

Table 1: Qualifications and Credit Framework (effective from 2009/10)

AWARD	QUALIFICATION LEVEL (FHEQ)	MINIMUM OVERALL CREDITS	TYPICAL RANGE OF LEVELS	PASS MARK %
Access Diploma	-	120	1, 2, 3	40
Certificate of Personal and Professional Development	-	60	3, 4	40
Certificate	4	60	3, 4	40
Diploma	4	120	3, 4	40
Certificate of Higher Education	4	120	3, 4	40
Diploma in Professional Practice (International)	5	60	5	40*
Diploma in Industrial Studies	5	60	5	50
Diploma in International Academic Studies	5	120	3, 4, 5	40*
Diploma in Area Studies	5	120	3, 4, 5	50
Foundation Degree	5	240	3, 4, 5	40
Associate Bachelor's Degree	5	240	3, 4, 5	40
Advanced Diploma	5	120	3, 4, 5	40
Advanced Certificate	5	60	3, 4, 5	40
Non-Honours Degree	6	360	3, 4, 5, 6	40
Honours Degree	6	360	3, 4, 5, 6	40
Graduate Diploma	6	120	3, 4, 5, 6	40
Graduate Certificate	6	60	3, 4, 5, 6	40
Integrated Master's Degree	7	480	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	40 (50 for Level 7)
Postgraduate Certificate	7	60	6, 7	50**
Postgraduate Diploma	7	120	6, 7	50**
Master's Degree	7	180	6, 7	50**
Extended Master's Degree	7	240	6, 7	50 (40 for Level 6)
Postgraduate Certificate of Professional Development	7	60	7	50
Professional Doctorate	8	540	7,8	50
<i>*50% for awards made before 2016/17</i> <i>**40% in any Level 6 modules from 2016/17</i>				

Table 2:

Qualifications and Credit Framework (effective from 2002/03) (2003/04 for all postgraduate programmes)

AWARD	QUALIFICATION LEVEL (FHEQ)	MINIMUM CREDITS	RANGE OF LEVELS	PASS MARK%
Diploma (Access to HE)	-	120	A	40
Certificate	Certificate	60	A, 1	40
Certificate of Personal and Professional Development	-	60	A, 1	40
Diploma	Certificate	120	A, 1	40
Certificate of Higher Education	Certificate	120	A, 1	40
Certificate in Industrial Studies	Certificate	60	1	50
Certificate in Area Studies	Certificate	120	A, 1	50
Edexcel Higher National Certificate	Intermediate	150	A,1,2	40
Edexcel Higher National Diploma	Intermediate	240	A,1,2	40
Diploma in Industrial Studies/ Professional Practice	Intermediate	60	2	50
Diploma in Area Studies	Intermediate	120	A, 1, 2	50
Foundation Degree or Diploma of Higher Education	Intermediate	240	A, 1, 2	40
Associate Bachelor's Degree	Intermediate	240	A, 1, 2	40
Advanced Diploma	Intermediate	120	A,1,2	40
Advanced Certificate	Intermediate	60	A,1,2	40
Non-Honours Degree	Intermediate	360	A, 1, 2, 3	40
Honours Degree	Honours	360	A, 1, 2, 3	40
Graduate Diploma	Honours	120	A, 1, 2, 3	40
Graduate Certificate	Honours	60	A, 1, 2, 3	40
Integrated Master's Degree	Masters	480	A, 1, 2, 3, M	40 (50 for Level M from 2003 intake)
Postgraduate Certificate	Masters	60	3, M	50
Postgraduate Diploma	Masters	120	3, M	50
Master's Degree	Masters	180	3, M	50
Professional Doctorate	Doctoral	540	3, M, D	50

Table 3: Qualifications and Credit Framework (effective from 1992/93 to 2001/02)

AWARD	MINIMUM CREDIT POINTS AND LEVEL	PASS MARK%
First degree (Honours)	360 with 120 at each of levels B, C and D	40
First degree (non-Honours)	360 with 120 at each of levels B and C plus 120 at levels C or D (minimum 40 at level D)	40
First degree (Foundation degree)	240 with 120 at each of levels B and C	40
MEng	420 with 120 at each of levels B and C plus 180 at level D	40
Advanced Diploma	120 at levels C or D (minimum 40 at level D)	40
Graduate Diploma	120 at levels C or D (minimum 40 at level D)	40
DipHE	240 with 120 at level B and 120 at level C	40
Edexcel Higher National Diploma	240 at levels B or C with at least 60 at level C	40
Edexcel Higher National Certificate	130 at levels B or C with at least 30 at level C	40
Diploma	120 with at least 60 at level B	40
Certificate in Foundation Studies	120 at level A	40
Certificate	60 at level A	40
Diploma in Industrial Studies/Professional Practice	60 at level C	50
Certificate in Industrial Studies/Professional Practice	60 at level B	50

Diploma in Area Studies	120 at level C	50
Certificate in Area Studies	120 at level B	50
Postgraduate Certificate*	60 at level M(1)	40
Postgraduate Diploma*	120 at level M(1) or M(2)	40
Master's Degree*	180 at level M(1) or (2) with at least 60 at level M(2)	50

*The Postgraduate Diploma and Master's degree allow either for accumulation of credits through linked Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/Master's awards or for sustained in-depth study. The level is the minimum required. M(1) represents conversion modules (postgraduate in time), M(2) advanced modules (postgraduate in level).