



UCL Academic Manual 2023-24

Chapter 7, Part A: Qualifications and Credit Framework

Section 6:

Threshold Qualification Requirements

6 Threshold Qualification Requirements

1. The Threshold Qualification Requirements describe the minimum academic standards expected of each Programme of Study leading to a UCL Qualification. A Programme may be approved with higher threshold standards, for example where a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requires it.
2. The following definitions apply:
 - **Years of FTE study:** The minimum length of time needed to complete the Qualification if studied on a full-time basis (part-time modes of study are calculated pro-rata).
 - **Level:** The academic Level at which the Qualification is awarded e.g. a BSc (Hons) is awarded at Level 6.
 - **FHEQ Credits:** The minimum number of credits needed to successfully complete the Qualification, aligned to the UK Framework of Higher Education Qualifications.
 - **Notional learning hours:** The hours of study typically required to complete the Qualification, based on a ratio of 1 FHEQ credit to 10 notional learning hours.
 - **ECTS credits:** The value of the UCL Qualification when translated to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) (UCL credits are translated to ECTS at a ratio of 2:1).
 - **Range of Levels:** The Academic Levels included in the Qualification e.g. a three-year BSc includes Levels 4, 5 and 6.
 - **Standard credits per Level:** The number of FHEQ credits typically studied at each Academic Level to achieve the Qualification. The number of credits in each Level may be adjusted within defined parameters to suit the needs of the individual Programme/field.
 - **Maximum credit taken at lowest Level:** The greatest number of credits which may be taken at the lowest academic Level e.g. a BSc typically includes 120 credits at Level 4 but may include as many as 150 credits at Level 4.
 - **Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification:** The fewest number of credits which must be taken at the highest academic Level e.g. a Postgraduate Diploma typically includes 120 credits at Level 7 but may include as few as 90 credits at Level 7.
 - **Possible Interim Qualifications:** The range of Interim Qualifications which may be included as an approved component of a Programme of Study. Not all Interim Qualifications are available on all Programmes and students are not entitled to an Interim Qualification if it is not a validated part of their Programme.

6.1 Further Education Qualifications

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of levels	Standard credits per level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications	
University Preparatory Certificate	UPC	1 academic year	3	Not credit-rated								None

6.2 Undergraduate Qualifications

6.2.1 Level 4

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Certificate of Higher Education	Cert HE	1 academic year	4	120	1200	60	4	120 at Level 4	120 at Level 4	120 at Level 4 or above	None

6.2.2 Level 5

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Diploma of Higher Education	Dip HE	2 academic years	5	240	2400	120	4 & 5	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 5 or above	None
Foundation Degree	FD	2 academic years	5	240	2400	120	4 & 5	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 5 or above	Cert HE

6.2.3 Level 6 Bachelors Degrees

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Bachelor of Arts with Honours	BA (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Bachelor of Arts with Honours Top-Up Degree	BA (Hons)	1 academic year	6	120	1200	60	6	120 at Level 6	-	120 at Level 6 or above	None
Bachelor of Arts and Sciences with Honours ¹	BASc (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Bachelor of Education with Honours	BEd (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Bachelor of Education with Honours Top-Up Degree	BEd (Hons)	1 academic year	6	120	1200	60	6	120 at Level 6	-	120 at Level 6 or above	None
Bachelor of Engineering with Honours	BEng (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours	BFA (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	360 across Levels 4, 5 & 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Bachelor of Laws with Honours	LLB (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	360 across Levels 4, 5 & 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Bachelor of Science with Honours	BSc (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree,

¹ See Annex 7.10.1: BASc Qualification Descriptor

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
											Dip HE, Cert HE
Integrated Bachelor of Science with Honours (for UCL MBBS candidates)	iBSc (Hons)	1 academic year	6	120	1200	60	6	120 at Level 6	120 at Level 6	120 at Level 6 or above	None
Intercalated Bachelor of Science with Honours (for external iBSc candidates)	iBSc (Hons)	1 academic year	6	120	1200	60	6	120 at Level 6	120 at Level 6	120 at Level 6 or above	None
Bachelor of Science (Economics) with Honours	BSc (Econ) (Hons)	3 academic years	6	360	3600	180	4, 5 & 6	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6	150 at Level 4	90 at Level 6 or above	Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Ordinary Degree (Bachelors without Honours)	BA, BAsC, BEd, BEng, BFA, LLB, BSc, BSc (Econ)	3 academic years	6	300	3000	150	4, 5 & 6	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6	150 at Level 4	60 at Level 6 or above	Only offered as an Interim Qualification

6.2.4 Level 7 Bachelors Degrees

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery ²	MB,BS	5 academic years	7	780	7800	390	4, 5, 6 & 7	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 180 at Level 6 & 360 at Level 7	120 at Level 4	360 at Level 7 or above	None

² The Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) was amended from Level 6 to Level 7 in 2021/22 to align with the FHEQ's classification of primary medical qualifications at level 7 in 2014. This change was backdated to 2016/17, and therefore all awards made from 2021/22 onwards will be at Level 7.

6.2.5 Level 7 Integrated Masters Degrees

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Master of Engineering with Honours	MEng (Hons)	4 academic years	7	480	4800	240	4, 5, 6 & 7	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6 & 120 at Level 7	150 at Level 4	120 at Level 7 or above and 90 at Level 6 or above	BEng (Hons), Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Master of Pharmacy with Honours	MPharm (Hons)	4 academic years	7	480	4800	240	4, 5, 6 & 7	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6 & 120 at Level 7	120 at Level 4	120 at Level 7 or above and 120 at Level 6 or above	BSc (Hons), Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE
Master in Science with Honours	MSci (Hons)	4 academic years	7	480	4800	240	4, 5, 6 & 7	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 120 at Level 6 & 120 at Level 7	150 at Level 4	120 at Level 7 or above and 90 at Level 6 or above	BSc (Hons), Ordinary Degree, Dip HE, Cert HE

6.3 Graduate Qualifications

6.3.1 Level 6 Graduate Certificates and Diplomas

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Graduate Certificate	Grad Cert	0.5 academic years	6	60	600	30	5 & 6	60 at Level 6	15 at Level 5	45 at Level 6 or above	None
Graduate Diploma	Grad Dip	1 academic year	6	120	1200	60	5 & 6	120 at Level 6	30 at Level 5	90 at Level 6 or above	Grad Cert

6.4 Taught Postgraduate Qualifications

6.4.1 Level 7 Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Postgraduate Certificate	PG Cert	0.5 academic years	7	60	600	30	6 & 7	60 at Level 7	15 at Level 6	45 at Level 7 or above	None
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	PGCE	1 academic year	7	60	1200	30	7	60 at Level 7	60 at Level 7	60 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, Grad Cert
Postgraduate Diploma	PG Dip	1 academic year	7	120	1200	60	6 & 7	120 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	90 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert
Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)	PGDE	2 academic years	7	120	1200	60	6 & 7	120 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	90 at Level 7 or above	PGCE, PG Cert

6.4.2 Level 7 Taught Masters

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Master of Architecture	MArch	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Architecture with ARB RIBA Part 2 exemption	MArch (ARB RIBA)	2 academic years	7	300	3000	150	7	300 at Level 7	300 at Level 7	300 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Arts	MA	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
International Master of Arts	MA (International)	2 academic years	7	240	2400	120	7	240 at Level 7	240 at Level 7	240 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Master of Arts and Sciences ³	MASc	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Business Administration ⁴	MBA	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Clinical Dentistry	MClinDent	2 calendar years	7	360	3600	180	7	360 at Level 7	360 at Level 7	360 at Level 7 or above	None
Master of Clinical Dentistry with Speciality Training	MClinDent with MRD (Endodontics)/ MEndo	3 calendar years	7	540	5400	270	7	540 at Level 7	540 at Level 7	540 at Level 7 or above	None
Master of Education (Interim Qualification only)	MEd	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Master of Fine Arts	MFA	2 academic years	7	240	2400	120	7	240 at Level 7	240 at Level 7	240 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Landscape Architecture	MLA	2 academic years	7	300	3000	150	7	300 at Level 7	300 at Level 7	300 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Laws	LLM	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	7	180 at Level 7	180 at Level 7	180 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Planning	MPlan	21 months	7	300	3000	150	7	300 at Level 7	300 at Level 7	300 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Public Administration	MPA	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Public Health	MPH	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Science	MSc	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip

³ See Annex 7.10.2: MASc Qualification Descriptor

⁴ See Annex 7.10.3: MBA Qualification Descriptor

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Master of Surgery	MS	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Teaching	MTeach	2-3 calendar years	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip

6.5 Postgraduate Research Qualifications

6.5.1 Level 7 Research Masters

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Master of Research	MRes	1 calendar year	7	180	1800	90	6 & 7	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	150 at Level 7 or above	PG Cert, PG Dip
Master of Philosophy	MPhil	2 calendar years	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	None
Master of Philosophical Studies	MPhilStud	2 calendar years	7	360	3600	180	7	360 at Level 7	360 at Level 7	360 at Level 7 or above	None

6.5.2 Level 8 Doctorates

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Possible Interim Qualifications
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD	3 calendar years	8	-	-	-	MPhil
Doctor in Engineering	EngD	3 calendar years	8	-	-	-	None
Doctor of Medicine (Research)	MD(Res)	2 calendar years	8	-	-	-	None
Doctor in Public Administration	DPA	4 calendar years	8	-	-	-	MRes

6.5.3 Level 8 Professional Doctorates

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Possible Interim Qualifications
Doctor in Clinical Psychology	DClinPsy	3 calendar years	8	-	-	-	None
Doctor in Dentistry	DDent	3 calendar years	8	-	-	-	None
Doctor in Education	EdD	4 calendar years part time	8	-	-	-	Master of Education
Doctor in Educational Psychology	DEdPsy	3 calendar years	8	-	-	-	PG Dip, MSc
Doctor in Educational and Child Psychology	DECPsy	3 calendar years	8	-	-	-	None
Doctor in Orthopaedics	Doc.Orth	6 calendar years part time	8	-	-	-	None
Doctor in Psychotherapy	DPsychotherapy	4 calendar years	8	-	-	-	None

6.5.4 Level 8 Integrated Doctorates

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Integrated Research Masters and Doctor of Philosophy	MRes/ PhD	1-year Research Masters + 3-year PhD	8	180	1800+	90	7 & 8	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	2 years PhD registration	MRes, MPhil

Qualification	Abbreviation	Years of FTE study	Level	FHEQ credits	Notional learning hours	ECTS credits	Range of Levels	Standard credits per Level	Maximum credit taken at lowest Level	Minimum credit taken at or above Level of Qualification	Possible Interim Qualifications
Integrated Research Masters and Doctor in Engineering	MRes/ EngD	1-year Research Masters + 3-year EngD	8	180	1800+	90	7 & 8	180 at Level 7	30 at Level 6	2 years EngD registration	MRes, MPhil
Integrated Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery/ Bachelor of Science and PhD	MBPhD	10 years (5 calendar years MBBS + 1 calendar year Integrated BSc in year 3 + 3 years PhD registration in years 5-7 + 1 year of Completing Research Status in year 8)	7 & 8	780	7800+	390	4, 5, 6, 7 & 8	120 at Level 4 & 120 at Level 5 & 180 at Level 6 & 360 at Level 7	120 at Level 4	3 years PhD registration	MPhil