



Qualifications and Credit

The Qualifications and Credit Framework has been updated in order to reflect current practice, standardise terminology across the regulations and Academic Model, and align UCL with the UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

1. Standardised Academic Levels

The former UCL levels of study have been replaced by the standard UK Academic Levels:

First	Level 4
Intermediate	Level 5
Advanced	Level 6
Masters (M)	Level 7

These map onto typical UCL programmes as follows (some programmes may include a small amount of study at a higher or lower level):

UCL Academic Levels								
Academic Level	Further Education	Undergraduate				Graduate	Taught Postgraduate	Postgraduate Research
Level 3	UG Preparatory Certificate							
Level 4		Cert HE	Foundation Degree, Dip HE	Bachelors	Integrated Masters			
Level 5								
Level 6						Grad Dip, Grad Cert		
Level 7						Masters, PG Dip, PG Cert, PGCE	Research Masters	
Level 8							Doctorates	

The framework also clarifies the minimum number of credits required at each level for each qualification – it is possible to take into consideration credit at higher levels but credit at lower levels cannot be used.

2. Replacement of the Harmonised Scheme of Award

From 2018-19, programmes within UCL’s undergraduate Harmonised Scheme of Award will integrate fully with the UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, in line with UCL’s PGT programmes:

	Harmonised Scheme of Award	2018-19 Framework
Unit of learning	Course units	Modules and credits
Translation of course units to credits and ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	0.5 course units	15 credits (7.5 ECTS)
	1 course unit	30 credits (15 ECTS)
	2 course units	60 credits (30 ECTS)
1 Academic Year	4 course units	120 credits
Pass Mark	UG course units: 40%	Modules at Levels 4, 5 and 6: 40.00%
	Masters course units: 50%	Modules at Level 7: 50.00%

3. Taught Masters Dissertation/ Substantive Project Requirement

The Taught Masters Dissertation/ Research Project requirement has changed to incorporate the needs of some of UCL’s more professionally-focussed disciplines. Programmes must now include “an in-depth research or scholarly activity of at least 30 credits in the form of a Dissertation or other Substantive Project”.

4. MRes Dissertation/ Research Project Requirement

For MRes programmes, the Qualifications and Credit Framework has been aligned with the MRes regulations. Programmes *should* include a Dissertation/ Substantive Project of 105-150 credits (pro-rata for extended programmes). Some programmes have been granted approval by the Chair of the Research Degrees Committee to operate with a smaller Dissertation/ Substantive Project, or with a combination of modules counting as the Dissertation/ Substantive Project, and these arrangements will continue.

5. Study Abroad and Placements

Two new sections have been developed with the aim of providing clearer and more comprehensive definitions for the different types of placement and study abroad in use at UCL. This includes definitions of ‘integrated’ and ‘additional/ extra-mural’, as well as details of when a placement or study abroad might be included in a student’s classification.

6. Relocation of the Recognition of Prior Learning

The regulations for the Recognition and Accreditation of Prior Learning have been relocated to Chapter 1: Student Recruitment and Admissions Framework to make the process easier to find for students and staff.

7. Revised 'Module' Definition

The definition of a module has been revised to align with the FHEQ and to provide clearer definitions of a range of different module types. This includes:

- The replacement of 'course units' with modules
- Revised definitions of Optional and Elective modules
- New definitions of Prerequisite, Co-requisite, Restricted, Condonable and Non-Condonable Modules
- Standardised credit requirements, in line with current practice across UCL (allows for different-sized modules, subject to approval)
- Clarification on modules running at more than one Academic Level

8. New and Revised Definitions

The framework includes a range of new or revised terminology, which will be used as the basis for the new Academic Model. This includes:

- Qualification Title and Degree Title
- Exit Qualification, Final Qualification, Interim Qualification and Alternative Qualification
- Route, Pathway and Cognate Programme
- Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies
- Academic Partnerships
- Optional and Elective Modules
- Prerequisite, Co-requisite, Restricted, Condonable and Non-Condonable Modules
- Components
- Progression and Continuation
- Interim Qualifications as Advertised Outcomes

9. Other Substantive Changes

- The number of learning hours in a Calendar Year week has been confirmed as 37.5 hours.
- Interim Qualifications have been added for the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) as there will now be modular programmes in addition to the Slade MFA.
- The PGDE has been separated from the PG Dip; PGDE Interim Qualifications have also been confirmed.
- The following have been removed as they are no longer in use:
 - Separate types of PGCE qualifications – all now have the same minimum requirements
 - Foundation Certificate Interim Qualification from Foundation Degree
 - Master of Teaching and Learning
 - Executive Master of Public Administration
 - Dip Ed Interim Qualification from PGCE and PgCE
 - 'Fast-track' mode of study