



**POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT PROGRAMMES
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY TRANSCRIPTS

This leaflet contains the following information:

- Key to the grades used on transcripts produced by UCL
- Information regarding the course requirements for Postgraduate Programmes
- A description of Higher Education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

TRANSLATION OF GRADES

Transcripts show the overall module mark and the final outcome for the module achieved as listed in the table below:

Grade Used	Explanation
AB / AZ	Absent
DA	Deferred Assessment
EP	Deferral of Assessment already attempted
CX	Result not expected due to Covid-19
EX	Module taken but excluded from award calculation due to a material irregularity affecting the delivery or marking of the assessment
F / F1 / F3	Fail
FC	Failure Condoned
FQ / FZ	Failure to Qualify
IR	Result not yet available (Exam Irregularity)
MX	Missing mark due to action short of strike
NX	Result not expected
P	Pass
PC	Pass Condoned
WH	Result Withheld
ZZ	Ineligible for Assessment

Credit is awarded to a student on successful completion of the outcomes associated with a particular block of learning at a specified academic level, up to and including Level 7 Qualifications. Credits are awarded in line with the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) where one credit equates to 10 notional learning hours.

Master of Research degrees must include at least 180 credits, with a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 and a minimum of 150 credits at Level 7

UCL does not provide an overall numerical mark upon the completion of study, and the final degree outcome is indicated by the classification listed below.

The following table shows the minimum FHEQ credit requirements for postgraduate qualifications (Level 7). The Awards of Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma can also include credits at FHEQ Level 6.

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) equivalents are also shown in the following table.

Award	FHEQ Credits	ECTS Credits
Graduate Certificate	60	30
Graduate Diploma	120	60
Postgraduate Certificate	60	30
Postgraduate Diploma	120	60
Taught Masters (Credits vary depending on programme)	180-540	90-270
Research Masters	180	90

Module Results

Any marks recorded after 2018/19 are recorded as Pass or Fail rather than being assigned individual classifications.

Prior to 2018/19 modules were recorded as Pass or Distinction if a mark of 70% or above was achieved. It should be noted that a mark of 70% or above still denotes a Distinction-level performance in that module.

Taught Postgraduate Classification Scheme

Classification	Numerical Marking Scheme	Letter Grade Marking Scheme
Distinction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Final Weighted Mark greater than or equal to 69.50% or,• A Final Weighted Mark greater than or equal to 68.50% and Module marks of at least 70.00% in at least 50% of all credits	Grade A in at least two thirds of the credits
Merit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Final Weighted Mark greater than or equal to 59.50% or• A Final Weighted Mark greater than or equal to 58.50% and Module marks of at least 60.00% in at least 50% of all credits.	Grade greater than or equal to B in at least two thirds of the credits
Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meets the Award Requirements	Meets the Award Requirements.

Full details of the Academic Regulations governing programme structure, assessment and award at UCL can be found in the [UCL Academic Manual, Chapter 4: Assessment Framework for Taught Programmes](#)

Additional Notes

Academic Year 2022/23: Taught student marks recorded during the national marking and assessment boycott

A new 'MX' code was introduced to indicate marks that have been affected by the national marking and assessment boycott. MX is used where marks have not been received and/or confirmed for assessments, at no fault to the student. The mark(s) will be added, and the code updated should the marks be returned.

Academic Year 2019/20: Covid-19 Pandemic

Teaching and assessment

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and to comply with the requirements of the UK Government, face-to-face teaching was replaced with online teaching from 23 March 2020 for the remainder of the 2019/20 academic year. Modifications were also made to some assessments to enable them to be delivered remotely during this period to reflect that in-person assessments were not possible.

Awards and classifications

A student must achieve the amount of credit required for a qualification within a programme to be eligible for an award.

The rules for determining award classifications were adjusted to ensure that students whose performance may have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic suffer no detriment to their final award classification, whilst maintaining the academic standards of awards.

In general, the adjusted classification rules operate on the principle that when calculating the final degree mark used to determine the classification, greater weight is given to student achievement in assessment that has not been affected by the pandemic, thus reflecting student performance in normal circumstances. The standard boundaries for each classification remained the same.

Specific classification rules are based on the award rules for the programme, attendance mode and year of study.

Transcripts display the actual marks/grades that the student achieved in assessments in 2019/20 and have not been adjusted as a result of the pandemic.

Description of Higher Education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland¹, higher education institutions are independent, self-governing bodies active in teaching, research and scholarship. They are established by Royal Charter or legislation and most are part-funded by government.

Higher education (HE) is provided by many different types of institution. In addition to universities and university colleges, whose charters and statutes are made through the Privy Council which advises the Queen on the granting of Royal Charters and incorporation of universities, there are a number of publicly designated and autonomous institutions within the higher education sector. Publicly funded higher education provision is available in some colleges of further education by the authority of another duly empowered institution. Teaching to prepare students for the award of higher education qualifications can be conducted in any higher education institution and in some further education colleges.

Degree awarding powers and the title 'university'

All universities and many higher education colleges have the legal power to develop their own courses and award their own degrees, as well as determine the conditions on which they are awarded. Some HE colleges and specialist institutions without these powers offer programmes, with varying extents of devolved authority, leading to the degrees of an institution which does have them. All universities in existence before 2005 have the power to award degrees based on completion of taught courses and the power to award research degrees. From 2005, institutions in England and Wales that award only taught degrees ('first' and 'second cycle') and which meet certain numerical criteria, may also be permitted to use the title 'university'. Higher education institutions that award only taught degrees but which do not meet the numerical criteria may apply to use the title 'university college', although not all choose to do so.

All of these institutions are subject to the same regulatory quality assurance and funding requirements as universities; and all institutions decide for themselves which students to admit and which staff to appoint.

Degrees and other higher education qualifications are legally owned by the awarding institution, not by the state.

The names of institutions with their own degree awarding powers ("Recognised Bodies") are available for download [here](#).

Higher education institutions, further education colleges and other organisations able to offer courses leading to a degree of a Recognised Body are listed by the English, Welsh and Northern Irish authorities, and are known as "Listed Bodies". View the list [here](#).

Qualifications

The types of qualifications awarded by higher education institutions at sub-degree and undergraduate (first cycle) and postgraduate level (second and third cycles) are described in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ). This also includes qualification descriptors that were developed with the HE sector by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA - established in 1997 as an independent UK-wide body to monitor the standard of higher education provision - www.qaa.ac.uk). The FHEQ was self-certified as compatible with the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area, the qualifications framework adopted as part of the Bologna Process, in February 2009. Foundation degrees, designed to create intermediate awards strongly oriented towards specific employment opportunities, were introduced in 2001. In terms of the European Higher Education Area they are "short cycle" qualifications within the first cycle. The FHEQ is one component of the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW). The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Wales (DCELLS) and the Council for Curriculum Examination and Assessment, Northern Ireland (CCEA) have established the Qualifications and Credit Framework (to replace, in time, the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)). These authorities regulate several professional, statutory and other awarding bodies which control VET and general qualifications at all levels. The QCF is also incorporated into the CQFW. There is a close association between the levels of the FHEQ and the NQF (as shown overleaf), and other frameworks of the UK and Ireland (see '[Qualifications can cross Boundaries](#)').

Quality Assurance

Academic standards are established and maintained by higher education institutions themselves using an extensive and sophisticated range of shared quality assurance approaches and structures. Standards and quality in institutions are underpinned by the universal use of external examiners, a standard set of indicators and other reports, by the activities of the QAA, and in professional areas by relevant professional, statutory and regulatory bodies. This ensures that institutions meet national expectations described in the FHEQ: subject benchmark statements, the Code of Practice and programme specifications. QAA conducts peer-review based audits and reviews of higher education institutions with the opportunity for subject-based review as the need arises. The accuracy and adequacy of quality-related information published by the higher education institutions is also reviewed. QAA also reviews publicly funded higher education provision in further education colleges.

Credit Systems

Most higher education institutions in England and Northern Ireland belong to one of several credit consortia and some operate local credit accumulation and transfer systems for students moving between programmes and/or institutions. A framework of national guidelines, the Higher Education Credit Framework for England, was launched in 2008. Credit is also an integral part of the CQFW and the QCF. It may be possible for credit awarded in one framework to be recognised by education providers whose qualifications sit within a different framework. HE credit systems in use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are compatible with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) for accumulation and transfers within the European Higher Education Area, and are used to recognise learning gained by students in institutions elsewhere in Europe.

Admission

The most common qualification for entry to higher education is the General Certificate of Education at 'Advanced' (A) level. Other appropriate NQF level 3 qualifications and the kite-marked Access to HE Diploma may also provide entry to HE. Level 3 qualifications in the CQFW, including the Welsh Baccalaureate, also provide entry, as do Scottish Highers, Advanced Highers or qualifications at the same levels of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. Part-time and mature students may enter HE with these qualifications or alternatives with evidenced equivalent prior formal and/or experiential learning. Institutions will admit students whom they believe to have the potential to complete their programmes successfully.

¹ The UK has a system of devolved government, including for higher education, to Scotland, to Wales and to Northern Ireland. This description is approved by the High Level Policy Forum which includes representatives of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Higher Education Funding Councils for England, Scotland and Wales, the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Universities UK (UUK), GuildHE and the National Recognition Information Centre for the UK (UK NARIC).