DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

Curriculum structures and regulations – an overview

UK Higher Education Standards

Threshold academic standards

The **minimum** acceptable level of achievement t a student should demonstrate to be eligible for an academic award, for example honours degree. For equivalent qualifications the threshold level of achievement is agreed nationally (derived from Quality Assurance Agency Quality Code).

Defined in: Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ); Higher Education Credit Framework

DMU's academic standards

The standards that individual degree-awarding bodies set and maintain for their qualifications – these may exceed the threshold academic standards, for example the honours degree classification system and the award of merit and distinction within taught postgraduate awards, foundation degrees etc. (derived from QAA Quality Code: Part A)

Defined in: DMU Taught Programmes Academic Regulations

Modules

What are they?

Modules are units of learning set at a specific credit volume and level, with one credit equalling 10 notional learning hours. They have defined content and learning outcomes; these outcomes are tested by one or more assessment tasks. Each module has a module specification. Modules are grouped together to form a programme.

Undergraduate modules

- Set at levels 4, 5 and 6 of the FHEQ
- Credit volumes available: 15, 30 (exceptionally 45 and 60)
- Module pass mark is 40%

Postgraduate modules

- Set at level 7 of the FHEQ.
- Credit volumes available: 15, 30 and 60 (for dissertation/major project).
- Module pass mark is 50%.

Programmes

What are they?

Programmes (courses) consist of modules at the appropriate   level and credit volume, successful completion of which leads to the conferment of an award. Some programmes have module choice whilst others don't.   Each programme has a specification (course template) which outlines the awards and exit awards on offer, the characteristics and content, the programme outcomes and the modules which comprise the programme. Templates should also reference the appropriate QAA subject benchmark for the programme, where there is one.

Undergraduate programmes

- Set at levels 4, 5 and 6 of the FHEQ
- Limited module choice at level 4, if any
- Normally delivered year-long

Postgraduate programmes

- Set at level 7 of the FHEQ.
- Normally semester-based

Postgraduate regulations

The regulations can be found in the Taught Programmes Academic Regulations, and determine the rules for awarding credit for modules, allowing students to progress through the programme and gain an award.

What do they cover?

MA/MSc/LLM/MBA (180 credits at level 7)
Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits at level 7)
Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits at level 7)

Key points

- Students must pass all their modules to gain their award
- If students need to be reassessed because they have failed one or more assessment tasks (components) the module mark will be capped at 50%
- Students may have one reassessment attempt in each module
- Students may gain the award of pass, merit or distinction

Undergraduate regulations

The regulations can be found in the Taught Programmes Academic Regulations and determine the rules for awarding credit for modules, allowing students to progress through the programme and gain an award.

What do they cover?

BA/BSc/LLB (Hons) (360 credits, 120 each at levels 4-6)
Foundation degrees (FdA and FdSc) (240 credits, 120 each at levels 4 and 5)
HND programmes (240 credits, 120 each at levels 4 and 5)

Key points

- Students may be 'compensated' in up to 30 credits per level (for module marks between 30-39%) if they pass the other 90 credits
- If students need to be reassessed because they have failed one or more assessment tasks (components) the module mark will be capped at 40%. Students have 60 credits of reassessment available per level
- Students will gain a first class, upper second, lower second or third class degree in an honours degree, and pass, merit or distinction for foundation degree and HND

Useful DMU resources

Publication	Web link
Sally Lloyd – Senior Officer, Taught Programmes	slloyd@dmu.ac.uk	x7303
Taught Programmes Academic Regulations	www.dmu.ac.uk/scheme-regulations
Guide to validation	www.dmu.ac.uk/programme-approval
Guides to completing programme (course) and module specifications	http://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/quality-management-and-policy/academic-quality/programme-approval-and-management/programme-approval-management-guidance-forms.aspx

Useful external resources

Publication	Web link
Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks
Higher Education Credit Framework for England	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks
QAA Quality Code	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
QAA subject benchmarks	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements