



Diploma Supplement

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MODULAR PROGRAMME ARRANGEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT AWARDS

The Diploma Supplement issued by the University of Leeds follows the model developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. The purpose of the supplement is to provide sufficient independent data to improve 'international transparency' and fair academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended. It should be free from any value judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. Information in all eight sections should be provided. Where information is not provided, an explanation should give the reason why.

It is issued as two elements as follows:

- a 'Diploma Supplement and Transcript' sheet setting out the individual and academic information on an individual holder of one of the University's awards as required under sections 1, 2, 4, 5.2, 6 and 7 of the model;
- this General Description of the modular programme arrangements and requirements for taught awards at the University setting out the information as required under sections 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 6.2 and 8 of the model.

The two elements do not constitute a Diploma Supplement unless they have been issued together in support of an official certificate confirming the award of a degree or other academic qualification.

1. INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE HOLDER OF THE QUALIFICATION

1.1 Family Name 1.2 Given Name 1.3 Date of Birth 1.4 Student identification number/code

are shown on the transcript element of this supplement.

The Identification No shown is the unique Identification Number for a student registered at the University of Leeds*.

The HESA No shown is the unique national identifying/reference number for students registered at a state university in the UK from the Higher Education Statistics Agency, UK.

2. INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE QUALIFICATION

2.1 Name of the qualification and the title conferred 2.2 Main field(s) of study for the qualification

are shown on the transcript element of this supplement.

2.3 Name and status of the awarding institution (in original language)

The University of Leeds, a university established under a Royal Charter granted in 1904, originated from the Leeds School of Medicine founded in 1831 and the Yorkshire College of Science founded in 1874. It is recognised by the UK authorities as having the power to award its own degrees see <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/higher-education/recognised-uk-degrees> The power to award degrees is protected by UK law.

2.4 Name and Status of institution (if different from 2.3) administering studies (in original language)

All or some of the students at the following institutions follow degree or other programmes of study validated by the University as leading to one of its academic awards. These institutions are recognised by the UK authorities as being able to offer courses leading to a degree of a recognised body such as the University - see <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/higher-education/recognised-uk-degrees>

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Accredited Institutions | Leeds Trinity University College [†] York St John University [‡] | http://www.leadstrinity.ac.uk/ http://www.yorksja.ac.uk |
|-------------------------|---|--|

For students at these institutions who have been awarded a degree or other academic award of the University of Leeds the transcript element of this Diploma Supplement is provided by the institution concerned.

2.5 Language of instruction/examination

The University's programmes are all taught and examined in the English language, except where the subject of the degree is such that it is obvious that all or part of the teaching and assessment will have to be in another language (for example, the BA degrees in modern languages such as French, German, Italian, Chinese, Russian etc).

* or at one of the University's Accredited Institutions (see 2.4)

† formerly Leeds Trinity and All Saints College: this institution has had its own taught degree awarding powers since gaining University College status in 2009

‡ formerly York St John University College: this institution has had its own taught degree awarding powers since 2005 and was granted University title in 2006

3. INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL OF THE QUALIFICATION

3.1 Level of Qualification

The University's undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes lead to one of the following awards:

Summary of the minimum attendance, study and credit requirements for awards

The following summary is derived from the University's *Curricular Ordinances and Regulations* which should be consulted for full and precise details of the requirements for awards - see : <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/secretariat/>

| Award Title | Minimum Full-time Duration (programme years) | Total Minimum Credit volume to be taken* | Total Minimum Credit volume to be passed | Highest UL* Level of Modules which must be included | Minimum Credits to be Passed at Highest Level | ECTS Credit Equivalence | Qualification Level in the NQF and FHEQ for E, W & NI (see Section 8) | EHAE Cycle (see Section 8) |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Master of Research (MRes) | 1 calendar year | 180 | 180 | M | 180 | 90 | 7/M | Second |
| Master (PGT) Master of Arts (MA) Master of Laws (LLM) Master of Education (MEd) Master of Science (MSc) Master of Dental Science (MDentSci) Master of Public Health (MPH) Master of Medical Science (MMedSc) Master of Music (MMus) Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Science (Engineering) (MSc (Eng)) Master of Psychotherapy (MPsychother) Master of Research (MRes) Master of Health Science (MHSc) Master of Psychoanalytic Observational Studies (MPsychObs) Master of Child Forensic Studies (MCFS) Master of Midwifery (MMid) Master of Business Studies (MBS) Master of Fine Art (MFA) Master in Teaching and Learning (MTL) | 1 calendar year | 180 | 150 | M | 135 | 90 | 7/M | Second |
| Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) | 8 months | 120 | 90 | M | 75 | 60 | 7/M | Second |
| Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) (see † below for the PGCE) | 4 months | 60 | 60 | M | 45 | 30 | 7/M | Second |
| Integrated degrees of Master and Bachelor (first degree) Master of Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering (MEng, BEng) Master of Engineering and Bachelor of Science (MEng, BSc) Master of Mathematics and Bachelor of Science (MMath, BSc) Master of Physics and Bachelor of Science (MPhys, BSc) Master of Chemistry and Bachelor of Science (MChem, BSc) Master of Geology and Bachelor of Science (MGeol, BSc) Master of Geophysics and Bachelor of Science (MGeophys, BSc) Master of Geography and Bachelor of Science (MGeog, BSc) Master of Natural Sciences and Bachelor of Science (MNatSc, BSc) Master of Environment and Bachelor of Arts (MEnv, BA) Master of Environment and Bachelor of Science (MEnv, BSc) | 4 years | 480 | 400 | M | 80 | 240 | 7/M and 6/H | First and Second |

| Award Title | Minimum Full-time Duration (programme years) | Total Minimum Credit volume to be taken* | Total Minimum Credit volume to be passed | Highest UL ⁺ Level of Modules which must be included | Minimum Credits to be Passed at Highest Level | ECTS Credit Equivalence | Qualification Level in the NQF and FHEQ for E, W & NI (see Section 8) | EHAE Cycle (see Section 8) |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Master of Geosciences and Bachelor of Science (MGeosci, BSc) Master of Design and Bachelor of Design (MDes, BDes) Master of Biology and Bachelor of Science (MBiol, BSc) Master of Dental Surgery and Bachelor of Science (MChD, BSc) | | | | | | | | |
| Bachelor Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BChD) | 5 years | 600 | 600 | M | 120 | 300 | 7/M and 6/H | First and Second |
| Bachelor (Hons) Bachelor of Arts (BA) Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Bachelor of Science (BSc) Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Bachelor of Health Science (BHSc) Bachelor of Music (BMus) Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA) Bachelor of Design (BDes) | 3 years minimum | 360 minimum | 300** | 3 | 100** | 180-240 | 6/H | First |
| Bachelor (Ordinary) Bachelor of Arts (BA) Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Bachelor of Science (BSc) Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Bachelor of Health Science (BHSc) Bachelor of Music (BMus) Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA) Bachelor of Design (BDes) | 3 years minimum | 300-360*** | 240 | 3 | 60 (160 at levels 2 and 3 combined) | 150-180 | 6/H [I] | First |
| Graduate Diploma (GradDip) | 1 year | 120 | 100 | 3 | 60 | 60 | 6/H | First |
| Graduate Certificate (GradCert) including Professional Graduate Certificate † | 1 semester | 60 | 60 | 3 | 60 | 30 | 6/H | First |
| Advanced Diploma (AdvDip) | 3 years | 300 | 240 | 3 | 40 | 150 | 6/H | Short |
| Foundation Degree (FD) | 2 years | 240 | 200 | 2 | 100 | 120 | 5/I | Short |
| Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) | 2 years | 240 | 200 | 2 | 100 | 120 | 5/I | Short |
| Diploma | 1 year | 120 | 80 | 2 | 60 | 60 | 5/I | Short |
| Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) | 1 year | 120 | 100 | 1 | 100 | 60 | 4/C | - |
| Certificate | 1 semester | 40 | 40 | 1 | 40 | 20 | 4/C | - |

+ UL = University of Leeds.

* in some awards some credit to be taken requirements may be fulfilled through the University's CATS/APCL/APEL arrangements.

† The PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education or Professional Graduate Certificate in Education) is awarded by the University in conformity with the *Statement for use by UUK, SCOP, QAA, UCET - PGCE qualification title* - see <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/Qualifications/Pages/Statement-on-the-PGCE-Qualification.aspx>. The award is made as the result of the successful completion of a 38 week HE programme providing both professional training leading to the award of QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) and a course of academic study leading to an academic qualification. It includes at least 60 UL credits (30 ECTS) at the level required for award.

** exceptionally the award requirements for 3-year programmes leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (BSc) with Honours in the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and in Joint Honours BSc degrees in Science may be met by the achievement of a total of 280 credits including at least 80 UL credits at UL level 3.

*** Students on programmes of study leading to the award of an Ordinary degree must enrol for at least 100 credits, and not more than 120 credits, in each programme year in modules compatible with their programme's specification.

Section 8 shows the place of the University's awards in the national education awards frameworks for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and in the European educational cycles.

3.2 Official Length of Programme

The minimum full-time duration of studies is shown under 3.1 as the number of 'programme years' (i.e. years of full-time study which may be undertaken over a longer period by part-time students) required for the University's award. In some instances students may complete a full-time programme or some parts thereof on a part-time basis – where this occurs it is evident from the number of credits recorded in any individual academic session on the personalised Diploma Supplement and Transcript sheet which accompanies this General Statement.

For second cycle Postgraduate Taught awards (Masters, PGDip and PGCert) the standard Masters programme year comprises a committed workload of at least 1800 hours (100 notional learning hours per 10 UL credits). For the Integrated degrees of Master and Bachelor and for other short and first cycle Undergraduate awards (Bachelors, GradDip, GradCert, PGC, AdvDip, FD, DipHE, CertHE, Diplomas and Certificates) the standard programme year comprises a committed workload of at least 1200 hours (100 notional learning hours per 10 UL credits). Where the required duration of full-time studies is less than a year it is shown as semesters or months.

Programme durations may vary according to the discipline: the actual number of programme years studied is shown on the transcript element of this supplement.

3.3 Access requirements

Postgraduate Taught Programmes

The normal minimum entry requirement for admission to a taught postgraduate programme require candidates to be graduates of the University of Leeds or any other approved university or institution of Higher Education with normally at least the Honours degree of Bachelor in an appropriate discipline or its equivalent; or if not graduates, to possess other qualifications and/or experience which is recognised by the University as the equivalent of an Honours degree of Bachelor through its procedures for the recognition of prior certificated or experiential learning.

Undergraduate Programmes

The normal minimum entry requirement for admission to a first degree or undergraduate award programme comprises passes (in GCSE subjects at grade A*, A, B or C) in 5 subjects in GCSE/GCE 'A-Level' examinations including:

- at least a grade A*, A, B or C in English at GCSE or its equivalent, *and*
- at least two subjects at grade A-E in GCE 'A-Level' examinations or their equivalent.

This normal minimum requirement may also be fulfilled by the equivalent in other examinations such as Intermediate GNVQ and Advanced GNVQ/Advanced VCE, International/European Baccalaureate Diploma, a recognised Access course or other qualifications recognised by the University or through the assessment of an applicant's prior certificated or experiential learning through the University's procedures for the recognition of such learning.

All Programmes

Applicants for admission to a programme of study leading to any degree of the University must, before they can be admitted to the University, provide evidence that they have attained normally at least a band score of 6.0 overall (with not less than 5.5 in any individual skill) in the British Council IELTS, or equivalent qualifications which have been approved by the University.

Upon admission to the University all applicants whose first language is not English must undergo a test in English. Students who fail to reach a satisfactory standard in this test are required to complete satisfactorily appropriate courses, as may be required. These may require a year of study additional to the period required for a qualification of the University.

4. INFORMATION ON THE CONTENTS AND RESULTS GAINED

4.1 Mode of Study

Studies are full-time unless part-time studies are indicated on the transcript element of this supplement.

4.2 Programme Requirements

The University publishes the learning outcomes of its programme and its individual modules in the programme and module catalogues accessible through the University's website at: <http://webprod1.leeds.ac.uk/catalogue/programmesearch.asp>. Details of programme requirements at one of the University's Accredited Institutions are available from the relevant institution (see 2.4).

4.3 Programme Details (modules or units studied and individual grades/marks/credits obtained)

are shown on the transcript element of this supplement.

4.4 Grading Scheme and, if available, grade distribution and guidance

Full details of the University's grading and awarding arrangements are published in the University's Ordinances, Regulations and Rules for Award - available from: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/secretariat/>.

The University operates a unified corporate degree, diploma and certificate awarding/classification system for undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes that are not otherwise constrained by accreditation requirements. The University's classification arrangements are designed to be consistent with the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (EWNI), including taking due account of the relationship between assessment arrangements and programme learning outcomes. The classification system is based on averaging the grades obtained across the modules comprising the final programme years of the programme for the award concerned with the grades being weighted in line with the credit value of the modules concerned.

0-100 Numeric Scale (see also the guidance on the *Interpretation of Diploma Supplement and Transcript Information for Taught Modular Programmes* on the reverse of the transcript element of this supplement)

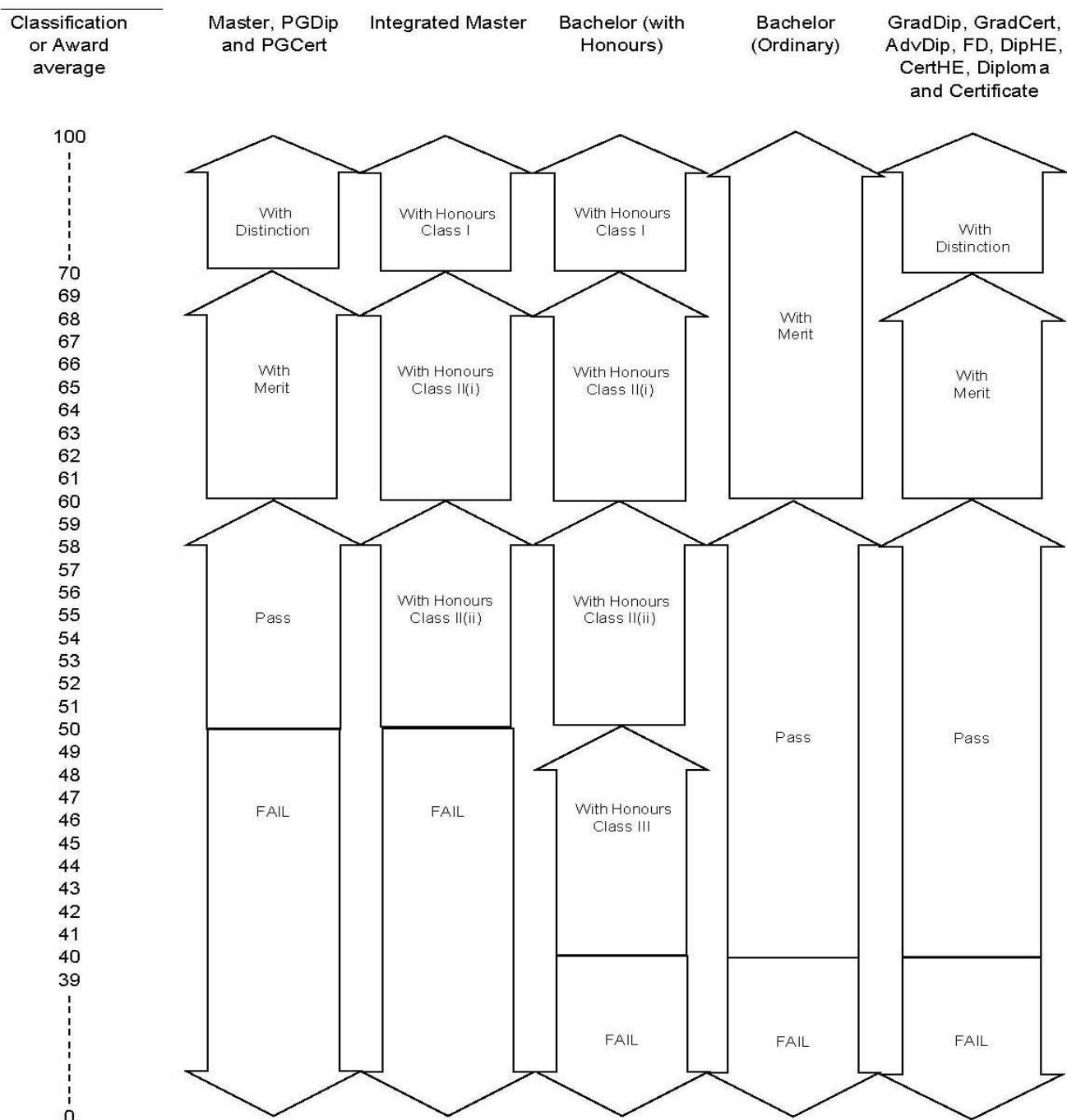
All numeric grades on the transcript element are shown in the University's 0-100 scale. All assessed work is marked according to the achievement represented. It should be noted that in disciplines within the University's Faculties of Arts and of Education, Social Sciences and Law examiners usually mark within a 20-90 scale: these marks have been translated to the 0-100 scale for the purpose of the Diploma Supplement and Transcript. Information on the University's Rules for Award is given at: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/secretariat/>.

Award and Classification

Students' eligibility for award is determined on the basis of their:

- meeting the requirements of the relevant Ordinance and Regulations i.e. obtaining sufficient credits at the appropriate level(s) in the prescribed manner, *and*
- meeting the requirements of the programme specification concerned to satisfy the programme outcomes through passing all compulsory and sufficient optional/elective modules, *and*
- through achieving a 'Classification Average' or 'Award Average' grade/mark, calculated as the average (weighted mean) of the marks achieved in all the modules taken in the relevant programme year(s), which is equal to or greater than the prescribed minimum Classification/Award Average pass grade/mark.

The 'Classification Average/Award Average' mark obtained determines any classification of the award in accordance with the following diagram:



Bachelors Degrees awarded with or without Unclassified Honours

The registrable (see section 5.2) clinical degrees of MBChB and BChD are awarded in line with the requirements of national and professional practice. They are assessed and graded in accordance with the provisions detailed in their prescribed programme specifications. Their award with unclassified honours is reserved solely for candidates who have achieved distinction across the modules, programme components and examinations in all the programme years in accordance with the requirements stated in the relevant programme specification.

4.5 Overall Classification of the qualification (*in original language*) is shown on the transcript element of this supplement.

5. INFORMATION ON THE FUNCTION OF THE QUALIFICATION

5.1 Access to further study

A second cycle Masters degree of the University gives access to postgraduate research (Doctoral) programmes. A first cycle Bachelors degree of the University normally with second class honours or above gives access to taught postgraduate study. Intermediate cycle awards of the University give access to first cycle Honours Bachelors degrees.

5.2 Professional Status (if applicable)

The following professions for which the University provides programmes of education and training are subject to statutory regulation by the UK Government: doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, radiographers and school teachers.

Other professions are regulated by a specialist college, society or institute with its own individually prescribed examinations and requirements for membership. The accreditation/recognition of one of the University's programmes by one or more of these professional bodies may be on the basis that the programme meets in full its membership requirements or that success in the University's examinations, possibly at a prescribed level of attainment, gives exemption from all or some of the professional body's membership examinations. Holders of University awards accredited/recognised by such a professional body may apply for membership of that body on an individual basis and thereafter maintain or extend their membership by continuing to meet the professional body's requirements which usually include payment of annual membership fees.

Any accreditation, professional or statutory recognition of the programme of study followed by a holder of an award of the University is shown on the transcript element of this supplement. Details of the current professional standing of a holder of one of the University's awards is certified by the relevant professional or statutory body independently of documentation produced by the University.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1 Additional Information

Candidates for the University's awards who have previously successfully attended certain courses of study either at the University of Leeds or at an approved educational establishment are eligible for special consideration under the policies and procedures for credit accumulation and transfer (CATS)/accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) for the granting of exemption from any module/course and its examinations other than the modules/courses comprising the final examinations for an award of the University providing always that no such exemptions will apply to the statutory qualifying examinations for registrable awards or to the penultimate programme year for the Integrated degrees of Master and Bachelor. Where applicable such study exemptions are shown on the transcript element of this supplement.

Programmes of study may include requirements for substantial Study or Work Experience (Industrial Placements) outside the University which may be reflected in the programme title as detailed in the award information and/or identified in the other information given in the transcript element of this supplement.

Where modules contributing to an award of this University have been taken under the University's arrangements for collaborative programmes (i.e. programmes are offered jointly with other Universities and Institutions) these modules and the location of studies are identified in the transcript element of this supplement.

Award holders of the University may, in addition to providing this Diploma Supplement and Transcript, also have a Progress File i.e. their individual records of learning and achievements, progress reviews and plans that are used to clarify personal goals and which can provide a resource from which material is selected to produce personal statements (e.g. curricula vitae etc) for employers, admission tutors and others. Progress files also contain information on the structured Personal Development Planning (PDP) processes supported by the University and designed to develop the capacity of its students to reflect upon their own learning and achievement, and to plan for their own personal educational and career development. Further information on HE Progress Files and PDP in the UK HE system is available from:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/progfile2001.pdf>

6.2 Further Information Sources

The University's website[§] is at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk>. Further information of arrangements for Higher Education in the UK is obtainable from: The UK National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC/ENIC), ECCTIS 2000, Oriol House, Oriol Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1XP, United Kingdom.

7. CERTIFICATION OF THE SUPPLEMENT

7.1 Date 7.2 Signature 7.3 Capacity
are shown on the transcript element of this supplement

7.4 Official stamp or seal

June 2012

[§] See section 2.4 for the websites of the University's Accredited Institutions.

8. INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description of Higher Education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland^{**}, 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 on the basis of 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 at: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/higher-education/recognised-uk-degrees/recognised-bodies>.

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 at: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/higher-education/recognised-uk-degrees/listed-bodies>.

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 a number of 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' <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/standardsandquality/otherrefpoints/Qualsboundaries09.pdf>).

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.

^{**} 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).

Diagram of higher education qualification levels in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

| Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) ⁵ | | FQ-EHEA cycle | Credit | | Progression for selection of students (FHEQ levels) | National Qualifications Framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland ⁶ | |
|---|-------|---|---|------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Typical Qualifications | Level | Typical UK credit rated ¹ | Typical ECTS credit ranges ² | Typical Qualifications | | Level | |
| Doctoral Degrees (eg PhD, DPhil, EdD) | 8 | Typically not credit rated ¹ | Typically not credit rated | 8 | Vocational Qualifications Level 8 | 8 | |
| Masters Degrees Integrated Masters Degrees Postgraduate Diplomas Postgraduate Certificate of Education Postgraduate Certificates | 7 | 180 | 60-120 ² | | | | 7 |
| Bachelors Degrees with Honours Bachelors Degrees Professional Graduate Certificate in Education Graduate Diplomas Graduate Certificates | 6 | 360 | 180-240 | 6 | Vocational Qualifications Level 6 | 6 | |
| Foundation Degrees Diplomas of Higher Education Higher National Diplomas | 5 | 240 | 120 | 5 | NVQ Level 4 Higher National Diplomas (HND) Higher National Certificates (HNC) Vocational Qualifications Level 5 | 5 | |
| Higher National Certificates Certificates of Higher Education | 4 | 120 | | 4 | Vocational Qualifications Level 4 | 4 | |
| Entry to HE via equivalent experiential or prior learning | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | | | | | National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 Vocational Qualifications Level 3 GCE AS and A Level Advanced Diploma Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced ⁴ | Levels 2, 1 and entry |

⁵For students with the necessary prerequisites, entry to each FHEQ level is possible from the next lower level in the NQF or Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
⁶These levels will also apply to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The QCF will eventually replace the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

¹PhD and DPhil qualifications are typically not credit-rated. Newer doctoral degrees, such as the Professional Doctorate, are sometimes credit rated, typically 540 UK credits.
²A range of 90-120 ECTS is typical of most awards
³1 ECTS credit is typically worth 2 UK credits
⁴The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification is part of the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW)