



The University of Sussex Academic Framework 2023/24

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Academic Framework establishes the criteria and rules for courses validated by the University of Sussex. It sets out the basic criteria for awards by establishing the design parameters necessary to assure the quality and academic standing of those courses in accordance with the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) (Ofqual 2015), Framework for Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions in England, Northern Ireland and Wales (FHEQ) (2014), the Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in higher education in England (2008); and the European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (Bergen 2005).
- 1.2. Course-specific regulations may, following approval granted through the University's curriculum development processes, set additional requirements for the award of named degrees, diplomas and certificates and for which the requirements may be more stringent than those set out in this document, for example to meet the requirements of a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB).

2. Changes to the Framework for 2023-24

- 2.1. For details of changes to the Academic Framework approved by the University Education Committee see Appendix 3.

3. Credit

- 3.1. The unit of measurement of time and workload for modules and courses is a credit. Credit is determined by calculating the required learning hours on the basis of 1 credit for 10 hours of learning. The credit volume reflects all student effort including taught provision, independent or guided study, and revision.
- 3.2. Credit is awarded to a learner in recognition of the verified achievement of designated learning outcomes at a specified level for a complete module. Credit is a quantified means of expressing equivalence of learning and enables comparing learning achieved in a variety of different contexts. The credit volume reflects the notional student effort required to

topic. Requests for year-long non-research modules must be formally approved by the Chair of the School Education Committee. The School Education Committee is responsible for ensuring learning opportunities, feedback, assessment, and other workload is spread across both semesters. Where a module is delivered across two semesters, the minimum credit volume will be 30 credits. Modules weighted at 15 credits will not be delivered across two semesters as this leads to increased incompatibility with other courses and can lead to inefficient delivery models.

Modules at Lower and Higher Levels

- 5.4. Students may take up to 30 credits at the lower level as indicated by the credit requirements for the award above through requesting a Variation of Study. This is not permitted for students in the final stage of an Integrated Master's degree where all 120 credits must be at Level 7. On undergraduate language pathways, students may exceptionally take 30 credits at FHEQ Level 3 during Stage 1 of their studies, to enable entry to study of a language at the *ab initio* level.
- 5.5. Students are not permitted to take any credits at the higher level in any stage in an undergraduate course, with two exceptions:
 - 5.5.1. Students opting to study language electives or pathways may take up to 30 credits of language modules at the higher level if they are primarily studying at Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5, subject to verification by academic staff in the Sussex Centre for Language Studies (SCLS). Students taking language electives at the higher level are not permitted to simultaneously take language credits at the lower level.
 - 5.5.2. Foundation Year students may study the Level 4 modules;
 - o Developing Role Models: Peer-Led Mentoring (X3604)
 - o Social Justice, Leadership and Organising 1 (SL001)
 - o Social Justice, Leadership and Organising 2 (SL002)

Modules Available to Multiple Cohorts

Module type	Description
Core	A module that all students must study as part of their course. Normally these modules are owned and delivered within a single School. Exceptionally, core modules may be explicitly approved by UEC for cross-school delivery ²

The aim of the 60-credit Pathway is to provide students on single honours courses with an opportunity to broaden their learning beyond the main focus of their course. The Pathway shall consist of sufficient academic credit to warrant specific recognition on the degree certificate but does not constitute an entry pathway. These pathways shall be made available to students taking Single Honours degrees that opt into the Elective Scheme and shall be delivered within the University's Elective Timetable.

60-credit Pathways can be designated as either Type 1 and Type 2:

Type 1: a 60-credit pathway which is open to all students.

Type 2: a 60-credit pathway with approved pre-requisites and/or exclusions as determined by the host School. This type is employed where the School is targeting a particular cohort by course of study.

Elective modules that comprise a pathway must be delivered at the appropriate level of study. For example, Stage 1 modules must be at Level 4.

Whilst the award certificate will record the achievement of a pathway, the subject of the pathway will not appear in the degree title. The pathway will be recognised on the degree certificate outside of the degree title in the

convention for that type of degree award. The title of the award will be approved in all instances by the Portfolio Approval Committee.

All major/minor degrees at the University will utilise a 90-credit pathway for their minor component.

These pathways shall be made available to students taking Single Honours degrees that opt into the Elective Scheme and shall be delivered within the University. TB h Š

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ /RQF Level	Minimum Credit

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Bachelor of Medical Sciences with Honours (Hons) (BMedSci)	6	300	60	3yrs FT	This award is offered only as an exit route for students not progressing to years 4 and 5 of the BMBS.
Bachelor's Degree with Honours (Hons) (BA, BEng, BMus, BSc, LLB)	6	360	90	3yrs FT	This is a degree comprising a main area of study from a single School and a secondary area of study known as a 'pathway', consisting of elective modules. The degree may include modules from outside the major area of study through the pathway, but shall incorporate at least 240 out of 360 credits from the major area. At least 90 credits shall be at Level 6. The pathway shall incorporate at least 60 credits (with 30 credits at level 5).
Single Honours with named pathway					

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ /RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
					study warrants specific recognition on the degree certificate and constitutes a named entry route for applicants. The two elements of study will be linked by the word 'with' in the degree title, using the format '<Major area of study> with <Minor area of study>'. The project element of a major/minor award will normally relate to both parts of the degree, in order to realise an enhanced level of interdisciplinarity.

Fast-track or
Accelerated Bachelor's

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ /RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
					year of study equivalent to 120 credits leading to a course duration of 4/5 stages respectively. The placement year will usually take place between the second stage and the final stage of a course. The following types of integrated placement years are permitted: Professional practice placements which require students to undertake an integrated Placement Year for a recognised and accredited qualification. Research placements which require students to undertake an integrated placement year. Specialist industrial placements which require students to undertake an integrated Placement Year in an explicitly discipline-relevant context. The University guarantees access to an integrated placement to students on the above courses. Students cannot normally undertake more than one of an integrated placement year, a study abroad year and a Year in a Specialist Subject. When taken and passed the integrated placement year shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format <Degree title> (with a professional/with an industrial placement year) or <Degree title> (research placement).
Postgraduate Award with integrated placement year	7	(180)	(180)	1yr FT	An integrated placement year is incorporated into some of the University's postgraduate courses. This will be an additional year of study equivalent to 180 credits leading to a course duration of two years full-time or three years part-time. The placement year will usually take place after the taught element of the course. When taken and passed the integrated placement year shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format <Degree

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learning for the module topic. Requests for year-long non-