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1 Introduction

1. The University College London Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) defines the underpinning structures of all programmes leading to taught and research Higher Education qualifications at UCL.
2. All UCL qualifications and programmes of study must be aligned with the Qualifications and Credit Framework.
3. The QCF is a constituent part of the UCL Academic Manual which forms the basis of the contract between students and UCL.

1.1 Purposes

1. The main purposes of the QCF are:
 - i) To promote a shared and common understanding of UCL qualifications;
 - ii) To promote consistency in the use of qualifications and credit across UCL faculties and departments;
 - iii) To provide a reference point for setting and assessing academic standards when designing, approving, monitoring and reviewing programmes of study and modules;
 - iv) To ensure that UCL qualifications are of an academic standard at least consistent with the standards referred to in the UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ);
 - v) To communicate to employers, schools, parents, prospective students, Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) and other stakeholders the achievements represented by the qualifications of UCL;
 - vi) To inform international comparability of academic standards.

1.2 Reference Points

1. The Qualifications and Credit Framework is drafted with reference to the following:
 - i) The UK Quality Code for Higher Education, and in particular:
 - Part A: Setting and maintaining academic standards
 - The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ)
 - Chapter B11: Research Degrees
 - Chapter B6: Assessment of Students and the Recognition of Prior Learning
 - ii) The Higher Education Credit Framework for England: Guidance on Academic Credit Arrangements in Higher Education in England
 - iii) The Framework for Qualifications of the EuropeanrsBT/F1 11.04 Tf1 0 0 G[BTW*nE

FHEQ

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies

FQ

2 The Qualifications of UCL

The following qualifications are accredited by University College London, granted under the ordinances and statutes of the University of London¹ and governed by this Qualifications and Credit Framework:

2.1 Undergraduate Qualifications

2.1.1 Basic Level (level 3)

- University Preparatory Certificate (UPC)

2.1.2 First Level (level 4)

- Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE)

2.1.3 Intermediate Level (level 5)

- Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE)
- Diploma of Education (DipEd)
- Foundation Degree (FD)

2.1.4 Advanced Level (le(FD))

2.1.6 Masters Level (level 7)

Integrated Masters Degrees

- Master of Engineering (MEng)
- Master in Science (MSci)
- Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)

2.2 Taught Postgraduate Qualifications

2.2.1 Masters Level (level 7)

Postgraduate Certificates & Diplomas

- Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
- International Postgraduate Certificate in Education (iPGCE)
- Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip)

Taught Masters Degrees

- Master of Architecture (MArch)
- Master of Arts (MA)
- International Master of Arts (MA (International))
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Clinical Dentistry (MClintDent)
- Master of Education (MEd)
- Master of Fine Art (MFA)
- Master of Laws (LLM)
- Master of Planning (MPlan)
- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA)
- Master of Science (MSc)
- Master of Surgery (MS)
- Master of Teaching (MTeach)
- Master of Teaching and Learning (MTL)

2.3 Postgraduate Research Qualifications

2.3.1 Masters Level (level 7)

- Master of Research (MRes)
- Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
- Master in Philosophical Studies (MPhilStud)

2.3.2 Doctoral Level

Doctoral

3 Framework Components

1. A number of components define the basic structures of all UCL qualifications:

3.1 Qualification

1. A qualification is a higher education doctorate, degree, diploma or certificate accredited and conferred by UCL following the successful completion of an

**Combined
(Joint)**

A programme with an

Postgraduate Certificate	60	30	600
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Fixed Period Study Arrangements

Integrated Placement or Study Abroad	Students spend a defined period of time studying in another country or undertaking a professional or industrial placement related to their field of study. The placement/study abroad is credit-rated and an integral part of the UCL degree programme.
Extramural Placement or Study Abroad	Students spend an additional period studying in another country or undertaking a professional or industrial placement. The placement/study abroad is not an accredited part of the UCL degree programme.
Study Leave (Postgraduate Research Students only)	Students can apply to spend a defined period of time away from UCL undertaking research related to their field of study.

3.10 Modules

1. Modules are self-contained, credit-rated blocks of learning and teaching which make up a taught programme of study.
2. Undergraduate programmes are composed of modules which are referred to as course units:
 - a) One course unit equates to 30 credits, 15 ECTS and 300 learning hours.
 - b) A full-

3.11 Taught Components on Research Programmes

1. Some Research Masters programmes (e.g. MRes, MPhilStud) are composed of modules:
 - a) Modules must be credit-rated in multiples of 5, with 15, 30, 45 and 60 credit modules being the norm.
 - b) The Research Masters module pass mark must be at least 50%; some programmes/ modules may set a higher pass mark.
 - c) Research Masters modules are subject to the assessment regulations for taught postgraduate programmes.
2. Non-modular Research Masters (e.g. MPhil) may include training in research methods or transferable skills which require attendance at lectures and seminars.
3. Doctorates by research (MPhil/PhD and EngD) are not modular but may include training in research methods or transferable skills which require attendance at lectures and seminars.
- 4.

	Cert HE
Taught Masters	PG Dip PG Cert
Research Masters	PG Dip PG Cert
Doctor of Philosophy	MPhil

	<p>students complete 480 credits over four FTE academic years. The level 6 credits following successful completion of a Foundation Degree. Students unable to meet the full requirements of an Honours degree may be eligible for a Cert HE, Dip HE or Ordinary Degree (Bachelors without Honours) on completion of the requisite number of credits.</p>
Graduate Certificate	<p>The Grad Cert is a short programme or professional 'conversion' course based largely on undergraduate material and taken usually by those who already hold an Honours degree in another field of study.</p> <p>Programmes must include at least 60 credits, with a maximum of 15 credits at level 5 and a minimum of 45 credits at level 6. The qualification typically takes 600 hours, or half an FTE academic year, to complete.</p>
Graduate Diploma	<p>The Grad Dip is a short programme or professional 'conversion' course which is considered equivalent to the final year of an Honours degree. It is based largely on undergraduate material and taken usually by those who already hold an Honours degree in another field of study.</p> <p>Programmes must include at least 120 credits, with a maximum of 30 credits at level 5 and a minimum of 90 credits at level 6. The qualification typically takes 1200 hours, or one FTE academic year, to complete.</p>
Masters level (level 7)	
Integrated Masters Degree	<p>An Integrated Masters incorporates the attributes and outcomes of both an Honours degree and a Taught Masters degree.</p> <p>Programmes must include at least 480 credits, with a maximum of 150 credits at level 4, a minimum of 90 credits at level 6 and a minimum of 120 credits at level 7. The qualification typically takes 4800 hours, or four FTE academic years, to complete.</p>

4.2 Taught Postgraduate Qualifications

Masters level (level 7)	
Postgraduate Certificate	<p>The PG Cert is a Masters-level short programme which may be a stand-alone award or a named interim qualification on a Masters or PG Dip programme.</p> <p>Programmes must include at least 60 credits, with a maximum of 15 credits at level 6 and a minimum of 45 credits at level 7. The qualification typically takes 600 hours, or half an FTE academic year, to complete.</p>
Postgraduate Diploma	<p>The PG Dip is a Masters-level short programme which may be a stand-alone award or a named interim qualification on a Masters programme.</p> <p>Programmes must include at least 120 credits, with a maximum of 30 credits at level 6 and a minimum of 90 credits at level 7. The qualification typically takes 1200 hours, or one FTE academic year, to complete.</p>

**Taught Masters
Degree**

5 Level Descriptors

1. The Level Descriptors describe the depth and complexity of each level of study and outline the academic skills, amount of prior knowledge and amount of learner autonomy required to pass a programme or module at that level.
2. The descriptors are closely aligned to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and, together with the more discipline-specific QAA Subject Benchmark Statements, should be used as a reference point in the development of qualifications, programmes and modules, and for the determination of local marking criteria.

Level	Descriptor
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Basic/ introductory level

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6 The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

6.1 Definitions

1. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) allows students to apply for exemption from particular entry requirements, or from some parts of a programme of study, by recognition of their learning from previous experiences and achievements.
2. Accredited Prior Learning (APL) is the achievement of learning that has been formally assessed and certificated from previous study with a recognised institution.
3. Experiential Prior Learning (EPL) is the non-certified acquisition of relevant skills and knowledge, gained through relevant experience, which is capable of being evaluated.
4. There are two main ways in which RPL may be applied:
 - a) For initial entry to a UCL programme, where a student does not hold the precise entry requirements specified by UCL. RPL for initial entry may be certified (APL) or experiential (EPL).
 - b) For advanced entry to a UCL programme, where a student has already completed certified learning of a standard judged to be equitable with the UCL programme to which the student is applying. RPL for advanced entry must be certified (APL).
5. Additionally, it may be necessary to use RPL for transfers within UCL, where a student wishes to transfer to another programme that has a significantly different structure. Details of the application process for students wishing to transfer between UCL programmes can be found in the Admissions, Registration and Student Conduct Regulations.

6.2 Core Principles

1. The recognition of RPL is entirely at the discretion of UCL.
2. Applicants are responsible for demonstrating to UCL that the prior learning evidences the required skills and knowledge, and that the learning is still current. UCL must be satisfied that, by successfully completing the remaining part of the programme, the applicant will have had the opportunity to fulfil the programme objectives and attain the standards required for the qualification.
3. If agreed, RPL becomes part of the agreement between UCL and the student.
4. study should be clearly defined when the offer of admission is made.
5. RPL should neither advantage nor disadvantage a student over other students on a programme.
6. RPL cannot be used as an extenuating circumstance for underachievement in subsequent assessments.

6.3 Initial Entry

1. RPL may be considered for initial entry to a UCL taught or research programme where a student does not meet the standard entry requirements as defined in Chapter 1: Admissions, Registration and Student Conduct Framework e.g. a student holds an international qualification that could be judged equivalent to the standard entry requirements, or a student has significant, evidenced industry experience that could be judged equivalent to the standard entry requirements.
- 2.
3. Applications for RPL for initial entry may be considered, at the discretion of UCL, where:
 - a) UCL is satisfied that the student is at least as well qualified as candidates who are able to satisfy the standard entrance requirements; and
 - b) UCL is satisfied that the candidate's general education, scholarship, training and experience are suitable for the programme which they wish to follow; and

- c) The applicant is able to provide (certified or experiential) evidence of their background and experience that satisfies UCL as to their fitness to follow the programme; and
 - d) The applicant satisfies UCL's English Language proficiency requirements.
- 4.

Postgraduate Diploma	Up to 60 credits
Integrated Masters	Up to 120 credits
Taught Masters	Up to 90 credits
Research Masters	Up to 90 credits

4. Applicants who have already completed a qualification may only use those credits to apply for advanced entry to a UCL programme where the original qualification is professional accreditation (e.g. Qualified Teacher Status).
5. Where the surrender of the previous qualification would result in forfeiture of professional accreditation students may be permitted to retain their previous qualification in addition to their UCL qualification, at the discretion of UCL. The UCL transcript must clearly demonstrate which credits have been awarded directly by UCL.
6. Credits for modules awarded through APL are included in the total number of credits for the qualification (and, where
7. Credits awarded via APL from any institution other than UCL will be excluded from the total from the

Postgraduate Certificate

Up to 20 credits

Postgraduate Diploma

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