



## **Senate**

**Subject: Credit values of Loughborough University awards**

**Origin: Learning and Teaching Committee, 6 November 2008**

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The attention of the Committee was drawn to the recently published 'Higher education credit framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in higher education in England'. All institutions were being encouraged to implement the credit arrangements set out in the document by the start of the academic year 2009/10, in pursuance of which, the Programme Quality Team had recommended the adoption of a table setting out the credit values of Loughborough University awards, which closely mirrored the national framework.

It would be the expectation, once the table was approved, that all programmes would be required to comply. Departments would be advised to adjust existing programme structures and regulations as necessary, for approval during the 2009 update process ready for 2009/10, or otherwise produce a rationale for consideration by CSC. LTC would look to CSC to take a robust approach in establishing criteria for allowing exemptions.

It was resolved to recommend to Senate that the table of credit values be approved.



## Learning and Teaching Committee

**Subject:** Credit values of Loughborough University awards  
**Origin:** Programme Quality Team

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Programme Quality Team at its meeting on 20 October 2008 considered a draft table setting out the credit values of Loughborough University awards which had been drawn up in the light of the final version of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England as recently published -

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/england/credit/default.asp>

The Credit Framework document included a table setting out the credit values typically associated with the design of programmes leading to the main HE qualifications in England. All institutions were encouraged to implement the credit arrangements as indicated by the table by the start of academic year 2009/10, and to include the credits associated with their programmes in the descriptions of each of the programmes which they offer.

The Loughborough table closely mirrored the national framework.

It was emphasised to PQ Team that the table set out the credit values designed into programme structures, not the credits that individual students must achieve for the completion of awards. Programme regulations governing modular options, however, should not allow students to navigate a route through a programme which did not include the study of the specified minimum credit at the level of the qualification.

It was now believed to be the case that the vast majority of MEng programmes would be able to comply with the proposals in terms of the number of credits at level 7. There might be difficulties for some joint Bachelor's degree programmes in meeting the requirement for 90 credits at level 6.

**It was resolved to recommend the proposed table of credit values to LTC.**

It would be the expectation, once the table was approved, that all programmes would be required to comply. Departments would be advised to adjust existing programme structures and regulations as necessary, for approval during the 2009 update process ready for 2009/10, or otherwise produce a rationale for approval by CSC.

Credit Values of Loughborough University Awards					
Higher education awards	FHEQ level	Total credit value <sup>1</sup>	Normal minimum credit at level of qualification	FQ-EHEA cycle	ECTS credit equivalence
Research Doctorate (PhD)	8	Not credit rated		Third cycle (end of cycle)	Not credit rated
Professional Doctorate (EngD)		Not credit rated <sup>2</sup>			
Master's Degree by research (MPhil)	7	Not credit rated		Second cycle (end of cycle)	Not credit rated
Master's Degree (MA, MSc, MBA, MDes, MRes)		180	150		90
Integrated Master's Degree with Honours (MEng, MChem, MComp, MMath, MPhys) <sup>3</sup>		480	120		60
Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)		120	90		
Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) <sup>4</sup>		60	45		
Bachelors Degree with Honours (BA, BSc, BEng)	6	360	90	First cycle (end of cycle)	180
Foundation Degree (FdA, FdSc, FdEng)	5	240	90	Short cycle (within the first cycle)	120
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)		240	90		120
Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE)	4	120	90		

#### Notes

1. Modules in the University-wide Language Programme (UWLP) are not assigned to the HE credit levels but are credit rated on the basis of notional workload and may contribute to the total credit value of awards.
2. The EngD incorporates a taught programme of study not exceeding the equivalent of one full-time calendar year which may lead to the award of an MSc at level 7; the taught element only is credit rated.
3. Integrated Master's Degrees incorporate study equivalent to at least one full-time academic year at level 7. Thus study at Bachelor's level is integrated with study at Master's level and the programmes are designed to meet the expectations of the descriptors of both first and second FQ-EHEA cycles.
4. The Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is at FHEQ level 7 and of 36 weeks' duration. It includes modules with a credit value of 60, plus two 'Practical Teaching' modules which are not credit rated.