

Integrated Masters Academic Framework

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Contents

- 1. Types of Award and Duration1
- 2. Module Structure.....2
- 3. Progression and Determination of Final Award Classification2
- 4. Assessment and Reassessment3
- 5. Following In-Year Reassessment.....4
- 6. Failure Following Reassessment5
- 7. Observed Structured Clinical/Practical Examinations5
- 8. Aegrotat6
- 9. Posthumous Awards7

1. Types of Award and Duration

1.1. The Integrated Masters course comprises four stages which align with the University College **Higher Education Qualification Credit Framework** (HEQCF) as follows:

- Stage 1 – Level 4 (CertHE)
- Stage 2 – Level 5 (DipHE)
- Stage 3 – Level 6 (Honours Degree)
- Stage 4 – Level 7 (Masters)

1.2. The credits and level for all University College awards are set out in the HEQCF.

1.3. The following awards are available:

1.3.1. Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) – comprising 120 credits at Level 4 or above. The duration of a CertHE is one year full-time (Exit award only);

1.3.2. Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) – comprising at least 225 credits at Level 4 or above, including a minimum of 105 credits at Level 5 or above (may include a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6). The duration of a DipHE is two years full-time (Exit award only);

1.3.3. Ordinary Degree (e.g. BA/BSc) – comprising a minimum of 300 credits including a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6. The duration of an Ordinary Degree is three years full-time (The Ordinary Degree is available as an exit award only);

1.3.4. Honours Degree (e.g. BA/BSc (Hons)) – comprising a minimum of 330 credits including a minimum of 90 credits at Level 6. A maximum of 120 credits at Level 4 are included. The duration of an Honours Degree is three years full-time;

1.3.5. Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) – comprising 60 credits at Level 7. The duration of a PGCert is one semester full-time (Exit award only);

1.3.6. Integrated Masters (MVetPhys/MSci) – comprising 480 credits including 120 credits at Level 7 (Stage 4). Students must also meet any course specific requirements relating to the final stage which are published in the course specification. The duration of an MVetPhys/MSci is four years full-time.

1.4. Permitted duration of study

1.4.1. The maximum period of student registration is specified in the **Higher Education Qualification Credit Framework**.

1.4.2. The maximum period of study is set from the date when the student was first admitted to the course.

1.4.3. Students who fail to complete the award in this time may be permitted to re-register with each case being considered on its merits. A re-registration fee may be charged. Where course structures have changed, so that modules previously achieved cannot automatically be carried forward, credits

previously attained may be considered for the accreditation of prior learning (APL).

2. Module Structure

- 2.1. The Integrated Masters is typically delivered over two semesters each academic year.
- 2.2. Typically, modules may be 15, 30 or 60 credits in size (the latter being appropriate for the dissertation or equivalent); and a module may be delivered within one semester or across two semesters as appropriate.
- 2.3. Modules may be **compulsory** (must be taken as part of the course); **core** (must be taken and passed) or **optional**. Some modules may require that the student has successfully completed a prerequisite module in advance. Prerequisite modules are indicated in the module and/or course specification documents.

3. Progression and Determination of Final Award Classification

- 3.1. The pass mark for modules at Stages 1, 2 and 3 is 40. The pass mark for modules at Stage 4 is 50. Credits are only awarded if the module is passed.
- 3.2. Each module mark, Stage Mark and Final Mark will be rounded to the nearest whole number, with half (0.5) marks or above being rounded up. All marks will be displayed to the nearest whole number.
- 3.3. The Stage Mark is the average of the corresponding stage module marks weighted according to the credit weighting of the modules.
- 3.4. The Final Mark is the weighted average of the Stage 2-4 Marks, weighted thus: 20% Stage 2, 30% Stage 3 and 50% Stage 4.

3.5. Requirements for progression (Stage 1-2 and Stage 2-3)

Students must:

- 3.5.1. Achieve 120 credits at each stage;
- 3.5.2. Pass at least 60 credits at the first attempt;
- 3.5.3. Achieve a Stage Mark of 50 at the first attempt;
- 3.5.4. Pass all core modules and meet any additional course or module specific requirements including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements.

3.6. Requirements for progression (Stage 3-4)

Students must:

- 3.6.1. Pass 120 credits at Stage 3 where at least 90 credits must be at Level 6;
- 3.6.2. Pass at least 60 credits at Stage 3 at the first attempt;
- 3.6.3. Achieve a Stage 3 Mark of 55 at the first attempt;

- 3.6.4. Pass all core modules and meet any additional course or module specific requirements including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements.

3.7. Determination of Final Award Classification

- 3.8. Integrated Masters (MVetPhys/MSci) are classified as Pass, Pass with Merit or Pass with Distinction. Requirements for each classification are detailed below.

3.9. Pass

Students must:

- 3.9.1. Achieve 480 credits including 120 at Level 7;
- 3.9.2. Pass all taught core modules including the dissertation and meet any additional course or module specific requirements including professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements;
- 3.9.3. Pass at least 60 taught module credits at Stage 4 at the first attempt.

3.10. Pass with Merit

Students must:

- 3.10.1. Satisfy all requirements to pass (see para 3.9);
- 3.10.2. Obtain 120 credits in Stage 4 at the first attempt;
- 3.10.3. Obtain 60 credits in Stage 4 with a module mark at 60 or above;
- 3.10.4. Achieve a Final Mark of 60 or more;
- 3.10.5. Have no module mark below 50 at Stage 4.

3.11. Pass with Distinction

Students must:

- 3.11.1. Satisfy all requirements to pass (see para 3.9);
- 3.11.2. Obtain 120 credits in Stage 4 at the first attempt;
- 3.11.3. Obtain 60 credits in Stage 4 with a module mark at 70 or above;
- 3.11.4. Achieve a Final Mark of 70 or more;
- 3.11.5. Have no module mark below 50 in Stage 4.

4. Assessment and Reassessment

- 4.1. No reassessment attempt is permitted prior to the Board of Examiners where marks are confirmed except for OSCEs (see para 7).
- 4.2. Where an assessment has been failed, whether that be 100% weighted single assessment or a percentage weighted element of assessment, the overall module mark following successful achievement of a pass mark for the reassessment attempt will be capped.

- 4.3. Where reassessment results in a lower mark than that achieved at the first attempt the Board of Examiners will reinstate the original mark.
- 4.4. If extenuating circumstances have been accepted for an assessment, the attempt is voided and full marks can be awarded, unless the extenuating circumstances apply to a reassessment attempt.

4.5. If a student does NOT meet the requirement to progress (Stages 1-2, 2-3 and 3-4):

- 4.5.1. Where a student has a Stage Mark of less than 50 (55 for Stage 3-4) at the first attempt and/or has failed more than 60 credits at the first attempt; they will not be permitted to proceed on the integrated masters course. However, such cases will be considered for a transfer to an honours degree. The normal rules for progression/award on a 3-year honours course will then apply; or
- 4.5.2. Where a student has a Stage Mark of at least 50 (55 for Stage 3-4) at the first attempt, but has failed a maximum of 60 credits, they must undertake the necessary reassessment prior to the next academic year in order to fulfil the requirement to progress. Marks will be capped at 40%; or
- 4.5.3. Where the Stage Mark is below 20, or where a student was absent from all examinations which were due to be sat in the most recent examination period - and there are no substantiated extenuating circumstances - the student must withdraw from the University College; or
- 4.5.4. Where a student is withdrawn, or chooses to withdraw, they may be entitled to an appropriate lesser exit award subject to the regulations for those exit awards. In such cases, the highest exit award available will be awarded. Please refer to the **Undergraduate Academic Framework** for information.

4.6. If a student does NOT meet the requirement to be awarded (Stage 4):

- 4.6.1. Students may have a second attempt for Stage 4 modules that have been failed up to a maximum of 60 credits; or
- 4.6.2. A student may be considered for an exit award (see para 4.5.4).

5. Following In-Year Reassessment

- 5.1. The Board of Examiners will determine whether the student has met the requirements to progress or be awarded.

5.2. If a student does NOT meet the requirement to progress (Stage 1-2, 2-3 and 3-4):

- 5.2.1. They must undertake a third and final attempt at the assessment the following year without attendance, with marks capped at 40; or
- 5.2.2. They must repeat the Stage of study part-time, with marks capped at 40; or
- 5.2.3. They may be considered for a transfer to an honours degree; or

5.2.4. Where the Stage Mark is below 20, or where a student was absent from all examinations which were due to be sat in the most recent examination period - and there are no substantiated extenuating circumstances - the student must withdraw from the University College; and/or

5.2.5. A student may be considered for an exit award (see para 4.5.4).

5.3. If a student does NOT meet the requirement to be awarded (Stage 4)

5.3.1. If a student fails a module on the second attempt, no further attempt is allowed unless there are substantiated extenuating circumstances.

5.3.2. Where a student is either unable to complete their studies at Level 7, or does not achieve the required credits to be awarded an integrated masters degree; the student will be considered for an undergraduate honours degree (BSc/BA (Hons) in accordance with the **Undergraduate Academic Framework**.

5.3.3. Students may also be considered for a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) which is unclassified as an exit award. The requirement to pass is detailed below.

5.3.4. Pass

5.3.4.1. Achieve 60 taught module credits in Stage 4 at Level 7;

5.3.4.2. Pass all taught core modules;

5.3.4.3. Pass 15 credits at the first attempt in Stage 4.

6. Failure Following Reassessment

6.1. If a student does NOT meet the requirements to progress (Stage 1-2, 2-3 and 3-4)

6.1.1. Students who fail following a third and final attempt at assessment will not be permitted to retake the module. A student may be considered for an exit award (see para 4.5.4).

7. Observed Structured Clinical/Practical Examinations

7.1. Observed Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) or Observed Structured Practical Examinations (OSPEs) are referred to as 'OSCEs' for convenience throughout this section.

7.2. OSCEs are not credit bearing, however, they are Core (see para 2.3) for some awards.

7.3. OSCEs are deemed as pass or fail.

7.4. A maximum of three attempts only are allowed at an OSCE.

7.5. Unlike academic based assessment (see para 4.1), OSCE reassessment does not require Board of Examiner approval.

- 7.6. If a student has failed an OSCE, their Course Scheme Manager will schedule a reassessment attempt at the next available opportunity, up to the maximum three attempts allowed.
- 7.7. An exit award may be available if, following failure of the third and final attempt at an OSCE, the student has met the requirements for a lesser award. The Course Specification details available exit awards.

8. Aegrotat

- 8.1. An Aegrotat award is an award without classification that may be conferred upon a student on the presumption that the student, who is unable to continue their studies, would have satisfied the standard required for the award had they been able to continue.
- 8.2. Such an award is contingent on there being sufficient evidence that had the study not been interrupted, the student would have completed the stage in question. In the absence of such evidence, the Aegrotat award will be the relevant exit award for the body of study completed.
- 8.3. The Awards Board may approve the award of an Aegrotat degree, based on the conditions set out (see para 8.2). Aegrotat awards are unclassified, but the word 'Aegrotat' is not included on the degree certificate. Before the Awards Board decision is confirmed, the student must confirm in writing that they are willing to accept the Aegrotat award.
- 8.4. Students pursuing courses that may lead to a professional registration who are subsequently awarded an Aegrotat degree, diploma or certificate may not be eligible for such a registration.
- 8.5. The request for the award of an Aegrotat award may be made by the student or, where a student is unable to prepare or submit a request, by the relevant Head of School/Department. All requests shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Awards Board prior to the board meeting.
- 8.6. The Awards Board must be satisfied that:
 - 8.6.1. the student is unlikely to be able to return to complete their study at a later date; and
 - 8.6.2. that the student's prior performance demonstrates that they would have passed but for the illness/event which occurred.
- 8.7. In reaching a conclusion to the points in para 8.6 above the Awards Board should have the opportunity to consider:
 - 8.7.1. details of the academic standing of the candidate;
 - 8.7.2. details on the causes which prevented the candidate from attempting the whole or part of the assessment(s);
 - 8.7.3. details of medical evidence or other appropriate documentation;
 - 8.7.4. evidence on the prospects of the candidate completing the assessment(s) in a subsequent year within the time-limit;

8.7.5. a signed statement from the candidate indicating that they are willing to accept an Aegrotat degree.

8.8. The Awards Board shall approve or not approve the award. The decision shall be conveyed to the candidate and confirmed to the appropriate Head of School/Department.

9. Posthumous Awards

9.1. A posthumous qualification may be awarded to a deceased student who has completed sufficient study for the award. An Award Board can approve the conferment of a posthumous postgraduate taught award where there is sufficient evidence of the student's performance to demonstrate that the candidate would have reached the standard required for the award in question.

9.2. A posthumous award shall normally be a named award, as appropriate, except in those cases where professional body requirements dictate otherwise.

9.3. A request for consideration for a posthumous award must be made by the student's Head of School/Department to the Award Board.

9.4. The Award Board has the authority to approve, or not approve, the award. If the Award Board approves the award, the student's family or next of kin must be allowed to decide whether they would like the award to be made.