Framework for Curricula

Purpose of Policy

This outline Framework for Curricula was developed to provide consistency in the delivery of the University's Curriculum Framework.

Overview

The Framework for Curricula articulates a set of outline rules to support the University's Curriculum Framework. The Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC) has responsibility for the academic regulatory framework, including this Framework. Any change or opt-out from this policy needs to be approved by APRC.

Scope: Mandatory Policy

This applies to all taught courses and degree programmes within the University and therefore has an impact on all taught students and on staff who deliver courses and programmes.

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Document control

Dates	Approved: June 2008	Starts: 2008/09	Equality impact assessment: 10.12.14	Amendments: 9.12.14 01.06.17	Next Review: 2023/24

Approving authority	Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC)
Consultation undertaken	There was widespread consultation undertaken during the Curriculum project.
Section responsible for policy maintenance & review	Academic Services
Related policies, procedures, guidelines & regulations	www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/curriculum/curriculum-framework
UK Quality Code	UK Quality Code: B1 Programme design, development and approval www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/quality-code-B1.pdf
Policies superseded by this policy	n/a
Alternative format	If you require this document in an alternative format please email Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk or telephone 0131 650 2138.
Keywords	Curriculum framework

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1. A normal year of study in any undergraduate degree must equate to exactly 120 credit points.

2. A normal year of study in any postgraduate masters degree must equate to exactly 180 credit points (or exactly 120 credit points each year for postgraduate masters degrees with 240 credit points).

3. The credit for a course must relate only to the academic year in which the course was taken.

4. All taught courses must be offered in units of 10, 20, 40 and 60 credits (and in units of 5 in the Centre for Open Learning only).

5. 'Umbrella' (120 credit) courses are not permitted.

6. There must be a direct link between every course and its assessment, with the credit weighting of each course determining its proportionate weighting in the final assessment for the year. For example, if a course has 40 credit points its assessment must make up 40/120 of the total assessment weighting for that year.

7. General and synoptic papers must be given a course code and assigned a credit weighting (10, 20 40 or 60 points) in the year's work equivalent to their share of the final assessment of the work for the year. This does not imply that there always has to be specific teaching associated with such courses. The implication can be that the work is undertaken and the learning outcomes are achieved during the programme as a whole.

8. The expectation is that courses are offered on a year or semester basis. Current semester dates are available here: www.ed.ac.uk/news/semester-dates.

9. Students are not permitted to take course combinations with conflicting formal class times.

10. Distinct course codes, with appropriate learning outcomes and assessments, are created for Visiting Students in cases where they are unable to take the normal full assessment for a course (for example for first semester attendance of a year-long course examined in the summer.)

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