



# Models for Degree Types

## Purpose of Policy

The Models for Degree Types policy was developed as part of the Framework for Curricula to provide consistency in the delivery of the University's Curriculum Framework and degree programmes.

## Overview

The Models for Degree Types articulates the requirements of the different types of degrees which form an agreed part of the University's Curriculum Framework. The Curriculum and Student Progression Committee has responsibility for the academic regulatory framework, including the Models for Degree Types policy. Where a new degree programme aligns with one of the models in this policy then it can be approved at College level. If it varies from the agreed model then the relevant College needs to propose a change or opt-out from this policy which must be considered and approved by CSPC before the new degree programme is finalised and delivered to students.

## Scope: Mandatory Policy

This applies to all taught 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

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Approved:</b> 30.6.06	<b>Starts:</b> 2006/07	<b>Equality impact assessment:</b> 10.12.14	<b>Amendments:</b> 29.4.10 01.06.17	<b>Next Review:</b> 2021/22
<b>Approving authority</b>	CSPC (previously the Academic Policy Committee and Senate)				
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	There was widespread consultation undertaken during the Curriculum project.				
<b>Section responsible for policy maintenance &amp; review</b>	Academic Services				
<b>Related policies, procedures, guidelines &amp; regulations</b>	<a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/curriculum/curriculum-framework">www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/curriculum/curriculum-framework</a> Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study and Degree Programme Tables, where the Schedules mentioned in the policy are listed: <a href="http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/">www.drps.ed.ac.uk/</a>				
<b>UK Quality Code</b>	UK Quality Code: B1 Programme design, development and approval <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/quality-code-B1.pdf">www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/quality-code-B1.pdf</a>				
<b>Policies superseded by this policy</b>	n/a				
<b>Alternative format</b>	If you require this document in an alternative format please email <a href="mailto:Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk">Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk</a> or telephone 0131 650 2138.				
<b>Keywords</b>	Curriculum framework, degree models, models for degrees				



# Models for Degree Types

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The following models for undergraduate and taught postgraduate degrees have been agreed.

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- A. Single Honours (480 points) in a named subject/discipline (e.g. 'Chemistry').
- B. Single Honours (480 points) with a subsidiary subject (e.g. -----)
- C. Combined Honours in two disciplines (480 points) (e.g. Sociology and Economics). The term 'combined' rather than 'joint' is used because it covers a wider range of possibilities.
- D. Group Honours (480 points), typically drawing on more than two disciplines.
- E. Non-Honours degrees (360 points), awarded at the end of the third year of full-time study.
- F. General (360 points) and Ordinary (360 points) degrees in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science, and the College of Science and Engineering.
- G. Intercalated Honours degrees (360 points) in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.
  - G1. Bachelor of Medical Sciences (Honours)
  - G2. BSc (Honours) Veterinary Science
- H. Integrated Masters (600 points)
  - H1. Integrated Masters with Honours in a discipline
  - H2. Integrated Masters with Honours in A with B (Integrated Masters Single Honours with a Subsidiary Subject)
  - H3. Integrated Masters with Combined Honours in two disciplines
  - H4. Fine Art (5 year programme, 600 points)
    - I. Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) (5-year programme: 720 points, 6-year programme: 900 points)
  - J. Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) (640 points)
- K. Taught Postgraduate Masters/Diploma/Certificate (180 points/240 points for Masters)

## Model templates

The following templates provide the rules on the basis of which individual curricula should be drawn up.

### A. Single Honours in a Discipline (Example Honours in A)

Year 1 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) normally level 8, sometimes level 7)

120 points at levels 7 or 8 consisting of:

- 40 points in A.
- Of the remaining 80 points, not more than 40 points may be a further prescribed subject or a required course from a list of subjects whether in or not in A.



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- There **must be** the opportunity for a student to take at least 40 points from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice.
- Students should be offered guidance regarding the potential consequences if they select a curriculum which does not offer them a choice of at least two alternative degree programmes at the end of their first year.

## Year 2 (SCQF normally level 8, sometimes level 7)

120 points at level 7 or 8 consisting of:

- a maximum of 40 points at level 7
- 40 points in a second-year course in A at level 8.
- There **should wherever possible be** the opportunity for a student to take at least 40 points at level 8 from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice.
- Students should be offered guidance regarding the potential consequences if they select a curriculum which does not offer them a choice of two alternative degree programmes at the end of their second year.

## Year 3 (SCQF normally at level 10, sometimes level 9)

120 points at levels 9 or 10 consisting of:

- At least 80 points in A.
- For the remaining 40 points there **should wherever possible be** the opportunity for appropriately qualified students to take at least 20 points at levels 9 or 10 from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice from a list of courses approved by Boards of Studies or with the approval of the Head of School.

## Year 4 (SCQF level 10, sometimes with an opportunity for courses at level 11)

120 points at a minimum of level 10 consisting of:

- At least 80 points in A at level 10/11, at least 40 of which must be in the form of dissertations or projects or other pieces of work (e.g. synoptic papers) that demonstrate that the student can show proficiency in research and/or analytical skills relevant to advanced work in the Discipline.
- For the remaining 40 points there should **wherever possible be** the opportunity for appropriately qualified students to take at least 20 points at levels 10 or 11 from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice from a list of courses approved by Boards of Studies or with the approval of the Head of School.

## **B. Single Honours (480 points) with a subsidiary subject (e.g. -----)**

The use of titles 'Honours/Integrated Masters in A WITH B' will be restricted to degrees which conform to the 'Single Honours' model with respect to A, require at least 80 points per year in A in years 3 and 4, and included the necessary content from B within the provision for outside subjects. In these circumstances it will be permitted to specify the firm requirements for B in all years. Such degrees will be known generically as 'Single Honours with a Subsidiary Subject'.



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## C. Combined Honours in a Discipline (Example Combined Honours in A and B)

Degree programmes conforming to the 'Combined' Models (which have a ratio of components in the later years skewed by no more than 80:40 between the disciplines) will most commonly be named as 'Honours/Integrated Masters in A AND B', though other titles e.g. Computational Linguistics, are permitted if they are more informative. However, the use of 'WITH' for such degrees is not permitted.

### Year 1 (SCQF normally level 8, sometimes level 7)

120 points at levels 7 or 8 consisting of:

- 40 points in A.
- 40 points in B.
- The remaining 40 points may either be from any course or courses in other Disciplines or Subject Groups, to be chosen by the student, or may be prescribed as being a further course or courses in one or either of A or B or as a prerequisite or co-requisite for one of both of them.

### Year 2 (SCQF level 8)

120 points at level 8 consisting of:

- 40 points in a second-year course in A.
- 40 points in a second-year course in B.
- The remaining 40 points may either be from any course or courses in other Disciplines or Subject Groups, to be chosen by the student, or may be prescribed as being a further course or courses in one or either of A or B or as a prerequisite for one of both of them.

### Year 3 (SCQF normally at level 10, sometimes level 9)

120 points at levels 9 or 10 consisting of:

- At least 40 points in A.
- At least 40 points in B.
- 20 points may be taken in either A or B or a combination of A and B; the remaining 20 points may be in either A or B or a combination of A and B, or in other disciplines or subject groups.

### Year 4 (SCQF level 10, sometimes with an opportunity for courses at level 11)

120 points at level 10/11 consisting of:

- At least 40 points in A.
- At least 40 points in B.
- The remaining 40 points may be in either A or B, or a combination of A and B, to be chosen by the student.
- Out of the 120 points at least 40 points in either A or B (or as an exercise combining A and B) must be in the form of dissertations or projects or other pieces of work that demonstrates that the student can demonstrate proficiency in research and/or analytical skills relevant to advanced work in the Discipline.



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## D. Group Honours

This type of degree typically draws on more than two disciplines and may have strongly specified curricula, especially in the early years. However the breadth of such curricula should also open up a range of alternative degree programmes. A full model for this type of degree will NOT be drawn up. Schools offering, or contemplating offering, such degrees are invited to submit their proposed Degree Programme Tables to the Colleges. The general guidance is that the structure of each year should remain as close as reasonably possible to the corresponding year of either Model A or B (single), or Model C (combined).

## E&F Non-Honours, General and Ordinary degrees

Students are required to have attained a minimum of 360 credit points. The level of credits required is defined in the appropriate Degree Programme Table.

## G. Intercalated Honours degrees

### G1. *Bachelor of Medical Sciences (Honours)*

Relevant courses are listed in Schedule T, together with their SCQF credit weighting. All courses are assigned a level according to a system set out by the SCQF which assigns levels 7-10 for Honours degrees. To qualify for the award of BSc (Honours) (Medical Science) students must have obtained **360 credit points** from passes or accreditation of prior learning. This will comprise 120 credit points in each of 3 years of study.

The first two years will comprise **Years 1 and 2** of the MBChB degree programme, University of Edinburgh, at **SCQF level 8/9**, or an equivalent medical degree programme. The third year will comprise **120 credit points at SCQF level 10**. This will involve a year of intercalated study linked to the normal work of Year 4 of a BSc (Honours) course or equivalent programme of study.

The grading of the Honours degree will be decided entirely on the basis of marks achieved during the intercalated third year. The intercalated year of study will normally be undertaken at the end of Year 2 of the MBChB programme.

### G2. *BSc (Honours) Veterinary Science*

Relevant courses are listed in Schedule S, together with their SCQF credit weighting. All courses are assigned a level according to a system set out by the SCQF which assigns levels 7-10 for Honours degrees. To qualify for the award of BSc (Honours) (Veterinary Science) students must have obtained **360 credit points** from passes or accreditation of prior learning. This will comprise 120 credit points in each of 3 years of study.

The first two years will comprise **Years 1 and 2** of the BVMS degree programme, University of Edinburgh, at **SCQF level 8**, or an equivalent veterinary degree programme. The third year will comprise **120 credit points at SCQF level 10**. This will involve a year of intercalated study linked to the normal work of Year 4 of a BSc (Honours) course or equivalent programme of study.



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The grading of the Honours degree will be decided entirely on the basis of marks achieved during the intercalated third year. The intercalated year of study will normally be undertaken at the end of Year 2 of the BVMS programme but may in some cases be deferred until after Year 3 or Year 4.

## H. Integrated Masters

### H1. *Integrated Masters with Honours in a discipline*

#### Year 1 (SCQF normally level 7, sometimes level 8)

120 points at levels 7 or 8 consisting of:

- 40 points in A.
- Of the remaining 80 points, not more than 40 points may be a further prescribed subject or a required course from a list of subjects whether in or not in A.
- There **must be** the opportunity for a student to take at least 40 points from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice.
- Students should be offered guidance regarding the potential consequences if they select a curriculum which does not offer them a choice of at least two alternative degree programmes at the end of their first year.

#### Year 2 (SCQF normally level 8, sometimes level 7)

120 points at level 7 or 8 consisting of:

- 40 points in A at level 8.
- A maximum of 40 points at level 7.
- There **should wherever possible be** the opportunity for a student to take at least 40 points at level 8 from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice.
- Students should be offered guidance regarding the potential consequences if they select a curriculum which does not offer them a choice of two alternative degree programmes at the end of their second year.

#### Year 3 (SCQF normally at level 9, sometimes level 10)

120 points at levels 9 or 10 consisting of:

- At least 80 points in A.
- For the remaining 40 points there **should wherever possible be** the opportunity for appropriately qualified students to take at least 20 points at levels 9 or 10 from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice from an approved list of courses or with the approval of the Head of School.

#### Years 4 & 5 (SCQF level 10/11)

240 points at levels 10/11 consisting of:

- At least 200 points in A of which at least 120 points must be at level 11 and at least 60 must be in the form of dissertations or projects or other pieces of work (e.g. synoptic papers) that demonstrate that the student can show proficiency in research and/or analytical skills relevant to advanced work in the Discipline.
- For the remaining 40 points there should **whenever possible be** the opportunity for appropriately qualified students to take at least 20 points at levels from other



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Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice from an approved list of courses or with the approval of the Head of School.

## **H2. *Integrated Masters with Honours in A with B (Integrated Masters Single Honours with a Subsidiary Subject)***

The use of titles 'Integrated Masters with Honours in A WITH B will be restricted to degrees which conform to the 'Integrated Masters with Honours' model with respect to A and include the necessary content from B within the provision for outside subjects. In these circumstances it will be permitted to specify the firm requirements for B in all years. Such degrees will be known generically as 'Integrated Masters Single Honours with a Subsidiary Subject'.

## **H3. *Integrated Masters with Combined Honours in two disciplines (example: Combined Honours in A and B).***

### Year 1

120 points at levels 7 or 8 consisting of:

- 40 points in A.
- 40 points in B.
- The remaining 40 points may include the opportunity to take a course or courses in other Disciplines or Subject Groups chosen by the student, and may include a further prescribed course or courses in (or required as a pre-requisite or co-requisite for ) A and/or B.

### Year 2

120 points at levels 7 or 8 consisting of:

- 40 points in A at level 8.
- 40 points in B at level 8.
- The remaining 40 points may include the opportunity to take a course or courses in other Disciplines or Subject Groups chosen by the student, and may include a further prescribed course or courses in (or required as a pre-requisite or co-requisite for) A and/or B.

### Year 3

120 points at levels 9 or 10 consisting of:

- 40 points in A.
- 40 points in B.
- The remaining 40 points may be in either A or B, *or a combination of A and B*, to be chosen by the student.

### Years 4 & 5

240 points at levels 10/11 consisting of:

- At least 200 points in A and/or B of which at least 120 points must be at level 11, at least 80 points in each of A and B, and at least 60 points (either in A or B or as an exercise combining A and B) in the form of dissertations or projects or other



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pieces of work (e.g. synoptic papers) that demonstrate that the student can show proficiency in research and/or analytical skills relevant to advanced work in the Discipline.

- For the remaining 40 points there should **wherever possible be** the opportunity for appropriately qualified students to take at least 20 points at levels from other Disciplines or Subject Groups of their choice from an approved list of courses or with the approval of the Head of School.

## **H4. Fine Art**

5 year programme, 600 points

### Year 1

120 points at level 7/8 (consisting of 80 points at level 8, and 40 points at level 7 or 8)

### Year 2

120 points at level 8 (consisting of 80 points at level 8 and 40 points at level 7 or 8)

### Year 3

120 points at level 10

### Year 4

120 points at level 10

### Year 5

120 points at level 10

See the appropriate Degree Programme Table for further information.

## **I. Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)**

720 points for the 5 year programme

Year 1 - level 8

Year 2 - level 9

Year 3 - level 10

Year 4 - level 10

Year 5 - level 11

900 points for the 6 year programme

Year 1 - level 8

Year 2 - level 9

Year 3 - level 10

Year 4 - level 10

Year 5 - level 10

Year 6 - level 11

See the appropriate Degree Programme Table for further information.





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## J. Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S)

640 points for the 5 year programme

Year 1 - level 8  
Year 2 - level 8  
Year 3 - level 9  
Year 4 - level 10  
Year 5 - level 11

See the appropriate Degree Programme Table for further information.

## K. Taught Postgraduate Masters Degrees (180 points)

180 points, of which a minimum of 150 are at SCQF level 11, consisting of:

- at least 90 points at level 11, for the taught component
- 60 points at level 11 for the research/dissertation element, that demonstrate that the student can show proficiency in research and/or analytical skills relevant to advanced work in the discipline.

## Taught Postgraduate Masters Degrees (240 points)

240 points, of which a minimum of 150 are at SCQF level 11, consisting of

- at least 90 points at level 11, for the taught component
- 60 points at level 11 for the research/dissertation element, that demonstrate that the student can show proficiency in research and/or analytical skills relevant to advanced work in the discipline.

See the appropriate Degree Programme Table for further information.

1 June 2017