



**The University of Sussex
Academic Framework
2024/25**

The University of Sussex Academic Framework 2024/25

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Academic Framework establishes the criteria and rules for courses leading to awards of the University of Sussex. It sets out the basic criteria for awards by establishing the design parameters necessary to assure the quality and academic standing of those courses in accordance with the Framework for Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions in England, Northern Ireland and Wales (FHEQ) – 2nd edition (2024), Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) (Ofqual 2015), the Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in higher education in England (revised 2021), and the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area (revised 2018).
- 1.2 Course-specific regulations may, following approval granted through the University's curriculum development processes, set additional requirements for the award of named degrees, diplomas and certificates and for which the requirements may be more stringent than those set out in this document, for example to meet the requirements of a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB).

2. Credit

- 2.1 The unit of measurement of time and workload for modules and courses is a credit. Credit is determined by calculating the required learning hours on the basis of 1 credit for 10 hours of learning. The credit volume reflects all student effort including taught provision, independent or guided study, and revision.
- 2.2 Credit is awarded to a learner in recognition of the verified achievement of designated learning outcomes at a specified level for a complete module. Credit is a quantified means of expressing equivalence of learning and enables comparing learning achieved in a variety of different contexts. The credit volume reflects the notional student effort required to complete a module successfully.
- 2.2 Taught awards of the University comprise a sequence of credit rated modules to the values specified in Appendix 1.

3. Qualification Descriptors

- 3.1 The [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) contains qualification descriptors that demonstrate the generic outcomes and attributes of the main type of qualification at each level. They make clear how the qualification differs from other qualifications, both at that level and at other levels. They are generic because they cover the full range of disciplines rather than a specific subject. QAA subject benchmark statements fulfil this purpose.
- 3.2 Qualification descriptors are in two parts. The first part is a statement of outcomes, achievement of which is assessed and which a student should be able to demonstrate for the award of the qualification. This is a statement of the national threshold academic standard for the qualification. These are relevant to degree-awarding bodies in designing, approving assessing and reviewing academic courses. They need to be satisfied that, for any course, the learning opportunities and assessment provides every student with the opportunity to achieve, and to demonstrate achievement of, the intended course learning outcomes.

3.3 The second part of the descriptor is a statement of the wider abilities that a typical student would be expected to have developed and supports conversations with employers and other stakeholders about those capabilities.

4. Modules

4.1 All University of Sussex undergraduate and postgraduate modules between FHEQ Levels 3 and 7 shall be weighted as 15 credits or multiples thereof. Exceptions to this rule are limited to external provision validated by the University and delivered by affiliated partners of the University.

4.2 All credit-bearing modules are credit rated according to level and volume:

- Level 3 (foundation year/stage 0)
- Level 4 (undergraduate stage 1/certificate level)
- Level 5 (undergraduate stage 2/diploma level)
- Level 6 (undergraduate stage 3/honours degree level)
- Level 7 (master's degree level)

4.3 The University has 3 types of module. The designations are course-specific and will be set out in relevant published course documents (as exceptionally a core module on one course may be offered as an option on another). The following designations are possible:

Module type	Description
Core	<p>A module that all students must study as part of their course. Normally these modules are owned and delivered within a single School. Exceptionally, core modules may be explicitly approved by UEC for cross-school delivery¹ in single honours courses where there is a compelling pedagogical rationale. For joint honours courses where each component is provided by a different School, cross-school delivery of core modules will be permitted.</p> <p>All core modules shall be weighted as 15 credits or multiples thereof.</p>
Option	<p>A module that forms part of a group of options owned and delivered within a School. Exceptionally option modules may be explicitly approved by UEC for cross-school delivery in single honours courses where there is a compelling pedagogical rationale. For joint honours courses where each component is provided by a different School, cross-school delivery of option modules will be permitted.</p> <p>All option modules shall be weighted as 15 credits or multiples thereof.</p>
Elective (UG only)	<p>A module timetabled into the University Elective Timetable for Single Honours undergraduate courses. Electives are designed to enable students to broaden their learning beyond the core subjects of Single Honours. An elective may be positioned at either RQF/FHEQ level 3, 4, 5 or 6 in the</p>

¹ Cross-school delivery of core or optional modules requires exceptional approval owing to the additional burden upon the timetable created by allowing students from several Schools to be taught within the constraints of a single module.

	<p>University's Academic Framework. All electives shall be weighted as 15 credits.</p> <p>Electives may exist as an individual module or as part of a 60 or 90-credit Minor Pathway. Electives are not available to students on Joint Honours courses as there is insufficient capacity within the syllabus if two major subject areas are to be adequately accommodated.</p> <p>Electives may be offered in each teaching semester, depending upon demand. Electives must be approved by University Education Committee and timetabled to be delivered within the University's Elective Timetable. Level 3 electives are only available to students taking language pathways, in order to enable study at the <i>beginner</i> or <i>ab initio</i> level.² Students may be offered a choice between an approved option and an elective.</p>
--	--

- 4.4 Modules may have:
- Pre-requisites: a pre-requisite module must be passed, or studied, before the study of the module which requires it can be commenced
 - Co-requisites: two or more modules that must be studied in parallel.

4.5 Students may be allowed to register for modules to be assessed for credit without being registered for an award.

5. Degree structures

5.1 University of Sussex taught degrees, diplomas and certificates are designed in accordance with the credit values and rules stated in [Appendix 1](#).

5.2 The University's standard academic year is made up of two semesters.

5.3 PhDs, Integrated PhDs (iPhD) and DPhils and MPhils are not typically credit rated under the FHEQ. However, iPhDs and Professional Doctorates, usually include taught modules that are assigned credit.

6 Credits and Module Status in Undergraduate Courses

6.1 All undergraduate courses leading to an award of the University are credit bearing.

6.2 Undergraduate courses are normally delivered in full-time mode and any changes must be formally approved by the Chair of the University Education Committee (UEC).

6.3 To qualify for a University of Sussex undergraduate honours award or an integrated master's award, at least two stages of study must have been completed at the University, or on a course validated by the University.

6.4 All undergraduate courses offered by the University are made up of modules which are described in terms of their extent, learning outcomes and assessment. Each module must

² Exceptionally, students taking language electives or pathways may also take credits at the higher level where this is considered appropriate by academic staff in the Department of Languages.

have defined learning outcomes at levels 3 to 7 which align to stages of study. Where a module is offered at more than one credit level it must be separately presented and must have clearly differentiated assessment and learning outcomes.

Credit Values

- 6.5 Credits are module specific and awarded upon completion of the module. All modules contributing to an award must be credit-bearing. Undergraduate courses comprise 120 credits per academic year for students studying full-time ([see Appendix 1](#)). For full-time undergraduate courses the usual pattern of delivery will be 60 credits in the Autumn Semester and 60 credits in the Spring Semester.
- 6.6 The undergraduate final year project is expected to comprise at least 30 credits at Level 6.
- 6.7 Modules may be delivered within a single semester or across two semesters. If the primary assessment is not a project, a dissertation, or other research-based assessment, then there must be a strong pedagogic rationale for extended teaching and learning for the module topic. Requests for year-long non-research modules must be formally approved by the Chair of the School Education Committee. The School Education Committee is responsible for ensuring learning opportunities, feedback, assessment, and other workload is spread across both semesters. Where a module is delivered across two semesters, the minimum credit volume will be 30 credits. Modules weighted at 15 credits will not be delivered across two semesters as this leads to increased incompatibility with other courses and can lead to inefficient delivery models.

Modules at Lower and Higher Levels

- 6.8 Students may take up to 30 credits at the lower level as indicated by the credit requirements for the award above through requesting a Variation of Study. This is not permitted for students in the final stage of an Integrated Master's degree where all 120 credits must be at Level 7. On undergraduate language courses, students may exceptionally take 30 credits at FHEQ Level 3 during Stage 1 of their studies, to enable entry to study of a language at the *beginner/ab initio* level.
- 6.9 Students are not permitted to take any credits at the higher level in any stage in an undergraduate course, with two exceptions:
- 6.9.1 Students opting to study language electives or pathways may take up to 30 credits of language modules at the higher level if they are primarily studying at Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5, subject to verification by academic staff in the Sussex Centre for Language Studies (SCLS). Students taking language electives at the higher level are not permitted to simultaneously take language credits at the lower level.
- 6.9.2 Foundation Year students may study the following Level 4 modules:
- Developing Role Models: Mentoring (X4911E)
 - Leading Social Change: Communication & Activism (Q3912E)
 - Leading Social Change: Taking Action (Q3913E)

Modules Available to Multiple Cohorts

- 6.10 Individual undergraduate modules may contribute to more than one course, but the credit volume and level of the module shall be the same for all courses.

6.11 Exceptionally, two modules offered at different FHEQ levels may be co-taught. Where this occurs the shared teaching element must be at the lower level with an equivalent proportion of teaching delivered independently to the student studying at the higher level. In addition, both modules must have differentiated titles, learning outcomes and assessments. Exceptionally, alternative arrangements may be approved by the University Education Committee. Co-teaching of modules will normally not be approved following assessment of the impact upon timetabling (see [360 Timetable Review](#)), and also following consideration of likelihood that this will create a disincentive for undergraduate students to progress on to a master's course.

Pathways

6.12 A Pathway is an approved, academically coherent combination of modules, which students study across either the first two years of their degree (60 credit pathway) or across all three years (90 credit pathway). Pathways enable students to study a second subject outside of their main discipline in a structured manner.

Pathway type	Description
<p>60-credit Pathway</p>	<p>A 60-credit pathway consists of a cohesive course of study across 4 elective modules x 15 credits that provides academic progression between Levels 4 and 5, with at least 30 credits achieved at Level 5. Optionality within 60-credit pathways will not normally be permitted.</p> <p>The aim of the 60-credit Pathway is to provide students on single honours courses with an opportunity to broaden their learning beyond the main focus of their course. The Pathway shall consist of sufficient academic credit to warrant specific recognition on the degree certificate but does not constitute an entry pathway. These pathways shall be made available to students taking Single Honours degrees that opt into the Elective Scheme and shall be delivered within the University's Elective Timetable.</p> <p>60-credit Pathways can be designated as either Type 1 or Type 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type 1: a 60-credit pathway which is open to all students. • Type 2: a 60-credit pathway with approved pre-requisites and/or exclusions as determined by the host School. This type is employed where the School is targeting a particular cohort by course of study. <p>Elective modules that comprise a pathway must be delivered at the appropriate level of study. For example, Stage 1 modules must be at Level 4.</p> <p>Whilst the award certificate will record the achievement of a pathway, the subject of the pathway will not appear in the degree title. The pathway will be recognised on the degree certificate outside of the degree title in the form '<Major element> [with <pathway name> Studies]'. Alternatively, another form of words may be used where the University considers this to be more appropriate. The School will obtain approval for the pathway exit title from the University's Portfolio Approval Committee.</p>

<p>60-credit Language Pathways</p>	<p>As for other 60-credit pathways, with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 students may study modules at FHEQ Level 3, in order to obtain teaching at the <i>Beginners (ab initio)</i> level. • The pathway may include modules taken during a Foundation Year (NOTE: these modules will contribute to the achievement of the pathway title but the credit achieved for them will not count towards the credit requirement of the bachelor's award). • Language elective modules forming part of a pathway may be delivered in Stage 3 where this complements a particular pattern of delivery, for example where a student is away from campus during a placement period or to enable entry to study a language at the <i>beginners</i> level. • The pathway may be constituted entirely of modules at level 4 (but with appropriate progression between levels as defined in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)). <p>In relation to languages the award certificate shall be recorded as "Degree title with proficiency in 'language' (intermediate)" where the language has been taken at FHEQ Levels 3 and 4 and "Degree title with proficiency in 'language' (advanced)" where the language has been taken at Level 4 or higher. The School will obtain approval for the pathway exit title from the University's Portfolio Approval Committee (PAC).</p>
<p>90-credit Pathway</p>	<p>A 90-credit Pathway consists of a cohesive course of study that provides academic progression with 30 credits achieved at each of FHEQ Levels 4, 5 and 6. Optionality within 90-credit pathways will not usually be permitted.</p> <p>The aim of the 90-credit Pathway is to provide students on single honours courses with an opportunity to broaden their learning beyond the main focus of their course. The 90-credit Pathway shall consist of sufficient academic credit to warrant specific recognition on the degree certificate as a minor component of a major/minor award, following the titling convention for that type of degree award. The title of the award will be approved in all instances by the Portfolio Approval Committee.</p> <p>All major/minor degrees at the University will utilise a 90-credit Pathway for their minor component.</p> <p>These pathways shall be made available to students taking Single Honours degrees that opt into the Elective Scheme and shall be delivered within the University's Elective Timetable for the first two Stages. For students not entering the University on a specified major/minor award title, progression into Stage 3 of the pathway will be dependent on there being sufficient capacity within the relevant stage of their course. Students will be required to obtain explicit approval for this variation of study.</p> <p>The School will obtain approval for the new major/minor award titles which utilise 90-credit pathways from the Portfolio Approval Committee, thereby ensuring the academic coherence of the proposed award.</p>

<p>90-credit Language Pathway</p>	<p>As for other 90 credit pathways, with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 students may study modules at FHEQ level 3, in order to obtain teaching at the <i>Beginners (ab initio) level</i>. • The pathway may include modules taken during a Foundation Year (NOTE: these modules will contribute to the achievement of the pathway title, but the credit achieved for them will not count towards the credit requirement of the bachelor's award). <p>These pathways shall be made available to students taking Single Honours degrees that opt into the Elective Scheme and shall be delivered within the University's Elective Timetable for the first two Stages. For students not entering the University on a specified major/minor award title, progression into Stage 3 of the pathway will be dependent on there being sufficient capacity within the relevant stage of their course. Students will be required to submit a request for Variation of Study.</p> <p>The School will obtain approval for new major/minor award titles from the Portfolio Approval Committee, thereby ensuring the academic coherence of the proposed award.</p> <p>Taking a 90-credit language pathway will result in a major/minor award with a suffix referencing the level of language competency attained, as defined in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This award will therefore take the form of <major component> with <language minor> [CEFR xx].</p>
--	---

7 Credit and Module Status in Taught Postgraduate Courses

- 7.1 Credits are module specific and are available upon completion of the module. All modules contributing to an award must be credit-bearing.
- 7.2 Postgraduate taught courses may be delivered in full-time or part-time mode, subject to formal approval at validation.
- 7.3 For full-time postgraduate taught courses comprising 180 credits the usual pattern of delivery will be 60 credits in the Autumn Semester, 60 credits in the Spring Semester, and 60 credits in the Summer Semester. Exceptions to this may be explicitly approved by the Portfolio Approval Committee, subject to the delivery of a maximum of 75 credits in any term.
- 7.4 Modules may be delivered within a single semester or across to semesters, where the primary assessment is a project, a dissertation, or other research-based assessment, or where there is a strong pedagogic rationale for extended teaching and learning for the module topic. Requests for year-long non-research modules must be formally approved by the Chair of the School Education Committee. The School Education Committee is responsible for ensuring learning opportunities, feedback, assessment, and other workload is spread across both semesters. Where a module is delivered across two semesters the minimum credit volume will be 30 credits. Modules weighted at 15 credits will not be delivered across two semesters as this leads to increased incompatibility with other courses and can lead to inefficient delivery models.

- 7.5 Taught postgraduate courses will normally have at least 60 credits of core modules that are aligned to the award title.
- 7.6 Individual postgraduate level modules may contribute to more than one course, but the credit volume and level of the module shall be the same for all courses. Cross-school delivery of modules is permitted for postgraduate courses.
- 7.7 Exceptionally, two modules offered at different FHEQ levels may be co-taught. Where this occurs the shared teaching element, must be at the lower level with an equivalent proportion of teaching delivered independently to the student studying at the higher level. In addition, both modules must have differentiated titles, learning outcomes and assessments. Exceptionally, alternative arrangements may be approved by the University Education Committee.
- 7.8 Postgraduate level modules will either be classified as core or option. Elective modules are not offered at the postgraduate level as there is insufficient capacity within postgraduate award to accommodate broader choice without compromising academic integrity of the award.

8. Periods of Registration

- 8.1 Once a student has registered on an award, they are required to complete the award within the maximum period of registration. The maximum period of registration refers to the period of time a student is permitted to complete the course and is calculated from the date of first registration to the date of the student's final award and is inclusive of any periods of repeat study, temporary withdrawal or intermission. It is applicable to both full and part-time modes of study.
- 8.2 The maximum period of registration for a taught award is normally calculated according to the following:
- Undergraduate courses: the minimum period plus 3 years
 - Full-time postgraduate courses: the minimum period plus 1 year
 - Part-time postgraduate courses: the minimum period plus 2 years
 - Online postgraduate courses: the minimum period plus 2 years
 - Online PgDip courses: the minimum period plus 1 year (resulting in a maximum of 2 years and 4 months)
 - Online PgCert courses: the minimum period plus 1 year (resulting in a maximum of 1 year and 8 months)
 - Online UG bachelors courses: the minimum period of registration plus 3 years (resulting in a maximum period of 8 years)
- 8.3 The minimum and maximum period of registration for all taught and research degree awards is set out in Appendix 1.
- 8.4 The minimum and maximum periods of registration may be increased by one academic year where the degree includes a study abroad or placement year.
- 8.5 For all modes of attendance, any time spent on temporary withdrawal (TWD) does not increase the overall period of registration.

Awards Granted by the University of Sussex

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	8	N/A	N/A	2yrs FT 4yrs PT	4 yrs FT 8 yrs PT	<p>This is a research degree, the completion of which requires the submission of a thesis (length determined by the School) and an oral examination (the <i>viva voce</i> or 'viva').</p> <p>Research degrees are available in both a full-time and part-time basis, unless otherwise stated on the admissions pages of the University website. Part-time registration is considered to be 50% of a full-time registration</p>
Doctor of Philosophy by Published Works (PhD by Published Works)	8	N/A	N/A	1yr PT	1yr PT	This award requires the submission of a portfolio of published works and an oral examination (the <i>viva voce</i> or 'viva').
Integrated Doctor of Philosophy (iPhD)	8	N/A	360	3yrs FT 6yrs PT	5yrs FT 10 yrs PT	<p>This award is a research degree which also involves undertaking Masters-level modules in preparation for the research phase of the degree. Assessment is by taught modules in the first/second year and then by submission of a thesis, (length determined by the School) and an oral examination (the <i>viva voce</i> or 'viva').</p> <p>This is separate from the 1+3 route.</p>

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
Professional Doctorates: Doctorate in Education (EdD) Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) Doctorate in Medicine (MD)	8	540 ³	360	4yrs PT	TBC	This award is a research degree which also contains a substantial taught element. Assessment is by taught modules in the first year and then by submission of a thesis, (length determined by the School) and an oral examination (the viva voce or viva).
Professional Doctorate by Published Works: Doctorate in Medicine (MD by Published Works)	8	N/A	N/A	1yr FT	TBC	This award requires the submission of a portfolio of published works and an oral examination (the viva voce or viva).
Master of Philosophy (MPhil)	7	N/A	N/A	1yr FT 2 yrs PT	3 yrs FT 6 yrs PT	This is a research degree, the completion of which requires the submission of a thesis (word length determined by the School) and an oral examination (the <i>viva voce</i> or 'viva').
Master of Laws by Research (LLM by Research)	7	180	180	1yr FT	TBC	Typically delivered over a single academic year (12-month period), comprising a supervised research dissertation. Taught modules will not form part of the award.
Master's Degree: Master of Arts (MA) Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Education (MEd) Master of Laws (LLM) Master of Science (MSc)	7	180	150	1yr FT 2yrs PT 2yrs ODL	2yrs FT 4yrs PT 4yrs ODL	Typically delivered over a single academic year (12-month period) for FT, or over two academic years (24-month period) for PT/online provision and incorporating a research dissertation which is normally weighted at 60 credits.

³ Source: QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement, September 2015

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
Master of Research (MRes)	7	180	150	1yr FT 2yrs PT	2yrs FT 4yrs PT	Typically delivered over a single academic year (12-month period) and incorporating a research dissertation, normally weighted at 90 credits.
Master of Fine Art (MFA)	7	240	240	2yrs FT 3yrs PT	3yrs FT 5yrs PT	This award is delivered by West Dean College of Arts and Conservation. Students who do not meet the requirements for the MFA will receive an MA as an exit award.
European Master's Degree (MSc Euromasters)	7	240	210	1yr FT	2yrs FT	Typically delivered over two years (24 months) and normally incorporating a research dissertation ≥60 credits.
Intercalated Master's Degree (MSc)	7	180	150	1yr FT	2yrs FT	Typically delivered over a single academic year (12-month period) and incorporating a research dissertation, normally weighted at 60 credits. This award is typically taken by medical students who intercalate the course into their primary degree studies in order to develop specialist knowledge in a related discipline.
Double Master's Degree (LLM, MA, MBA, MEd, MSc)	7	180	150	1yr FT	2yrs FT	See Appendix 1 for details
Dual Master's Degree (LLM, MA, MBA, MEd, MSc)	7	300	240	2yrs FT	3yrs FT	See Appendix 1 for details
Joint Master's Degree (LLM, MA, MBA, MEd, MSc)	7	180	150	1yr FT	2yrs FT	See Appendix 1 for details
MA Physician Associate Studies (MA)	7	270	270	2yrs FT	3yrs FT	This is an award comprising classroom-based learning, combined with significant time spent in Clinical placement over a two-year period of full-time study.
Postgraduate Clinical Diploma (PGClinDip)	7	240	240	2yrs FT		

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)	7	120	90	1yr FT 2yrs PT 1yr ODL	2yrs FT 3yrs PT 2yrs & 4 months ODL	These awards may be approved as stand-alone awards or as exit awards embedded within a Master's degree course. The name of the award (entry or exit) shall be specified in course documentation in the format 'Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Subject X'.
Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)	7	60	45	1yr FT 2yrs PT 1yr ODL	2yrs FT 3yrs PT 1yr & 8 months ODL	
Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with QTS	7	120	90	9 months FT 2yrs PT		This is a postgraduate teaching training programme, comprising classroom-based learning and time spent in placement that leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)
Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) without QTS	7	90	45	9 months FT 2yrs PT		This is a postgraduate teaching training programme, comprising classroom-based learning and time spent in placement.
Integrated Master's Degree: Master of Arts (MArts) Master of Chemistry (MChem) Master of Computing (MComp) Master of Engineering (MEng) Master of Mathematics (MMath) Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) Master of Physics (MPhys) Master of Science (MSci)	7	480	120	4yrs FT	7yrs FT	A 4-stage degree course normally incorporating an embedded exit route at Honours Level 6. Students typically decide during stage 2 whether to continue on the 4-stage pathway or to transfer to the 3-stage Honours route, subject to minimum levels of academic achievement. Students failing to achieve the progression threshold at the end of stage 3 on the 4-stage route may be eligible to exit with the Honours award. So as to meet the minimum 120 credits at the level of the award requirement, stage 4 will consist solely of level 7 credit.
Bachelor's Degree with Honours (Hons)	6	360	90	3yrs FT 5yrs ODL	6yrs FT 8yrs ODL	This is a degree comprising a main area of study from a single School. It may include modules from outside the

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Bachelor of Music (BMus) Bachelor of Science (BSc) Bachelor of Laws (LLB)				6yrs PT ⁴	9yrs PT	'major' area of study, but shall incorporate at least 240 out of 360 credits from the major area. At least 90 credits shall be at Level 6.
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BM BS)	7	780	180	5yrs FT	7yrs FT ⁵	This is a 5-stage degree course leading to a Level 7 award. For historical reasons the BMBS is designated as a Bachelor's degree. At least 180 credits shall be at Level 7.
Intercalated Bachelor's Degree	6	120	90	1yr FT	TBC	Typically delivered over a single academic year (12-month period) and incorporating a research dissertation. This award is typically taken by medical students who intercalate the course into their primary degree studies in order to develop specialist knowledge in a related discipline.
Bachelor of Medical Sciences with Honours (Hons) (BMedSci)	6	300	60	3yrs FT	TBC	This award is offered only as an exit route for students not progressing to years 4 and 5 of the BMBS.
Bachelor's Degree with Honours (Hons) (BA, BEng, BMus, BSc, LLB) Single Honours with named pathway	6	360	90	3yrs FT	6yrs FT	This is a degree comprising a main area of study from a single School and a secondary area of study known as a 'pathway', consisting of elective modules. The degree may include modules from outside the major area of study through the pathway, but shall incorporate at least 240 out of 360 credits from the major area. At least 90 credits shall be at Level 6. The pathway shall

⁴ This relates to the PT UG degree offered by West Dean only

⁵ The maximum period of registration for this course is 7 years on a full-time basis or 8 years if a student intercalates an additional year of study in a discipline related to their medical studies.

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						<p>incorporate at least 60 credits (with 30 credits at level 5).</p> <p>The pathway does not constitute a named entry route as it is designed to facilitate student choice after entry. Where students successfully complete a 60-credit pathway alongside their single honours, the subject of the pathway will not appear in the degree title. Instead, the pathway will usually be recognised on the degree certificate outside of the degree title, using the format '<Main area of study> (with <pathway name> Studies)'. Students progressing from a foundation year may incorporate two pathways into their degree. The pathways will be recognised on the degree certificate outside the degree title, using the format '<Main area of study> (with <pathway name> Studies and <pathway name> Studies)'.</p>
Bachelor's Degree with Honours (Hons) (BA, BEng, BMus, BSc, LLB) Major (with Minor)	6	360	60 (major) 30 (minor)	3yrs FT	6yrs FT	This is a degree comprising two main areas of study. The major component shall consist of 270 credits with a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6. The minor component shall consist of a coherent element of study to the value of 90 credits of which 30 shall be at level 6. The minor element shall be formed by the completion of a 90-credit pathway, typically consisting of elective modules in the first two stages. The minor element of study warrants specific recognition on the degree certificate and constitutes a named entry route for applicants. The two elements of study will be linked

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						by the word 'with' in the degree title, using the format '<Major area of study> with <Minor area of study>'. The project element of a major/minor award will normally relate to both parts of the degree, in order to realise an enhanced level of interdisciplinarity.
Fast-track or Accelerated Bachelor's Degree with Honours (Hons)	6	360	90	2yrs FT	5yrs FT	Each year consists of 180 credits, otherwise these degrees follow the framework of the standard delivery.
Bachelor's Degree with Honours (BA, BEng, BMus, BSc, LLB (Hons)) Joint Major	6	360	90 (of which a minimum of 30 credits shall be in each major)	3yrs FT	6yrs FT	This is a degree comprising two major areas of study, each of which shall consist of 180 credits. At least 90 credits shall be at Level 6, to include a minimum of 30 credits in each major area of study. Each major element of study warrants specific recognition on the degree certificate and constitutes a named entry route for applicants. The two elements of study will be linked by the word 'and' in the degree title using the format '<Major area of study> and <Major area of study>'. BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics is a degree comprising three subject areas. It includes 360 credits with at least 60 credits in each discipline overall. There shall be 120 credits in the final stage, including 90 credits at Level 6, which will include 30 credits at Level 6 in two of the three subjects.
Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honours in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) (BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics)	6	360	90 (of which a minimum of 30 credits will be in two of the three subject areas)	3yrs FT	6yrs FT	
Graduate Diploma	6	120	120	1yr FT	4yrs FT	A professional 'conversion' course, based largely on undergraduate material, and taken usually by those who are already graduates in another discipline.
Graduate Certificate	6	60	60	1yr PT	2yrs FT	

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
Graduate Entry LLB with Honours (LLB (Hons))	6	240	90	2yrs FT	4yrs FT	A law conversion course designed for graduates already in possession of an undergraduate degree in a non-law discipline.
Undergraduate award with integrated placement year	(5)	(120)	(120)	1yr FT	N/A	<p>An integrated placement year is incorporated into some of the University's 3 and 4-stage undergraduate courses, including some Integrated Master's Degree awards. This will be an additional year of study equivalent to 120 credits leading to a course duration of 4/5 stages respectively. The placement year will usually take place between the second stage and the final stage of a course. The following types of integrated placement years are permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional practice placements which require students to undertake an integrated Placement Year for a recognised and accredited qualification. Research placements which require students to undertake an integrated placement year. Specialist industrial placements which require students to undertake an integrated Placement Year in an explicitly discipline-relevant context. <p>The University guarantees access to an integrated placement to students on the above courses.</p> <p>Students cannot normally undertake more than one of an integrated placement year, a study abroad year and a Year in a Specialist Subject.</p> <p>When taken and passed the integrated placement year shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format <Degree title> (with a professional/with an</p>

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						industrial placement year) or <Degree title> (research placement).
Undergraduate Award with a Venture Creation Year (voluntary/integrated)	5	(120)	(120)	1 yr FT	N/A	The Venture Creation Year (VCY) is an alternative to a professional placement year, designed to enable students to explore self-employment and business start-up options. The VCY provides students with the opportunity to become an entrepreneur and over the course of the year set up and run their own start-up. Students take the VCY between their 2 nd and final year of an undergraduate degree and comprises 48 weeks, with a minimum of 960 hours invested (20 hours per week equivalent). This will be an additional year of study equivalent to 120 credits leading to a course duration of 4/5 stages respectively. Selection is competitive and by application. Acceptance to the VCY will be subject to submission of a suitable proposition followed by a panel interview. When taken and passed the voluntary/integrated venture creation year shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format <Degree title> (with a Venture Creation Year).
Integrated Masters with Summer Research Placements: Master of Chemistry (MChem) Master of Engineering (MEng) Master of Mathematics (MMath) Master of Physics (MPhys) Master of Science (MSci)	7	480	120	4yrs FT	7yrs FT	This award provides an opportunity for students to augment their studies by undertaking paid placements in research groups during the summer vacation period between each year of study. Students cannot normally also combine this type of degree with an industrial/professional placement year, as these tend to last 12 months and conflict with summer research placements but may be able to

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						<p>undertake a voluntary placement year or a Study Abroad Year.</p> <p>When taken and passed the summer placements shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format MChem Chemistry with Summer Research Placements.</p>
Integrated Master's with Industrial Placement Year: Master of Chemistry (MChem)	7	480	120	4yrs FT	7yrs FT	<p>A 4-stage degree incorporating an integrated placement year in year 3 of the 4-year course. The placement year comprises a Chemistry Industrial project (90 credits at level 6) with students taking a further 30 taught credits at level 6.</p> <p>So as to meet the minimum 120 credits at the level of the award requirement, stage 4 will consist solely of level 7 credit.</p> <p>Students failing to achieve the progression threshold at the end of stage 3 on the 4-stage route may be eligible to exit with the Honours award.</p>
Postgraduate Award with integrated placement year	7	(180)	(180)	1yr FT	N/A	<p>An integrated placement year is incorporated into some of the University's postgraduate courses. This will be an additional year of study equivalent to 180 credits leading to a course duration of two years full-time or three years part-time. The placement year will usually take place after the taught element of the course.</p> <p>When taken and passed the integrated placement year shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format <Degree title> (with a professional/with an</p>

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						industrial placement year) or Degree title (research placement).
Postgraduate Award with a Master's placement	7	(60)	(60)	3 months FT	N/A	<p>An integrated placement is incorporated into some of the University's postgraduate courses. This will be an additional period of study equivalent to 60 credits. The placement will usually take place after the taught element of the course.</p> <p>When taken and passed the integrated placement shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format <Degree title> (with a Master's professional/industrial/research placement)</p>
Undergraduate award with voluntary placement year ⁶	(5)	(120)	(120)	1yr FT	N/A	<p>A voluntary placement year (professional/industrial⁷) outside of the University may be incorporated into an existing undergraduate course on entry or via post-entry transfer, so as to facilitate student choice. This will be an additional year of study equivalent to 120 credits leading to a course duration of 4/5 stages respectively. The placement year will usually take place between the second stage and the final stage of a course.</p> <p>The ability to take a voluntary placement year is not guaranteed but the University will support students via the Placement Preparation Programme in identifying/gaining access to a Placement Year.</p>

⁶ All degrees containing a Study Abroad or Placement element will represent that element last in the award title.

⁷ The exact nomenclature for the award title is determined at the point of validation of the course. Schools can select whichever option most accurately describes the placement experience that their students will undertake.

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						<p>Students wishing to access a voluntary placement year once on a course shall register on the Placement Preparation Programme, normally by Semester 2 of Stage 1. In the case of students taking an industrial placement year, additional support in identifying/gaining access to the placement will be received from the School.</p> <p>Students cannot normally undertake both a voluntary placement year and a Study Abroad Year.</p> <p>When taken and passed the voluntary placement year shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format – Degree title (with a professional placement year or with an industrial placement year).</p>
Undergraduate award with unfunded voluntary placement year	(5)	(120)	(120)	1yr FT	N/A	<p>This award shall bear largely the same characteristics as those for a voluntary placement year but will instead be limited to a maximum of 30 weeks. The rationale for this is that as students will not receive payment for any part of their placement, they should be afforded additional time to ensure that they can undertake paid work in the same academic year so as not be disadvantaged compared to their peers in placements attracting payment.</p> <p>This type of placement is only appropriate where the student is based in a non-profit organisation such as the National Health Service or in a charitable organisation. Unfunded voluntary placement years</p>

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						must not be used for placements involving private sector organisations.
Award with study abroad year (voluntary/integrated)	(5)	(120)	(120)	1yr FT	N/A	<p>A voluntary study abroad year outside the University may be incorporated into an existing 3/4 stage course (Bachelors or Integrated Master's Degree respectively) to facilitate student choice. This will be an additional year of study equivalent to 120 credits leading to a course duration of 4/5 stages respectively. A voluntary study abroad year is not guaranteed but the University will support students via the Sussex Abroad Office in identifying/gaining access to a study abroad year. Students wishing to access a voluntary study abroad year once on a course shall register with the Sussex Abroad Office normally by Semester 2 of Stage 1.</p> <p>Some courses have an integrated study abroad year outside the University embedded into a 4-stage course structure. A study abroad year integrated into the course structure requires that the University guarantees access to a study abroad year for all students on that course.</p> <p>Students cannot normally undertake both a study abroad and a placement year (regardless of whether the study abroad or placement year is integrated into a 4-stage course or voluntary). When taken and passed the voluntary/integrated study abroad year shall be recognised on the degree certificate in the format <Degree title> (with a study abroad year).</p>

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
A Study Abroad/ Placement Semester	(5)	(60)	(5)	1 Semester ⁸	N/A	Incorporated within a 3 or 4-stage (360/480 credit) degree course to broaden student learning. Incorporating a study abroad/placement semester warrants specific recognition on the degree transcript but does not constitute a named entry/exit route. Permissible in Semester 1 or Semester 2 as long as the curriculum has been explicitly approved to enable this. The one-semester placement/study abroad requires approval by the School Director of Teaching and Learning and is not open to all students.
Ordinary Bachelor's degree (BA, BSc)	6	300	60	3yrs FT	N/A	This is an exit award granted in recognition of student learning where insufficient credit has been achieved to award an undergraduate honours degree in the subject.
Foundation Degree (FdA, FdSc)	5	240	90	2yrs FT	5yrs FT	The course must include an assessed and credit-rated element of work experience comprising no fewer than 15 credits at Level 5.
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	5	240	90	2yrs FT 4yrs PT	5yrs FT 7yrs PT	This is a programme comprising a main area of study from a single School. It may include modules from outside the 'major' area of study but shall incorporate at least 160 out of 240 credits from the major area. At least 90 credits shall be at Level 5. Where the Diploma is an exit award from a higher qualification the award appearing on the award certificate shall be Diploma of Higher Education without reference to a subject of study.
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	5	250	120	1yrFT 2yrPT	4yrs FT 5yrs PT	This is an entry award only, for courses delivered at West Dean College of Arts and Conservation where

⁸ This is the maximum period allowed.

Award Title (abbreviated form in brackets)	FHEQ/RQF Level	Minimum Credit requirement	Minimum Credit at the level of the award	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Period of Registration	Award description and rules
						students enter with 120 credits at level 4 are recognised through RPL.
Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE)	4	120	90	1yr FT 2yr PT	5yr FT 7yr PT	This is an entry award only, for courses delivered at West Dean College of Arts and Conservation.
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	4	120	90	1yr FT	N/A	This award may be approved as an exit award only. The name of the award appearing on the award certificate shall be Certificate of Higher Education without reference to a subject of study.
University of Sussex Certificate of Education	(3)	120	90	1yr FT	N/A	This is not a formally recognised award but an exit certificate of achievement for students successfully completing a Foundation Year but who decide not to progress on to, or subsequently withdraw from, undergraduate study.
Foundation Year	3	120	120	1yr FT	N/A	This entry route is for applicants who do not meet the threshold for direct entry into Year 1 of undergraduate courses. Following successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress to a named undergraduate course.

Appendix 2: Dual, Double and Joint Degrees

1. Initial and final approval of new collaborative partnerships by University Executive Group is facilitated by Collaborative Provision Approval Committee (CPAC). Collaborations involving postgraduate researcher provision also require the approval of the Postgraduate Researcher Board.
2. Joint, double and dual degrees are distinct from other collaborative provision that the University is engaged in, as they involve working with at least one other degree-awarding body (in the UK or internationally) in a way that involves some pooling of those awarding powers. These degrees can be at undergraduate or postgraduate level and, even though they may incorporate existing Sussex modules, they should be a distinct offering to courses offered solely by the University of Sussex.
3. In each case, despite being offered through a partnership arrangement, the award issued by the University of Sussex otherwise complies with the normal requirements for the award as defined in the University's Academic Framework.
4. They are defined as follows:
 - i. **Joint degree (collaborative provision)** – this is a single award issued jointly by the University of Sussex and a partner institution(s). A single certificate bearing the signatures of the competent authorities of all degree-awarding bodies involved attests to the successful completion of this jointly delivered course, replacing the separate institutional qualifications. Receipt of the final award is dependent on students achieving a single, shared set of course learning outcomes, and awards are issued according to a common single set of assessment regulations.
 - ii. **Double degree** – this is similar to a joint degree but differs in that two separate, co-dependent and mutually contingent awards (separately certified) are granted by the University of Sussex and the partner institution(s) for the same jointly developed and delivered course of study. This type of award can be considered in jurisdictions where there are legal or regulatory impediments to the award of a single certificate or difficulties with the recognition or acceptance of a single joint certificate which mean that it is not in the interests of students to mark their achievement in this way. All credit delivered (by all partners) within the course counts towards the award of each institution involved. Receipt of the two final awards is dependent on students achieving a single, shared set of course learning outcomes, and awards are issued according to a common single set of assessment regulations.
 - iii. **Dual degree** – this is typically two awards designed to lock together with overlapping curricula. A distinguishing feature of a dual degree is that the overall study period and volume of learning is longer than for the University of Sussex award separately but typically shorter than if each of the courses had been taken consecutively. This jointly conceived course leads to separate awards (and separate certification) from the University of Sussex and the partner institution(s). The awards are integrated but independent, so a student does not need to satisfy the award requirements of all the partners to receive an award. There may be modules required by one partner that are not counted towards the award of the other(s), so a student may fulfil the award requirements at one institution but still have to complete further study to fulfil the requirements at the other(s).

Review/Contacts/References	
Title:	University of Sussex Academic Framework 2024-24
Date Approved:	26 June 2024
Approving Body:	Senate
Last review date:	June 2023
Revision History:	Annual review
Next review date:	May 2025
Owner:	DSE – Academic Services
Lead contact:	Deputy Director, Academic Services