



Academic Regulation

AWARDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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Summary

What is this document about?

The Awards of the University sets out the awards that the University confers, together with the standards and credit requirements, where applicable, that are needed to qualify for a particular award.

Who is this for?

This document will be of most interest to new and existing students and University staff

How does the University check this is followed?

Academic Registry is responsible for ensuring that the policy is followed both from a quality management point of view through attending Boards of Examiners where awards are recommended, and through the Student Record System, which calculates awards based on all the relevant data for students. Additionally, there is an external examiner for every module and every course in the University who ensures that this policy is followed.

Who can you contact if you have any queries about this document?

If you have questions about this document please contact Academic Registry at

academicregistry@port.ac.uk.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The University of Portsmouth received its University status and degree awarding powers through an Act of Parliament in 1992. The University is registered with the Office for Students (OfS). As well as awarding our own degrees we also provide higher education courses that other providers validate, along with offering subcontracted courses to other providers.
- 1.2 The University is committed to delivering innovative learning experiences and courses. We regularly review our courses and research provision to ensure we are meeting student expectations and employer needs, now and into the future.
- 1.3 Our degrees have a unique award title and abbreviation which reflects the qualification a graduate earns at the completion of their studies. We can award foundation degrees, bachelors' degrees, all masters' degrees, and doctorates. This document sets out the criteria and arrangements for these degrees, along with our historical degrees and the time periods in which they were offered.

2. List of Awards

2.1 Taught Courses of Study

- 2.1.1 The University can grant awards to students who have completed a course of study and met the conditions outlined in the University's regulations. The awards that come under these regulations are:

a) Sub-Degree

- Certificate in Education
- Higher National Certificate
- Certificate of Higher Education
- Higher National Diploma
- Diploma of Higher Education
- University Certificate

b) Undergraduate Awards

- Foundation Degree
- Graduate Certificate
- Graduate Diploma
- Ordinary Degree and Degree with Honours of:
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Education
- Bachelor of Engineering
- Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science (Economics)
- Diploma in Health, Safety and Risk Management
- Diploma in International Health and Safety and Risk Management
- Professional Graduate Certificate in Education

c) Postgraduate Awards

- Postgraduate Certificate
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education
- Postgraduate Diploma
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Arts
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Laws
- Master of Music
- Master of Nursing
- Master of Research
- Master of Science
- Master in Teaching and Learning

d) Integrated Masters

- Master of Biology
- Master of Engineering
- Master of Geology
- Master of Languages
- Master of Mathematics
- Master of Pharmacy
- Master of Physics

2.2 Research Degrees

2.2.1 The University can grant awards to students who have completed a course of study and met the conditions outlined in the University's regulations. The awards that come under these regulations are:

- Master of Philosophy
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Medicine

2.2.2 The University has the authority to award the title of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) to individuals who have held a first or higher degree from a UK higher education institution or an equivalent non-UK degree of the same level for at least five years. To be eligible, the individual must provide evidence of their academic expertise through a collection of published work and meet the requirements set out in the University's regulations.

2.2.3 The University can award a Professional Doctorate to students who finish an authorised course of study and meet the conditions stated in the regulations for Professional Doctorates. The awards that come under these regulations are:

- Doctor of Biomedical Science (DBMS)
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- Doctor of Chiropractic (DChiro)
- Doctor of Criminal Justice (DCrimJ)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)

- Doctor of Forensic Psychology (DForenPsy)
- Doctor of Health Science (DHealthSci)
- Doctor of Health Science Education (DHealthSciEd)
- Doctor of Medical Imaging (DMedIm)
- Doctor of Nursing (DN)
- Doctor of Pharmacy (DPharm)
- Doctor of Sport and Exercise Psychology (DSEP)
- Doctor of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences (DSEHS)
- Doctor of Social Work (DSW)
- Doctor of Security Risk Management (DSyRM)

2.3 Honorary Degrees

2.3.1 The University can give any of its degrees as an honorary degree. In addition, the following degrees can be given as honorary degrees in line with the University's regulations:

- Doctor of Divinity (DD)
- Doctor of the University (DUniv)
- Doctor of Engineering (DEng)
- Doctor of Laws (LLD)
- Doctor of Letters (DLitt)
- Doctor of Music (DMus)
- Doctor of Science (DSc)

2.4 Dual Awards

2.4.1 A dual degree arrangement means that a student can study two Bachelor's or two Master's degrees in less time than it would take to study them separately. Often, a partner University will be involved in the second degree. Dual degrees require more credits than a single degree and will take longer, but less time than two separate degrees combined. The University and the partner University work together to design the two degrees. After completing the dual degree, the student will receive separate awards from both institutions. However, a dual degree is different from a

joint degree where two or more universities combine their awarding powers and the graduate receives a single certificate signed by all institutions.

2.5 Staged Awards

2.5.1 A course may be approved with awards at intermediate and final stages, i.e. staged awards.

2.6 New Awards

2.6.1 As per the Articles of Government, the Academic Council has the authority to approve new awards. Additionally, they have the power to set the specific requirements and regulations that need to be met in order for someone to receive these awards.

2.7 Top Up Awards

2.7.1 A Top-Up Degree is typically the final level of the aimed award, for example level 6 of a Bachelor of Honours degree, and the duration is typically 1 year full-time and 2 years part-time.

2.8 Degree Apprenticeships

2.8.1 Degree apprenticeships are approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) on a national level. Once approved, the University must adhere to the published apprenticeship standard and End Point Assessment (EPA) Plan. The standard outlines the mandatory qualifications required for the apprenticeship, and some apprenticeships may not result in a formal award. Within higher education, there are two types of apprenticeships: Integrated and Non-Integrated. The former includes an End Point Assessment element that contributes towards an award and has a credit value, while the latter is completed after the award has been achieved.

2.9 Integrated Apprenticeships

2.9.1 Integrated apprenticeships have an EPA with a credit value that must be completed before an award can be granted. The EPA should be the final module of the course

and should be allocated the required credit value as outlined in the EPA plan. The apprenticeship standard outlines the final module's marking and grading and specifies which qualification can be awarded upon completion of the apprenticeship.

3. Standard of Awards

3.1 The Academic Council is responsible for making sure that the quality of education and qualifications offered by the University remain consistent, no matter where or how the course is taught. All courses must strive to meet the overall educational goals set by the University and follow its system for earning and transferring academic credits. The Bachelor's degree with Honours is the standard for all other degrees granted by the University.

4. Definition of Standard

4.1 The Academic Council has set a standard for each award based on a period of full-time study completed by a student who possesses the necessary knowledge and skills to qualify for a course of the minimum prescribed duration, and who successfully achieves the objectives of the award. However, meeting the general entrance requirements is not the only means of demonstrating the required knowledge and skills. The award may be obtained through the approved mode or modes for each course, and the duration of study may be adjusted from the minimum prescribed depending on the student's level of knowledge and skills relative to those specified in the definitions, as well as their pace of progression through the course.

5. Standard of Sub-Degree Awards

5.1 Certificate in Education

5.1.1 To attain a Certificate in Education, a student is required to possess the necessary knowledge and skills as stipulated in the general entrance requirements of the University. The student must also complete a course that covers the theoretical and practical aspects of teaching, equivalent to the first year of an Honours degree, and

exhibit proficiency in teaching. The course usually takes one academic year if studied full-time or the equivalent if studied part-time. Students who plan to teach in schools must fulfil additional qualifications mandated by the government-approved body.

5.2 Certificate of Higher Education

5.2.1 To attain a Certificate of Higher Education, a student must possess the prerequisite knowledge and skills as outlined in the University's general entrance requirements. Additionally, completion of a course of study that is equivalent to the first year of an Honours degree is necessary. The course typically spans one academic year if studied full-time, or equivalent if studied part-time.

5.3 Diploma of Higher Education

5.3.1 To attain a Diploma of Higher Education, a student must possess the prerequisite knowledge and skills as outlined in the University's general entrance requirements. Additionally, completion of a course of study that is equivalent to the first two years of an Honours Degree is necessary. The course typically spans two academic years if studied full-time, or equivalent if studied part-time.

5.4 University Certificate

5.4.1 To attain a University Certificate, a student must possess the required knowledge and skills as stipulated in the University's general entrance requirements. Furthermore, the student must have successfully completed a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit-bearing short course at Framework for Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level 4 to 8. Typically, this course involves not more than 550 hours of notional learning time or an equivalent duration if studied part-time.

5.5 Higher National Certificate

5.5.1 To attain a Higher National Certificate, a student is required to possess the necessary knowledge and skills as stipulated in the general entrance requirements of the University. The Higher National Certificate (HNC) is a level 4 vocational qualification that takes one year to complete full-time, or two years part-time, and is practical-

based course that can prepare you for either work after completion or studies at degree level.

5.6 Higher National Certificate

5.6.1 To attain a Higher National Diploma, a student is required to possess the necessary knowledge and skills as stipulated in the general entrance requirements of the University. The Higher National Diploma (HND) is a level 5 vocational qualification that takes two years to complete full-time, or three to four years part-time, and is practical-based course that can prepare you for either work after completion or as study towards a bachelor's degree.

6. Standard for Undergraduate Awards

6.1 Ordinary Bachelor's Degree

6.1.1 To attain an Ordinary Bachelor's Degree, a student must possess the required knowledge and skills as outlined in the University's general entrance requirements. In addition, the student must successfully complete a course of study that typically spans three academic years if studied full-time or equivalent if studied part-time.

6.2 Bachelor's Degree with Honours

6.2.1 To attain a Bachelor's Degree with Honours, a student must possess the required knowledge and skills as stipulated in the University's general entrance requirements. Additionally, the student must successfully complete a course of study and demonstrate their capacity to work independently at an advanced level. Typically, the course spans three academic years if studied full-time or equivalent if studied part-time. Nonetheless, if the course integrates a significant period of additional experience, a minimum of 36 weeks of student time must be added to the standard duration.

6.3 Specific Undergraduate Degrees (in Alphabetical Order)

6.3.1 Bachelor of Arts

The title Bachelor of Arts (BA) is used for courses that mainly focus on art, media and design, business studies, humanities, and social sciences.

6.3.2 Bachelor of Education

The title Bachelor of Education (BEd) is used for courses related to teacher education. The first BEd degree is accepted as a qualification for teaching and must be structured to meet the requirements of the relevant Government body. Typically, the first BEd degree course includes four academic years of study, which includes a significant amount of teaching practice.

6.3.3 Bachelor of Engineering

The title Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) is used for courses that provide a technologically broad education with an emphasis on engineering applications meeting the requirements for registration with the Engineering Council.

6.3.4 Bachelor of Laws

The title Bachelor of Laws is used for courses that offer a comprehensive education in Law. If Law is combined with another subject then the title used will be Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science as appropriate.

6.3.5 Bachelor of Music

The title Bachelor of Music (BMus) is used for courses substantially based on the study of music.

6.3.6 Bachelor of Nursing

The title Bachelor of Nursing (BN) is used for courses that primarily focus on the study of nursing, and where graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

6.3.7 Bachelor of Science

The title Bachelor of Science (BSc) is used for courses that primarily focus on science or mathematics and their applications.

6.3.8 Bachelor of Science (Economics)

The title Bachelor of Science (Economics) (BSc (Econ)) is used for courses of specialised study in economics.

6.4 Graduate Certificate

6.4.1 The Graduate Certificate standard is the same as that of a student who has completed one and a half years of a Bachelor's degree in a particular area of study and has achieved 60 credits at FHEQ Level 6.

6.5 Graduate Diploma

6.5.1 The Graduate Diploma is a course designed for graduates in a particular field of study who have successfully completed a course of study that is equivalent to the third year of a first degree in a related area of study. This course typically lasts for one academic year or an equivalent duration and requires the attainment of 120 credit points at FHEQ Level 6.

6.6 Foundation Degree

6.6.1 The Foundation Degree should adhere to the standard anticipated of a student with pre-existing knowledge and skills, as specified in the University's entrance requirements for Foundation Degrees. The Foundation Degree is awarded to students who have successfully completed a minimum of 120 credits at FHEQ level 4 and 120 credits at FHEQ level 5. The course of study usually spans two years of full-time study or equivalent.

6.7 Specific Foundation Degrees (in Alphabetical Order)

6.7.1 Foundation Degree of Arts

The title Foundation Degree of Arts (FdA) is used for courses that mainly focus on art, media and design, business studies, humanities and social sciences subjects.

6.7.2 Foundation Degree of Engineering

The title Foundation Degree of Engineering (FdEng) is used for courses that provide a technologically broad education with an emphasis on engineering applications.

6.7.3 Foundation Degree of Science

The title Foundation Degree of Science (FdSc) is used for courses that are mainly focused on science or mathematics and their applications.

6.8 Specific Diploma Courses

6.8.1 Diploma in Health, Safety and Risk Management

The Diploma in Health, Safety, and Risk Management is a program designed for graduates in a related field of study. The course involves six months of full-time study or equivalent and covers a wide range of topics necessary for health and safety practitioners to perform effectively in different industries, commerce, and government. Students are expected to achieve 40 credit points at Level 6 and 20 credits at Level 7. This diploma satisfies the academic entry requirements for membership of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health at Graduate Member (Grad IOSH) level.

6.8.2 Diploma in International Health, Safety and Risk Management

The Diploma in International Health, Safety and Risk Management is a course that is designed for graduates who want to pursue a career in health and safety management. The course involves six months of full-time study or equivalent and covers a wide range of topics that are necessary for health and safety practitioners to perform effectively in various industries, commerce, and government. The standard of the course is equivalent to a diploma in a related area of study, and the graduate is required to achieve 40 credit points at Level 6 and 20 credits at Level 7. Upon completion, you will meet the academic requirements for membership of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health as a Graduate Member (Grad IOSH).

6.8.3 Professional Graduate Certificate in Education

The Professional Graduate Certificate in Education is a course for graduates who want to become teachers. It includes theoretical study and practical experience in teaching, usually in a school or college. The course lasts at least one year and must meet the requirements for becoming a Qualified Teacher or equivalent as

determined by the relevant Government approved body. By completing the course, the graduate is expected to demonstrate their practical teaching competence.

7. Credit Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

7.1 General

7.1.1 The following named awards may be offered by Courses:

- a) Certificate of Higher Education;
- b) Diploma of Higher Education;
- c) Ordinary Degree;
- d) Degree with Honours;
- e) Foundation Degree;
- f) Graduate Certificate;
- g) Graduate Diploma; and
- h) Professional Graduate Certificate in Education.

7.1.2 The Academic Council can approve other awards for Courses and Pathways. The equivalence of those awards to the standard awards is determined by the credit required.

7.1.3 The University Certificate is a certificate awarded by the University of Portsmouth to acknowledge the academic success of students studying short courses or professional development courses that carry academic credit.

7.2 Named Awards

7.2.1 The approved course specification for the named award details the credit required and the modules to be taken by a student to be eligible for the award, including any intermediate award. Where appropriate, distinction is made between compulsory and optional modules.

7.2.2 The approved course specification for named awards may specify the modules which are available for the establishment of individual learning contracts and establish procedures by which such contracts are negotiated, monitored and delivered in order for the student to gain the named award.

7.2.3 The approved course specification for named awards and individual learning contracts may specify additional elements which are not assessed for the award of credit but which are necessary for the student to be eligible to progress to the next stage and/or for the award.

7.3 Award of a Certificate in Education

7.3.1 To qualify for the award of a Certificate in Education a student must:

- a) have been assigned at least 120 credits, including at least 60 credits at Level 5; and
- b) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required before the point of exit.

7.4 Award of a Certificate of Higher Education

7.4.1 To qualify for consideration for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education, a student must:

- a) have been assigned at least 120 credits in modules at Level 4, 5 or 6; and
- b) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required before the point of exit.

7.5 Award of a Diploma of Higher Education

7.5.1 To qualify for the award of a Diploma of Higher Education, a student must:

- a) have been assigned at least 240 credits overall, including at least 100 credits at Level 5 or above; and
- b) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required before the point of exit.

7.6 Award of a University Certificate

7.6.1 To qualify for the award of a University Certificate a student must:

- a) have been assigned at least 30 credits; and
- b) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 8.2.3 above, completion of which is required before the point of exit.

7.7 Award of a Foundation Degree

7.7.1 To qualify for the award of a Foundation Degree, a student must:

- a) have been assigned at least 240 credits, of which at least 120 are at Level 5; and
- b) have satisfactorily completed any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required for the award.

7.8 Award of an Ordinary Degree

7.8.1 To qualify for the award of an Ordinary Degree a student must:

- a) have been assigned at least 300 credits, of which at least 60 credits are at Level 6; and
- b) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required for the award.

7.9 Award of a Degree with Honours

7.9.1 To qualify for consideration for the award of a Degree with Honours a student must:

- a) have been assigned at least 360 credits overall, of which at least 100 are at Level 6; and
- b) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required for the award.

7.10 Award of a Graduate Certificate

7.10.1 To qualify for the award of a Graduate Certificate a student must:

- a) hold a first degree as defined by the course regulations;
- b) have been assigned at least 60 credits at Level 6; and
- c) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required for the award.

7.11 Award of a Graduate Diploma

7.11.1 To qualify for the award of a Graduate Diploma a student must:

- a) hold a first degree as defined by the course regulations;
- b) have been assigned at least 120 credits at Level 6; and
- c) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required for the award.

7.12 Award of Diploma in Health, Safety and Risk Management

7.12.1 To qualify for the award of a Graduate Diploma a student must:

- a) hold a first degree as defined by the course regulations;
- b) have been assigned at least 40 credits at Level 6 and 20 credits at Level 7; and
- c) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required for the award.

7.13 Award of Diploma in International Health, Safety and Risk Management

7.13.1 To qualify for the award of a Graduate Diploma a student must:

- a) hold a first degree as defined by the course regulations;
- b) have been assigned at least 40 credits at Level 6 and 20 credits at Level 7; and
- c) have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that are specified for the award in accordance with 7.2.3 above, completion of which is required for the award.

7.14 Award of a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education

7.14.1 To qualify for the award of a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education a student must:

- a) hold a first degree or equivalent qualification as defined by the course regulations;
- b) have been assigned at least 120 credits at Level 6; and
- c) have completed satisfactorily any requirements of the course relating to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) that may from time to time be determined by the relevant Government Department.

7.15 Students not registered for Named Awards

7.15.1 Students not registered for named awards will be eligible for a transcript which will detail all the modules that they have attempted.

7.16 Awards After Withdrawal or Exclusion

7.16.1 At any point during a course, a student can choose to withdraw and ask the Board of Examiners to use the credits they have earned so far towards a lower-level qualification they are eligible for, or they can choose to continue studying for a higher-level qualification.

7.16.2 If a student decides to withdraw from the course, they will no longer be registered on that course. However, they can apply to rejoin the course in the future if they want to study for a higher award. This would depend on meeting the admission regulations set by the University.

7.16.3 If a student is excluded from a course due to academic or disciplinary reasons, the Board of Examiners will still review the student's academic progress and award them any qualifications they may have earned up to that point.

7.17 Minimum and Maximum Periods of Registration

7.17.1 The following normal minimum periods of registration apply to undergraduate courses designed to admit students without credit to the start of the course in any mode of study:

Award	Minimum
Certificate of Higher Education	1 academic year
Diploma of Higher Education	2 academic years
Foundation Degree	2 academic years
Ordinary Degree	3 academic years
Degree with Honours	3 academic years
Graduate Certificate	1 academic year
Graduate Diploma	1 academic year
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education	1 academic year

7.17.2 The Board of Examiners cannot recommend that a student receive an award until the minimum time period specified in section 7.17.1 has passed, unless the student has already received credit for prior learning.

7.17.3 All undergraduate courses have a maximum period of registration, which is eight years, regardless of how the student chooses to study.

8. Standard for Postgraduate Awards

8.1 Postgraduate Certificate

8.1.1 The Postgraduate Certificate is a qualification that is awarded to a student who has completed a course of study at a higher level than a Bachelor's degree. This course usually takes at least one year of full-time study or an equivalent amount of part-time study. The level of study required for this certificate is higher than that of an undergraduate degree.

8.2 Postgraduate Certificate in Education

8.2.1 The Postgraduate Certificate in Education requires a higher level of study than a first degree and involves theoretical and practical aspects of teaching. It includes subject or specialist work as well as placements in schools or colleges where the student is expected to demonstrate practical teaching skills. The course typically takes at least

one year of full-time study and must meet the requirements for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or equivalent as determined by the relevant government body.

8.3 Postgraduate Diploma

8.3.1 A Postgraduate Diploma requires more advanced and intensive study than an undergraduate degree. It is intended for graduates who have prior knowledge and skills in a particular field and involves at least one year of full-time study or its equivalent.

8.4 Postgraduate Taught Masters Degrees

8.4.1 The Postgraduate Taught Masters Degree builds upon the knowledge and skills gained in an undergraduate degree. It requires advanced and intensive study in a specific field and includes a mandatory element of independent project or research work. The course usually takes one year of full-time study or the equivalent.

8.5 Specific Postgraduate Taught Masters Degrees (in Alphabetic Order)

8.5.1 Master of Architecture

The title Master of Architecture (MArch) is used for courses of specialised study in architecture.

8.5.2 Master of Arts

The title Master of Arts (MA) is used in art, media and design, humanities, social science and in other areas of study if a more specialised title is not appropriate.

8.5.3 Master of Business Administration

The title of MBA (Master of Business Administration) is used for courses that teach general principles and functions of management as well as develop management skills. It is designed for students who have prior experience in managerial practice.

8.5.4 Master of Laws

The title Master of Laws (LLM) is used for courses of specialised study in law.

8.5.5 Master of Music

The title Master of Music (MMus) is used for courses substantially based on the study of music.

8.5.6 Master of Public Administration

The title of Master of Public Administration (MPA) is used for courses that concentrate on management, policy, and administration in the public sector. Students who join MPA courses must have the necessary experience in policy making or managerial practices in the public sector.

8.5.7 Master of Research

The title Master of Research (MRes) is used for courses that have a significant research component, which usually makes up most of the course. This component will usually include one or more modules that focus on a research project or on the training needed to prepare a student for FHEQ Level 8 studies or for the creation of a research proposal.

8.5.8 Master of Science

The title Master of Science (MSc) is used where the studies are substantially based on science or mathematics and their applications.

8.5.9 Masters in Teaching and Learning

The title Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL) shall be used for practice-based courses available to qualified teachers delivered in accordance with the National Framework for MTL.

8.6 Specific Integrated Masters Degrees (in alphabetical order)

8.6.1 Master of Biology

The title of Master of Biology (MBiol) is used for courses in biology that go beyond what is taught in a BSc degree with Honours in Biology. The MBiol degree requires a higher standard of study and is expected of students with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements. To be eligible for the

MBiol, a student must successfully complete a biology course that is equivalent to four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

8.6.2 Master of Engineering

The title of Master of Engineering (MEng) is used for courses in engineering that go beyond what is taught in a Bachelor of Engineering degree with Honours. The MEng degree requires a higher standard of study and is expected of students with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements. To be eligible for the MEng, a student must successfully complete an engineering course that is equivalent to four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

8.6.3 Master of Languages

The title of Master of Languages (MLang) is used for courses in languages that go beyond what is taught in a BA degree with Honours in Languages. The MLang degree requires a higher standard of study and is expected of students with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements. To be eligible for the MLang, a student must successfully complete a language course that is equivalent to four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

8.6.4 Master of Mathematics

The title Master of Mathematics (MMath) is used for courses in mathematics that go beyond what is taught in a BA degree with Honours in Mathematics. The MMath degree requires a higher standard of study and is expected of students with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements. To be eligible for the MMath, a student must successfully complete a mathematics course that is equivalent to four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

8.6.5 Master of Nursing

The title of Master of Nursing (MN) is used for courses focused mainly on nursing. To be eligible for the MN degree, students must have completed an undergraduate degree or equivalent, involving four years of full-time study at Honours level or

higher and possess the necessary prior knowledge and skills as outlined in the University's general entrance requirements. The MN degree requires a standard of study expected of students with such prior knowledge and skills.

8.6.6 Master of Pharmacy

The title of Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) is used for courses in pharmacy that go beyond what is taught in a BSc Degree with Honours in Pharmacy. The MPharm degree requires a higher standard of study and is expected of students with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements. To be eligible for the MPharm, a student must successfully complete a pharmacy course that is equivalent to four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

8.6.7 Master of Physics

The title of Master of Physics (MPhys) is used for courses in physics that are more advanced than those leading to a BSc degree with Honours in Physics or Applied Physics. The MPhys degree requires a higher standard of study and is expected of students with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements. To be eligible for the MPhys, a student must successfully complete a physics course that is equivalent to four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

9. Credit Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards

9.1 General

9.1.1 The following named awards may be offered:

- a) Postgraduate Certificate;
- b) Postgraduate Certificate in Education;
- c) Postgraduate Diploma;
- d) Masters Awards; and

e) Integrated Masters Awards.

9.1.2 In addition to the standard awards, some courses and educational paths may offer other awards that have been approved by the Academic Council. The value of these awards is determined based on the amount of credit needed to earn them, compared to the standard awards.

9.2 Named Awards

9.2.1 The approved Course Specification and Course Structure for a particular named award specifies the amount of credit that a student must earn and the specific classes they need to take to be eligible for that award, which may include additional awards along the way. Where appropriate, distinction is made between compulsory and optional modules.

9.2.2 The approved Course Specification and Course Structure for a particular named award may include a list of modules that a student can choose from to create their own personalised learning contract. These documents will also detail the process for negotiating, monitoring, and completing the learning contract so that the student can earn the named award they are pursuing.

9.2.3 The approved Course Specification for named awards and individualised learning contracts may include additional requirements that are not assessed for credit, but are still necessary for the student to continue to the next stage or be eligible for the award.

9.2.4 Students pursuing a particular named award may be allowed by the Course Leader to enter into supplementary additional learning contracts to earn extra credit beyond what is required for that award.

9.2.5 Normally, if a student has already received credit towards another award at the university, they will not be eligible for a new named award. However, there are some exceptions to this rule: if the curriculum approval process has approved it, or if the student has taken a significant break from studying at the university, then they may be eligible for a new award.

9.3 Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

9.1.1 In order to receive a Postgraduate Certificate, a student must:

- a) have earned at least 60 credits at Level 7, and
- b) have successfully completed any additional requirements that are specified for the certificate before they leave the program, in accordance with 9.2.3 above.

9.4 Award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Education

9.4.1 In order to receive a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, a student must:

- a) have a first degree or equivalent qualification as defined by the course regulations;
- b) have earned at least 120 credits in total, with none of them being below Level 6 and at least 60 being at Level 7; and
- c) have completed all the necessary requirements for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) that are determined by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

9.5 Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

9.5.1 In order to receive a Postgraduate Diploma, a student must:

- a) have earned a minimum of 120 credits at Level 7; and
- b) have successfully completed any other necessary components that are stated in section 9.2.3. These additional requirements must be completed before the student leaves the course;

9.6 Award of a Postgraduate Taught Masters Degree

9.6.1 In order to receive a Postgraduate Taught Masters Degree, a student must:

- a) have earned a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7; and
- b) have successfully completed any other necessary components that are stated in section 9.2.3. These additional requirements must be completed before the student leaves the program.

9.7 Award of an Integrated Masters Degree

9.7.1 In order to receive an Integrated Masters Degree, a student must:

- a) have earned a minimum of 480 credits overall, with at least 100 credits at Level 6, and at least 120 at Level 7; and
- b) have successfully completed any other necessary components that are stated in section 9.2.3. These additional requirements must be completed before the student leaves the program.

9.8 Students not registered for Named Awards

9.8.1 If a student is not enrolled in a specific degree program, they can still receive a transcript that lists all the modules they have taken.

9.9 Award after Withdrawal or Exclusion

9.9.1 Students have the option to withdraw from a course at any stage. In such an event, the student can request that the Board of Examiners apply the credits previously assigned by the Module Assessment Board/s to obtain an award for which they are qualified, or they can choose to continue studying to obtain a higher award.

9.9.2 If a student withdraws, they will no longer be registered for the course, but they may be considered for readmission to study for a higher award in compliance with the admission regulations.

9.9.3 If a student is excluded from the course, the Board of Examiners will proceed to determine any awards for which the student is eligible based on their prior academic work.

9.10 Minimum and Maximum Periods of Student Registration

9.10.1 The minimum registration periods stated below are applicable to students who are admitted to the start of a course without receiving any credit for previous academic achievements. This is relevant for all modes of attendance:

Award	Minimum
Postgraduate Certificate	One academic year
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	One academic year

Postgraduate Diploma	One academic year
Masters Degree	Twelve Months
Integrated Masters Degree	Four academic years

9.10.2 Before a student has completed the minimum time period as described in 9.10.1, the Board of Examiners cannot suggest awarding any degree or certification to the student.

9.10.3 For all integrated masters courses, the maximum time period for registration is eight years. For all taught postgraduate qualifications, including those which are not integrated masters, the maximum registration period is five years, regardless of the mode of study.

10. Standard for Research Degrees

10.1 Master of Philosophy

10.1.1 The Master of Philosophy degree is granted to research degree students who have demonstrated their understanding and knowledge of the relevant literature and research techniques, as well as independent critical thinking and contribution to the field of knowledge. To be eligible for this award, a research degree student must successfully complete research training, thoroughly investigate or evaluate an appropriate topic, meet any necessary requirements for any taught portions of the course (if applicable), and present a satisfactory thesis.

10.2 Doctor of Philosophy

10.2.1 The Doctor of Philosophy degree is granted to research degree students who have demonstrated their understanding and knowledge of the relevant literature and research techniques, as well as independent critical thinking, a significant original contribution to the field of knowledge, and originality. To be eligible for this award, a research degree student must successfully complete research training, conduct a thorough investigation or critical study resulting in a significant contribution to

knowledge, meet any necessary requirements for any taught portions of the course (if applicable), and present a satisfactory thesis.

10.2.2 Pathway 1: PhD

This pathway involves an independent research project that is carried out under supervision and leads to an original contribution to knowledge.

10.2.3 Pathway 2: PhD by Publication

In this pathway, a candidate creates a thesis by compiling a portfolio of interconnected research outputs that have been published, accepted for publication, exhibited or performed before enrolling in the programme. These outputs should be accompanied by a coherent narrative that shows an original contribution to knowledge. The research outputs can take various forms, such as papers, chapters, monographs, books, scholarly editions of a text, technical reports, creative work in relevant areas, or other artefacts.

10.3 Doctor of Medicine

10.3.1 The Doctor of Medicine degree is granted to research degree students who have demonstrated their understanding and knowledge of the relevant literature and research techniques, as well as independent critical thinking, a significant contribution to the field of medical knowledge, and originality. To be eligible for this award, a research degree student must successfully complete research training, conduct a thorough investigation or critical study of a medically relevant topic resulting in a significant contribution to knowledge, meet any necessary requirements for any taught portions of the course (if applicable), and present a satisfactory thesis.

10.4 Professional Doctorate

10.4.1 To be awarded a Professional Doctorate, a candidate must successfully earn 540 credits. The programme comprises a taught phase consisting of 180 credits, of which a minimum of 60 credits must be at level 8, and a research phase consisting of 360 credits at level 8. These credits are earned through taught components of an approved course of study and a thesis. The thesis must focus on an approved topic of

professional research and development, demonstrating the candidate's knowledge and understanding of the relevant literature and research methods, as well as independent critical thinking and an original contribution to the advancement of professional knowledge and practice in the relevant field.

10.4.2 A Professional Doctorate programme may offer exit awards of PGCert (60 credits), PGDip (120 credits), or MA/MSc (180 credits) to students who leave the programme during or at the end of the taught phase. The default title for these awards is Professional Research Methods, but a different title for a specific course may be proposed and approved by the relevant committee.

11. Named Research Awards

11.1 Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Doctor of Medicine (MD)

11.1.1 The University has delegated to the Academic Council the power to confer higher degrees by research in recognition of the following:

- a) the successful completion of a supervised research course and any related training;
- b) the submission of a written document or approved media, embodying the research results and conclusions;
- c) a successful oral examination defense of the thesis; and
- d) evidence of one of the following:
 - a. for the award of MPhil, evidence of:
 - knowledge and comprehension of the relevant discipline's background literature and research methods
 - independent critical judgement
 - contribution to the appropriate field of knowledge.
 - b. For the award of PhD
 - knowledge and comprehension of the relevant discipline's background literature and research methods
 - independent critical judgement

- a significant contribution to the appropriate field of knowledge, and
 - originality.
- c. For the award of MD, evidence of:
- knowledge and comprehension of the relevant background literature and research methods in a medically relevant topic
 - independent critical judgement
 - a significant contribution to the appropriate field of knowledge, and
 - originality.

11.2 Professional Doctorate

11.2.1 The University awards a Professional Doctorate (PD) in compliance with the regulatory framework of higher degrees. This award is authorized by the Academic Council and recognizes the successful completion of a supervised research and development program in an area of professional activity relevant to the candidate's profession. To receive this award, the candidate must complete an approved course of study and provide evidence, through a thesis relating to an approved topic of professional research and development, of the following:

- Knowledge and understanding of the background literature and research methods in a medically relevant topic;
- Independent critical judgment;
- An original contribution to the advancement of professional knowledge and practice in the appropriate professional activity.

11.3 Minimum and Maximum Periods of Student Registration

11.3.1 There is no minimum period of registration for research awards. The maximum periods of registration are as follows:

Award	Maximum
Full time MPhil	24 months
Part Time MPhil	48 months

Full time MD	24 months
Part Time MD	48 months
Full time PhD	48 months
Part Time PhD	84 months
Full time PD	36 months
Part Time PD	60 months

11.3.2 The thesis must be submitted within the approved period of registration, unless an extension has been granted. This requirement applies unless otherwise specified.

11.3.4 For Integrated Doctoral Courses and Professional Doctorates, the time limits mentioned in the above regulation refer to the research element of the course only and not the taught element. It is essential to adhere to this requirement for successful completion of the course.

12. Course Titles

12.1 The University of Portsmouth's academic awards have specific course titles that indicate the relevant discipline, area of study, or profession.

12.2 A course consists of the award, the title, and the curriculum.

12.3 The course title must be appealing and understood by prospective students, graduates, employers, professional statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs), and other stakeholders.

12.4 It should accurately represent the broader field of study and the specific curriculum covered by all eligible students for the award.

12.5 The University has a responsibility to ensure that the awarded qualifications retain their value over time.

12.6 The same or similar title cannot represent substantially different course curricula or courses managed by different Boards of Studies, located in different departments, or taught by mutually exclusive course teams.

- 12.7 Course teams are encouraged to adopt titles that reflect the distinctiveness of their curriculum and the broader subject discipline.
- 12.8 Course titles should balance longevity with currency to ensure that the awarded qualifications remain relevant to the general subject area over time.
- 12.9 Course titles should be sustainable, socially acceptable, and free from any negative connotations.
- 12.10 It is generally not appropriate for course titles to refer to the location of delivery or accreditation by a PSRB.
- 12.11 If necessary, terms such as 'DL' (distance learning), 'DA' (degree apprenticeship), or 'Top-up' may be used for administration purposes, but they will not be included on the award certificate or transcript.
- 12.12 If the course title includes two fields of study connected by 'and', the curriculum should give approximately equal weight to both fields. If they are connected by 'with', the first part of the title should be given more weight than the second.
- 12.13 Course titles should be concise to increase their chances of appearing favourably in applicant search results.
- 12.14 For accredited courses, an appropriate alternative exit award should be specified for students who do not meet the requirements for the primary award.
- 12.15 Accredited students should be distinguishable from non-accredited students.
- 12.16 Those involved in accredited courses should seek advice from the relevant PSRB.
- 12.17 The University Portfolio Approval Committee (UPAC) is responsible for approving new course titles or changes to existing course titles.
- 12.18 Course titles may be withdrawn due to lack of approval, timing out after two years from the Planning for Approval Gateway, closure of the curriculum, or modification.
- 12.19 If the award itself is sufficiently descriptive, it may be untitled.

13. Requirements for Conferment of Awards

13.1 An award of the University can only be conferred when the following conditions have been met:

- a) The student was registered on a course at the University when they were assessed for the award and had paid the relevant fees.
- b) The Department of Student and Academic Administration has verified that the student successfully completed the course leading to the recommended award.
- c) The appropriate Board of Examiners has recommended the award.
- d) The Chair of the Board of Examiners has signed the recommendation, confirming that all assessments were conducted in accordance with Academic Council requirements.

14. Responsibility for Conferment of Awards

14.1 Location of Responsibility

14.1.1 The Academic Council is responsible for conferring academic awards on behalf of the University, with the exception of honorary degrees. An academic award will only be considered conferred when The Academic Council confirms the recommendation of the appropriate Board of Examiners. This confirmation is achieved when the Chair of the Board of Examiners signs the recommendation for the award as required at 14(d).

14.2 Record of Conferment of Awards

14.2.1 The University will keep a record of all the academic awards it confers as stipulated in the [University Retention Policy](#).

14.3 Interpretation of Regulations

14.2.3 If there is a need to clarify the Regulations to ensure that an award can be granted within the appropriate time frame, the Chair of the Academic Council has the authority to interpret the Regulations on behalf of the Council. Any interpretation made in such circumstances will be reported to the Academic Council.

15. Level of Award to be Recommended

15.1 General

15.1.1 The Board of Examiners will recommend an award for the student based on the one for which they were registered or a lower award, as specified in the approved assessment regulations, provided that the student has met the necessary requirements.

15.2 Staged Awards

15.2.1 If the assessment regulations allow, the Board of Examiners may suggest an intermediate award for a student who has fulfilled the necessary requirements for that award, regardless of whether they are moving directly towards a course stage that leads to another award. However, the recommendation will only be confirmed, and the intermediate award will only be granted if the student declares their intention to exit the course at that stage or is later recommended for no higher award within the course.

15.3 Aegrotat Awards

15.3.1 If a student fulfils the general requirements for an award, but due to illness or acceptable reasons as determined by the Board of Examiners, is unable to complete or be evaluated for the award they are a candidate for, the Board of Examiners may recommend the award in an aegrotat form.

15.4 Posthumous Awards

15.4.1 A posthumous award, either in aegrotat or normal form, may be granted to a deceased student who was registered at the time of death and who, to the extent possible, met the remaining general requirements for the award as specified in the Regulation for the Conferment of Awards.

16. Award Certificate

16.1 The certificate for each award will include the following information:

- a) the name of the University,
- b) the name of the student as listed in the Board of Examiners' recommendation,
- c) the award and its classification (if applicable),
- d) the title of the course (if approved by the Academic Council for the certificate),
- e) any endorsement regarding a placement year (if applicable),
- f) any other approved endorsement,
- g) the date from which the award is valid,
- h) and the signatures of the University's Vice-Chancellor and Academic Registrar.

17. Transcript of Studies

17.1 A University End of Course Transcript will be issued to a student who has had their award conferred in accordance with paragraph 14. The End of Course Transcript will include the following information:

- a) the name of the University
- b) the name of the student as listed in the Board of Examiners' recommendation,
- c) the award and its classification (if applicable),
- d) the title of the course including whether the course is distance learning, degree apprenticeship or Top-Up,
- e) any endorsement regarding a placement year (if applicable),
- f) any other approved endorsement,
- g) the date from which the award is valid,
- h) the mode of study,
- i) the University reference
- j) the student's date of birth

- k) the student's HESA reference
- l) the awarding and teaching institution
- m) a Record of Learning and Achievement which will include the following information for each academic year of study:
 - i) the title of the course
 - ii) FHEQ level
 - iii) module code
 - iv) module title
 - v) mark
 - vi) credits
 - vii) decision
- n) overall credits gained for award
- o) credits gained (ECTS)
- p) contact details for the relevant school or department
- q) end of course transcript notes
- r) date transcript printed
- s) and the signatures of the University's Vice-Chancellor and Academic Registrar.

17.2 A Diploma Supplement will be issued to a student upon request.

17.3 An end of year transcript (Record of Learning and Achievement) is available via the Student View and includes the following information:

- a) the name of the University
- b) the name of the student as listed in the Board of Examiners' recommendation,
- c) the title of the course and route (if applicable)
- d) the mode of study,

- e) the academic year
- f) the University reference
- g) the student's date of birth
- h) the student's HESA reference
- i) the teaching institution
- j) for each module:
 - i) academic year
 - ii) module code
 - iii) module title
 - iv) mark
 - v) grade
 - vi) credit
 - vii) level
- k) date transcript printed

18. Academic Dress

18.1 Academic dress, as defined by the University, shall be worn by all students eligible to graduate and staff at all University graduation ceremonies.

19. Withholding of Awards from Students

19.1 The Academic Council has the authority to withhold an award if a student has an outstanding obligation to the University, not related to tuition fees, or is facing an accusation of breaching the University Student Conduct Policy.

20. Deprivation of Award

20.1 Under extraordinary circumstances, and upon the advice of either the Vice-Chancellor, the Academic Registrar or the appropriate Board of Examiners, the

Academic Council may revoke any award bestowed by the University. This recommendation may arise if the person receiving an award, whether from a course of taught study, supervised research, or a higher doctorate, has been discovered to have been admitted to the course or granted the award based on false information, including academic misconduct, or a substantial failure to disclose relevant information.

21. Course Approval and Modification

21.1 General

21.1.1 The Academic Council is accountable for the endorsement of all courses that lead to awards granted by the University, whether they are taught by the University or by an external organization working in an authorized partnership with the University. The Academic Council has implemented the [Policy for the Approval, Modification and Closure of Academic Provision](#).

21.2 Course Specifications

21.2.1 Each course is required to have an up-to-date course specification, which must be evaluated and approved every year.

22. Monitoring and Review

22.1 Every course of study that results in an award granted by the University must be subjected to consistent monitoring and assessment. The Academic Council has instituted protocols for the monitoring, evaluation, and review of courses provided by the University, as well as evaluating the monitoring and evaluation of courses given by external organizations leading to University awards. These procedures are found in the [Annual Monitoring and Academic Review Policy](#).

23. Relationship with Other Validating Bodies

23.1 If the processes of another validating body allow for it, the Academic Council may endorse and assess courses of study that result in awards granted by that body.

24. Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS)

- 24.1 The Academic Council has authorized procedures for awarding academic credit for learning accomplished in courses of study or components of courses of study leading to University awards, and may also approve the credit rating of other forms of learning. These procedures are set forth in the [Examination and Assessment Regulations](#).
- 24.2 The Academic Council has established procedures for the operation of CATS. All courses of study approved by the University must operate in accordance with the CATS procedures.

25. Advanced Standing and Direct Entry

- 25.1 Information on advanced standing and direct entry can be found in the [Recognition of Prior Learning policy](#).

26. Procedures for Courses Conducted Outside the University

- 26.1 Collaborative courses conducted outside the University are subject to specific procedures established by the Academic Council. Details of these procedures can be found in the [Academic Partnerships Policy](#).

Annex A: Historical Awards - Not in Current Use

1. Master of Environmental Sciences

Withdrawn - August 2023

The title Master of Environmental Science (MEnvSci) was used for courses in environmental science that extend beyond the level of courses leading to the BSc degree with Honours in Environmental Science. The standard of the MEnvSci shall be that expected of a student with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements, who has successfully completed a course in environmental science involving the equivalent of four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

2. Master of Geology

Withdrawn - August 2023

The title Master of Geology (MGeol) was used for courses in geology that extend beyond the level of courses leading to the BSc degree with Honours in Geology. The standard of the MGeol was that expected of a student with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements, who had successfully completed a course in geology involving the equivalent of four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

3. Master of Optometry

Withdrawn - August 2023

The title Master of Optometry (MOptom) was used for courses in optometry that extend beyond the level of courses leading to a BSc degree with Honours in Optometry. The standard of the MOptom was that expected of a student with prior knowledge and skills, as set out in the University's general entrance requirements, who had successfully completed a course in optometry involving the equivalent of four academic years of full-time study at Honours level or higher.

4. Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Professional Research

Withdrawn - August 2019

The standard of the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Professional Research was that expected of a good Honours graduate, or a person with equivalent experience, who had, in a period of study lasting for a minimum of 12 months, satisfied the taught components of an approved course of study, at Doctorate level. To qualify for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Professional Research, a student must have been assigned at least 120 credits overall at Level 8; and have completed satisfactorily any additional elements that were specified for the award.