

Academic Regulations

Framework of Qualifications

Document Control

Responsibility for Policy:	Registrar
Approved by and date:	Initial Approval: March 2023 Senate Minor Revisions Approved March 2024 Senate, June 2024 Senate, June 2025 Senate
Frequency of Review:	5 years
Next Review date:	2028
Related Policies:	
Minor Revisions:	March 2024: addition of Foundation Degree and Professional Graduate Certificate June 2024 Replacement of APL with RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) Addition of 20 and 30C CPD modules. Addition of Degree Apprenticeship
EIA:	The Framework is not expected to impact equality, diversity and inclusion but all data is monitored carefully.

1 Implementation

This document shall apply initially from 22nd March 2023. Minor revisions were approved at Senate in March 2024 and June 2024.

2 General

These tables list all types of qualification offered by the University, and are consistent with the national *Framework of Higher Education Qualifications*.

Students who become eligible for the award of any of these qualifications will be issued with a formal certificate.

In addition, the University will issue transcripts to students who complete all credit-rated provision, including isolated CPD modules [which do not appear in the Framework and for which no formal Certificate is available].

The tables indicate the level of each qualification in relation to the UK Framework of Higher Education Qualifications [FHEQ]. This may be converted to alternative terminology used at the University as follows:

FHEQ Level	University Level
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4	Year 1
5	Year 2
6	Year 3
7	M
8	D

3 Standard Undergraduate & Graduate Qualifications

Title	FHEQ Exit Level	UK Credits	Comments
Bachelor of Arts [BA] with Honours in [designation] including BA QTS	6	360	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 & 6. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - The award may be made <i>without honours</i> to a student in exceptional circumstances
Bachelor of Design [BDes] with Honours	6	360	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 & 6. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - The award may be made <i>without honours</i> to a student in exceptional circumstances
Bachelor of Engineering with Honours [BEng]	6	360	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 & 6. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - The award may be made <i>without honours</i> to a student in exceptional circumstances
Bachelor of Law [LLB] with Honours	6	360	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C [4], I[5] & H[6]. - The award may NOT be made <i>without honours</i>. - Transfer from LLB to BA, on the basis of failed Qualifying Components, shall be possible at the end of any Level of study. The award may be made <i>without honours</i> to a student in exceptional circumstances
Bachelor of Science [BSc] with Honours in [designation]	6	360	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 & 6. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - The award may be made <i>without honours</i> to a student in exceptional circumstances

Bachelor of Arts/ Science [BA/BSc] with Honours [Degree Apprenticeship]	6	360	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 & 6. Additional requirements may apply to some apprenticeships. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. The resulting reduced duration must adhere to the minimum Apprenticeship duration to comply with the ESFA Funding Rules. - At the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - The award may be made <i>without honours</i> to a student in exceptional circumstances.
Professional Graduate Diploma in Education [PgDE]	6	120	- Students must gain 120 credits at Level 6 or higher. - This is ONLY available as an exit award from the Postgraduate Diploma in Education.
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education [PgCE]	6	60	- Students must gain 60 credits at Level 6. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 30 credits via RPL. - This is ONLY available as an exit award from the Postgraduate Certificate in Education.
Diploma in Higher Education [Dip HE]	5	240	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4 & 5. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits via RPL.
Certificate in Higher Education [Cert HE]	4	120	- Students must gain 120 credits at Level 4. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL

4 Standard Taught Postgraduate Qualifications

Title	FHEQ Exit	UK Credits	Comments
Masters Awards			
Master of Business Administration [MBA]	7	180	- Programmes must include at least 180 credits, with a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 and a minimum of 150 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.] - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits.
Master of Arts [MA] in/by [designation]	7	180	- Programmes must include at least 180 credits, with a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 and a minimum of 150 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.] - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits.
Master of Education [M.Ed]	7	180	- Programmes must include at least 180 credits, with a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 and a minimum of 150 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits.
Master of Ministry [M.Min]	7	180	- Programmes must include 180 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.] - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits.
Master of Research [M.Res [Designation]]	7	180	- Programmes must include 180 credits at Level 7. - Focused on training students for professional work or doctoral research - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.] - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits.
Masters by Research [M.Res [Designation]]	7	180	- Programmes must include 180 credits at Level 7. - Focused on training students for professional work or doctoral research - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.] - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits

Master of Arts by Research [Designation] [MA Res [Designation]	7	180	• Programmes must include 180 credits at Level 7. • Focused on training students for professional work or doctoral research • Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.] • Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits.
Master of Science [MSc] in <i>[designation]</i>	7	180	• Programmes must include at least 180 credits, with a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 and a minimum of 150 credits at Level 7. • Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.] • Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits.
LLM by Research	7	180	• Programmes will include 180 credits at Level 7. • Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL [but NOT for the Dissertation or equivalent.]. Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits. • The LLM by Research will be offered under the governance of the University Programme Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Awards. The structure of the Award will be determined by Clause 6.1.1.2 of the Programme Regulations (Masters by Research).

Integrated Masters Awards

Master of Business with Honours [M.Bus]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5, and 6
Master of Creative Industries with Honours [M.Creat Ind]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5, and 6.
Master of Education (M.Ed) with Honours [and recommendation for QTS]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6. - This Award will also include a recommendation for QTS.

Master of Engineering with Honours [M.Eng]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5, and 6.
Master of Humanities with Honours [M.Hum]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C [4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6.
Master of Mathematics with Honours (M.Math)	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6.

Master of Psychology with Honours [M.Psych]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School and subject to the requirements of the BPS, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5, and 6. - The award is accredited by the BPS.
Master in Science with Honours [M.Sci]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5, and 6.
Master of Social Science with Honours [MSocSci]	7	480	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels C[4], I[5] & H[6]. - Students must gain 120 credits at Level M[7]. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, a student may be granted exemption from up to 240 credits from Levels 4 & 5 on the basis of RPL. - In order to be eligible to progress to Masters Level students shall be required not only to have completed Honours Level but also to have performed at a level commensurate with the University's requirements for the award of a bachelor's degree with first class or second class Honours; - A related Bachelors award may be made at Level 6 for students who gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6.

Other Postgraduate Awards			
Postgraduate Diploma in Education [PGDE]	7	120	- Students must gain 120 credits at Level 7. - Students who gain 60 credits at Level 7 but do not successfully complete the full Diploma, and are not eligible for the award of a Professional Graduate Diploma, will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate [NOT PGCE].
Postgraduate Diploma in [designation]	7	120	- Students must gain 120 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 60 credits via RPL
Postgraduate Certificate in [designation]	7	60	- Students must gain 60 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 30 credits via RPL
Postgraduate Certificate in Education [PGCE]	7	60	- Students must gain 60 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 30 credits via RPL

5 Standard Postgraduate Research Qualifications

Title	FHEQ Exit	UK Credits	Comments
Doctor of Philosophy [PhD]	8	n/a	Students who do not successfully complete the PhD may be eligible for the award of an Master of Philosophy [M.Phil]
Doctor of Education [EdD]	8	540	- Students must pass Part 1 [120 credits at Level 7 and 60 credits at Level 8] and Part 2 [360 credits at Level 8]. - Students may be granted exemption via RPL from up to 120 Part 1 credits [not including the Research Proposal]. - Students who pass the 120 Level 7 credits at Part 1 AND achieve at least a Level 7 pass for the 60 Level 8 credits at Part 1, but do not successfully complete Part 2, will be eligible for the appropriate Level 7 award.
Doctor of Health and Social Care [D.HS]	8	540	- Students must pass Part 1 [120 credits at Level 7 and 60 credits at Level 8] and Part 2 [360 credits at Level 8]. - Students may be granted exemption via RPL from up to 120 Part 1 credits [not including the Research Proposal]. - Students who pass the 120 Level 7 credits at Part 1 AND achieve at least a Level 7 pass for the 60 Level 8 credits at Part 1, but do not successfully complete Part 2, will be eligible for the appropriate Level 7 award.

Doctor of Ministry [D.Min]	8	540	- Students must pass Part 1 [120 credits at Level 7 and 60 credits at Level 8] and Part 2 [360 credits at Level 8]. - Students may be granted exemption via RPL from up to 120 Part 1 credits [not including the Research Proposal]. - Students who pass the 120 Level 7 credits at Part 1 AND achieve at least a Level 7 pass for the 60 Level 8 credits at Part 1, but do not successfully complete Part 2, will be eligible for the award of Master of Ministry [M.Min].
Doctor of Social Work [D.SW]	8	540	- Students must pass Part 1 [120 credits at Level 7 and 60 credits at Level 8] and Part 2 [360 credits at Level 8]. - Students may be granted exemption via RPL from up to 120 Part 1 credits [not including the Research Proposal]. - Students who pass the 120 Level 7 credits at Part 1 AND achieve at least a Level 7 pass for the 60 Level 8 credits at Part 1, but do not successfully complete Part 2, will be eligible for the appropriate Level 7 award.
Master of Philosophy [MPhil]	7	n/a	

6 Other Qualifications

Title	FHE Q Exit	UK Credits	Comments
Foundation Degree	5	240	- Students must gain 120 credits at each of Levels 4 & 5. - Exceptionally, at the discretion of the Head of School, students may be granted exemption from up to 120 credits from Level 4 on the basis of RPL.
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PgCE)	6	60	- Students must gain 60 credits at Level 6 - No RPL granted - Is normally granted to those undertaking professional training in Education as a vehicle for QTS. However, it may be awarded without QTS where appropriate.
Certificate of Professional Development	7	60	- Students must gain 60 credits at Level 7. - Students may be granted exemption from up to 30 credits via RPL
Certificate of Professional Development	7	30	- Students must gain 15 credits at level 7. - No RPL is granted.
Certificate of Professional Development	7	20	- Students must gain 15 credits at level 7. - No RPL is granted.
Certificate of Professional Development	7	15	- Students must gain 15 credits at level 7. - No RPL is granted.
Certificate in [Designation]	4	60	- Students must gain 60 credits at level 4 in the designated subject. - No RPL is granted.
Certificate in Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia) for Support	4	30	- Students must gain 30 credits at level 4. - No RPL is granted. - The Award is subject to the Universal Regulations and

Assistants (30 credits)			Conventions appropriate to the award with the exception of completion. Completion of this award will be subject to students passing all elements of assessment with a minimum of a Grade E (42) and therefore achieving 30 credits at Level 4.
Foundation Certificate in <i>[designation]</i>	3	120	Students must gain 120 credits at Foundation Level 3 and exit the University
Certificate of Attendance	n/a	n/a	Attendance at an approved, but not credit-rated, course
Service & Leadership Award	n/a	n/a	Awarded in addition to another qualification.