

ECTS STUDENT INFORMATION

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework and European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System at the University of the Highlands and Islands

(1) Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) brings together all Scottish higher education qualifications, as well as further education, vocational and secondary school qualifications, into a single, national framework. One of its main purposes is to help learners move more easily from one qualification to another.

Qualifications in the framework are described in terms of levels and credits. There are 12 levels in the framework (from Access courses to Doctorates with a taught component). SCQF levels 7 to 10 correspond to the normal four years of full-time undergraduate study, and Level 11 corresponds to Masters-level study. Only qualifications with a taught component are included in the framework, including research degrees which incorporate a course of instruction. All of our university's programmes align with SCQF principles and requirements.

Levels and Credit Points

The SCQF uses two measures to describe qualifications within the framework:

- The level of the outcomes of learning. Levels reflect the demand and complexity of learning; these increase as students' progress through their programme.
- The number of credits achieved, based on the amount of time that an 'average' learner studying at the appropriate level might take to achieve the outcome of that programme. One SCQF credit point represents the outcomes of learning achieved through a notional 10 hours of learning activity.

Undergraduate study

At the University of the Highlands and Islands a standard undergraduate module is 20 SCQF credits, achieved through a notional 200 hours of learning activity (including class time, self-directed study and assessment). (One SCQF credit represents a notional 10 hours of learning activity.) In one academic year, full-time students will normally study six modules and so can achieve 120 credits. The actual credit and level requirements of each programme/module are detailed in individual programme handbooks. Some UHI provision is based around SQA units, which are normally worth 8 SCQF credits.

For information on our university's qualifications and their SCQF requirements please refer to the university's Academic Standards and Quality Regulations and section 6.6 – see: <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/about-uhi/governance/policies-and-regulations/regulations/regulations-2016-17>.

Postgraduate study

At the University of the Highlands and Islands a standard postgraduate module is rated at 20 SCQF credits, achieved through a notional 200 hours of learning activity (including class time, self-directed study and assessment). A full-time Masters programme normally is completed over a full calendar year (12 months) of study.

The actual credit and level requirements of each programme/module are detailed in individual programme handbooks.

For information on our university's qualifications and their SCQF requirements please refer to the university's Academic Standards and Quality Regulations and section 6.6 – see: <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/about-uhi/governance/policies-and-regulations/regulations/regulations-2016-17>.

Students may use credits acquired from prior qualifications and/or informal learning to gain entry to a programme or exemption from specific modules through a process of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). For further details of the SCQF, go to the SCQF website: <http://scqf.org.uk/>.

(2) European Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (ECTS)

The European Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (ECTS) is the European framework designed to facilitate the transfer of credit for students who choose to study at more than one European university, including exchange students.

The Europe-wide Bologna Process promotes an overarching Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA). Scotland successfully self-certified the SCQF as compatible with the FQ-EHEA in October 2006, meaning that Scottish qualifications are linked to ECTS or ECTS-compatible credits.

SCQF and ECTS credits

Each standard UHI undergraduate or postgraduate module rated at 20 SCQF credits is equivalent to 10 ECTS credit points.

In a full-time year of undergraduate study at UHI a student will normally complete 120 SCQF credits which is equivalent to 60 ECTS credits. In a single full-time semester of undergraduate study at UHI a student will normally complete 60 SCQF credits which is equivalent to 30 ECTS credits. Academic transcripts issued by UHI will show both SCQF and ECTS credit totals.

UHI will recognise ECTS credits achieved from European universities for students seeking admission to UHI programmes.

Further information is available in the ECTS Users' Guide:
http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/docs/ects-guide_en.pdf

May 2016