

Part 1

Descriptions of our University's Awards

1 General

- 1.1 Our University's awards are defined in terms of the knowledge and skills that a typical holder of the award can be expected to possess. UEL has also adopted a credit framework which defines courses in terms of the number of credits achieved at a given level. These definitions are intended to ensure that standards are comparable with those in other UK institutions. Please see Part 3 Academic Regulations.
- 1.2 In addition to *course-specific aims* (as defined in course specifications), all UEL courses must incorporate *general educational aims*. These are defined in the Quality Criteria in the *Quality Manual* and are subject to review from time to time.
- 1.3 Although course is the preferred nomenclature, programme can be used interchangeably with course at UEL.

2 Modes of study and duration

- 2.1 Courses of study may be offered in full-time, sandwich, block-release, or part-time modes of attendance, as appropriate, or through distance and open learning.

2.2 Full-time courses

Full-time courses, and the University-based stages of sandwich courses, are designed in the expectation that students are available for attendance, at our University or elsewhere according to the requirements of the course, at any time within the duration of the course. Alternatively, in modular courses, attendance may be defined as full-time in terms of enrolment on a number of modules exceeding a specified minimum.

2.3 Sandwich courses

- (a) A course of study approved as leading to an award in the **sandwich** mode must include not less than 36 weeks of supervised work experience in addition to the period for the full-time award, except that for the award of BA in the field of art and design the period must be not less than three months and not more than twelve months in a four-year course.

- (b) The period of supervised work experience must form a compulsory element of the course of study; its objectives must be specified and related to the objectives of the whole course; the performance of students must be assessed; and satisfactory completion of and performance in the period of supervised work experience must be a requirement for the award.
- (c) The fact that a course was pursued in the sandwich mode will be recorded on the award certificate.
- (d) Our University will normally make available an alternative full-time award on sandwich courses, to be awarded to students who are unable, for valid reasons, to undertake the sandwich element.

2.4 Block-release

Block-release courses are normally intended for students in employment and require a number of short periods of full-time attendance (typically 1-2 weeks).

2.5 Part-time courses

Part-time courses are normally structured so as to require attendance at our University on not more than two days per week. Alternatively, in modular courses, part-time attendance may be defined in terms of enrolment on a number of modules not exceeding a specified maximum.

2.6 Distance and open learning

Distance and open learning: *open* learning is the provision of all or some of a course or module by means of supported study using a variety of instructional media which facilitate independent learning undertaken either at our University or at a *distance* from it.

3 Academic framework

- 3.1 In order to ensure comparability of its awards both within UEL and with other institutions, and to facilitate transfer between courses, our University has adopted an academic framework for its taught courses which enables them to be defined in terms of the amount of study successfully completed at a given level. The regulations are set out in Part 3 of this Manual.
- 3.2 The Academic Framework provides the award classification for unclassified degrees, foundation degrees and honours degrees at undergraduate level, for all level 7 awards and for D level or level 8 awards including taught elements (see Part 3 of this Manual).

4 Title and scope of introductory awards at level 3

4.1 The following learning outcomes apply to all awards at level 3. A student who gains an award at level 3 will normally be expected to be able to:

- demonstrate a basic knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with their area(s) of study
- interpret underlying concepts and principles within the context of their area(s) of study
- present and interpret basic qualitative and quantitative data in simple and familiar settings
- develop basic lines of argument in accordance with the theories and concepts of their subject(s) of study;
- apply given approaches to solving problems related to their area(s) of study and/or work
- demonstrate a basic ability to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to problem solving
- develop key skills within a structured and managed environment and with external evaluation;
- demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

4.2 Undergraduate Certificate

A student who is awarded an Undergraduate Certificate will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 4.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 40 credits at level 3 or above. The Undergraduate Certificate will be an unnamed award.

4.3 University Certificate (Cert)

A student who is awarded a University Certificate will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 4.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 40 credits at level 3 or above. The course is offered as an introduction at higher education level to an academic field. A University Certificate may be awarded with distinction if appropriate and if the course specification so provides.

5 Title and scope of undergraduate awards at level 4

5.1 The following learning outcomes apply to all awards at level 4. A student who gains an award at level 4 will normally be expected to be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with their area(s) of study
- evaluate and interpret underlying concepts and principles within the context of their area(s) of study;
- present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data;
- develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of their subject(s) of study;

- evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to their area(s) of study and/or work;
- undertake further training and develop new skills within a structured and managed environment;
- demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

5.2 Undergraduate Associate Certificate (UACert)

A student who is awarded an Undergraduate Associate Certificate will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 5.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 20 credits at level 4 or above. The Undergraduate Associate Certificate will be an unnamed award.

5.3 Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)

A student who is awarded a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 5.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 120 credits at level 4 or above. A Certificate of Higher Education may be awarded with distinction if the course specification so provides.

5.4 Certificate in Education (CertEd)

A student who is awarded a Certificate in Education will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 5.1 above and to have demonstrated a practical competence in teaching. The minimum requirement for the award will be 120 credits at level 4 or above. A Certificate in Education may be awarded with distinction if the course specification so provides.

5.5 Professional Development Certificate (PDC)

A student who is awarded a Professional Development Certificate (PDC) will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match those described under the scope of undergraduate awards at level 4 or above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 30 credits at level 4 or above. In addition, students will need to have demonstrated a minimum of two of the core competencies outlined within the UEL PDC framework. The PDC is an unclassified award (pass/fail).

5.6 Practitioner Certificate (PC)

A student who is awarded the Practitioner Certificate will be expected to achieve the specified learning outcomes mapped to the relevant UK national occupational standards (NOS), and further evidence that they have achieved a minimum number of hours (as stated in the course specification) of work-based applied technical practice that demonstrates the safety and competencies, and ranges, for those standards.

6 **Title and scope of undergraduate awards at level 5**

6.1 The following learning outcomes apply to all awards at Level 5. A student who gains an award at level 5 will normally be expected to be able to

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the well-established principles of their area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have been developed;
- apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context;
- demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in their subject(s)
- evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in their field of study;
- demonstrate an understanding of the limits of their knowledge and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge;
- use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis;
- communicate information, arguments, and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively;
- undertake further training, develop existing skills, and acquire new competences that enable them to assume significant responsibility with organisations
- demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision making.

6.2 University Diploma (Dip)

A student who is awarded a University Diploma will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 6.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 80 credits at level 5 or above. A Diploma may be awarded with distinction if the course specification so provides.

6.3 Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)

A student who is awarded a Diploma in Higher Education will be expected to achieve all the learning outcomes listed in 6.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 240 credits of which 120 must be at level 4 or higher and 120 must be at level 5 or higher. A Diploma of Higher Education may be awarded with distinction if the course specification so provides.

6.4 Foundation Degree (Fd)

6.4.1 A student who is awarded a Foundation Degree will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 6.1 above. The specific focus of the Foundation Degree will be the development of skills and knowledge relevant to the workplace. The design and content of the course will be consistent with UEL's policy on Foundation Degrees.

6.4.2 The minimum requirement for an award will be 240 credits of which 120 must be at level 4 or higher and 120 must be at level 5 or higher. A Foundation Degree may include up to a maximum of 45 further credits at level 3,4 or 5 to provide preparatory work on entry and/or articulation with an honours degree course.

6.4.3 A Foundation Degree may be awarded with merit or distinction.

6.4.4 *FdA, FdSc, FdEng*

The award of FdA will be used in art and design, the arts and humanities and in areas of arts and social sciences where it is appropriate. The award of FdSc will be used where studies are substantially based on science, mathematics or technology and their applications. The award of FdEng will be reserved for courses which provide a technologically broad education with an emphasis on engineering applications.

7 Title and scope of undergraduate awards at level 6

7.1 The following learning outcomes relate to all awards at level 6. A student who gains an award at level 6 will normally be expected to be able to:

- demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline;
- deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline;
- demonstrate a conceptual understanding that enables the student to devise and sustain arguments, and/or solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline;
- describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline;

- demonstrate an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge;
- manage their own learning, and make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources;
- apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects;
- critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete); to formulate judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution, or identify a range of solutions, to a problem;
- communicate information, ideas, problems, and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision making in complex and unpredictable contexts and the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

7.2 Graduate Certificate or Diploma (Grad Cert or Grad Dip)

A student who is awarded a Graduate Certificate or Diploma will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 7.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award of a Graduate Certificate will be 40 credits at level 6 or above. The minimum requirement for a Graduate Diploma will be 80 credits at level 6 or above. A Graduate Certificate or Diploma may be awarded with merit or distinction.

7.2.1 Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)

A student who is awarded a Graduate Diploma in Law will be expected to achieve learning outcomes which match some or all of those listed in 7.1 above. The minimum requirements for the award of a Graduate Diploma in Law will be 180 credits, at least 80 credits of which will be at level 6 or above. A student must have passed the Diploma in accordance with the rules of the Joint Academic Stage Board of the Law Society and Bar Council and will be awarded a distinction, commendation or a pass in accordance with these rules.

7.3 Ordinary Bachelor's Degree

A student who is awarded an Ordinary Bachelor's Degree will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 7.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 300 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level 4 or higher; a minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or higher; and a minimum of 60 credits at level 6 or higher. An Ordinary Bachelor's Degree may be awarded with merit or distinction.

(* The word "unclassified" does not appear on the degree certificate)

7.4 Bachelor's Degree with Honours

7.4.1 The Bachelor's Degree with Honours shall be awarded to a student who has achieved all the learning outcomes listed in 7.1 above.

7.4.2 The minimum requirement for the award of a Bachelor's Degree with Honours will be 360 credits of which 120 shall be at level 4 or higher, 120 shall be at level 5 or higher and 120 shall be at level 6 or higher.

7.4.3 Degrees with Honours will be classified as First Class, Upper Second Class, Lower Second Class, and Third Class.

7.4.4 *Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science (BA or BSc)*

The award of BA is traditionally used in art and design, the arts and humanities, combined studies in the arts and social studies, and in areas of social or business studies where it is appropriate. The award of BSc is traditionally used where studies are substantially based on science, mathematics or technology and their applications.

Courses of study leading to BA or BSc will normally have a title which gives a more specific indication of the subjects studied.

7.4.5 *Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)*

The award of BEng is reserved for courses which provide a technologically broad education with an emphasis on engineering applications, primarily those courses that may lead to registration with the Engineering Council.

7.4.6 *Bachelor of Laws (LLB)*

The title LLB is reserved for courses of specialised study in law. Courses where legal and other studies are combined will lead to the BA or, where appropriate, BSc.

7.4.7 *Bachelor of Music (BMus)*

The award of BMus is reserved for courses which provide a specialised study in musical performance and/or theory and are designed to provide a sound basis of knowledge and skills for students aspiring to a professional career in music.

7.4.8 The award of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science are available as Bachelor's Degrees with Honours or as Unclassified Bachelor's Degrees.

7.5 Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

A student who is awarded a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of the those listed in 7.1 above and the standard is that expected of a graduate who has successfully completed the study of the theory and practice of teaching on a course suitable for the fulfilment of the University's general educational aims and who has demonstrated practical competence in teaching. The minimum requirement for the award of a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education will be 100 credits at level 6 or above.

8 **Title and scope of postgraduate awards at level 7**

8.1 The following learning outcomes relate to all awards at level 7. A student who gains a postgraduate award at level 7 will normally be expected to be able to:

- demonstrate a systematic awareness of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice;
- demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;
- demonstrate an originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;
- demonstrate a conceptual understanding that enables the student to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline and to evaluate new methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses;
- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make informed judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- demonstrate self direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level;
- demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; decision making in complex and unpredictable situations; and the independent learning required for continuing professional development.

8.2 Postgraduate Associate Certificate (PACert)

A student who is awarded a Postgraduate Associate Certificate will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 8.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 30 credits at level 7 or higher. The Postgraduate Associate Certificate will be an unnamed award.

8.3 Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)

A student who is awarded a Postgraduate Certificate will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 8.1 above. The minimum requirement for the award will be 60 credits at level 7 or higher.

8.3 Certificate in Management (CIM)

The Certificate in Management is a post-experience Postgraduate Certificate. A student who is awarded a Certificate in Management will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 8.1 above and who has demonstrated competence in aspects of management. The minimum requirement for an award will be 60 credits at level 7.

8.4 Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

A student who is awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Education will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 8.1 above and the standard is that expected of a graduate who has successfully completed the study of the theory and practice of teaching on a course suitable for the fulfilment of the University's general educational aims and who has demonstrated practical competence in teaching. The minimum requirement for the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Education will be 120 credits at level 6 or above of which at least 60 must be level 7.

8.5 International Postgraduate Certificate in Education (iPGCE)

The iPGCE course comprises two 30 credit modules at L7 focusing on teacher education. It will also address the professional standards for Qualified Teacher Status at L7 and is for students in teaching positions overseas.

8.6 Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)

A student who is awarded a Postgraduate Diploma will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 8.1 above. The minimum requirement for an award will be 120 credits at level 7 or higher.

8.7 Diploma in Management Studies (DMS)

8.7.1 A student who is awarded a DMS will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match some or all of those listed in 8.1 above. The DMS is a post-experience Postgraduate Diploma award, designed to meet the

needs of those individuals who wish to achieve a range of general management knowledge, skills and competencies.

8.7.2 The DMS is suitable for a variety of candidates with the potential to meet the learning demands of Diploma courses, including graduates from a variety of disciplines and mature and experienced managers. Entrants would normally be expected to have at least two years of management experience. A DMS may be awarded with merit or distinction.

8.8 Professional Diploma in Architecture

The standard of a Professional Diploma in Architecture is that expected of a student who has previously passed or gained exemption from the Part One of the professional examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and Architecture Registration Board (ARB), and by successful completion of the course, would be exempt from Part Two of the professional examinations, which marks the completion of professional training. The minimum requirement for the award of a Professional Diploma in Architecture will be 240 credits at level 7. The Professional Diploma in Architecture may be awarded with merit or distinction.

8.9 Diploma in Architectural Design

This award is designed for students who have an equivalent first degree to BA/BSc (Hons) in Architecture, but do not have ARB/RIBA Part 1 Exemption. This course does not give Exemption from ARB/RIBA Part 2. The standard of a Diploma in Architectural Design is that expected of a student who has who has successfully completed a course of study, equivalent to the course of study which leads to exemption from Part Two of the professional examinations. The minimum requirement for the award of a Diploma in Architectural Design will be 240 credits at level 7. The Diploma in Architectural Design may be awarded with merit or distinction.

8.10 Taught Masters Degrees

8.10.1 A student who is awarded a Masters degree will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 8.1 above and which includes a compulsory element of advanced independent work. The minimum requirement for the award will be 180 credits at level 7. Taught Master's degrees may be awarded with merit or distinction. A range of Masters awards is available.

8.10.2 *Master of Arts and Master of Science (MA or MSc)*

Courses of study at Master's level may lead either to the MA or MSc, or to a more closely defined award restricted to certain specific areas of study. The title Master of Arts (MA) is generally used in art and design, the arts and humanities and in other areas of study where a more specialised title is not appropriate. The title Master of Science (MSc) is

generally used where studies are substantially based on science, mathematics or technology and their applications. Courses of study leading to the MA or MSc will normally have a title which gives a more specific indication of the subject(s) studied.

8.10.3 *Master of Business Administration (MBA)*

The award of MBA is reserved for courses which focus on the general principles and functions of management and the development of management skills. Students entering MBA courses must have appropriate practical experience and should normally be at least 23 years old on admission.

8.10.4 *Master of Education (MEd)*

The award of MEd is reserved for courses focused on education and professional practice in teaching. Entry requirements are a BEd Honours degree or equivalent qualification. Other qualifications which may be deemed acceptable include: an Honours degree together with a PGCE or CertEd; an appropriate DPSE; a BEd degree gained in circumstances where the award of Honours was not available; the Licentiatehip of the College of Preceptors; or the achievement at a sufficiently high level of the Diploma in Advanced Studies in Education of the College of Preceptors in a field cognate with that of the course to which admission is sought. All entrants should have at least three years' teaching experience.

8.10.5 *Master of Laws (LLM)*

The award of Master of Laws is reserved for courses of specialised study in law. The entry requirement is an Honours degree, or equivalent.

8.10.6 *Master of Architecture (MArch)*

The award of Master of Architecture is reserved for courses which have a primary focus on design, and which are studio-based. The entry requirement is an Honours degree or equivalent and Part Two of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) professional examinations or equivalent.

8.10.7 *Master of Research (MRes)*

The award of Master of Research is reserved for courses designed to prepare candidates to undertake more extensive research in academia, industry or other professional settings, and to provide an adequate foundation for doctoral study. The course must include a significant component of advanced, independent research or creative work constituting 60% or more of the course's duration and assessment

requirement. Taught elements of the course will provide an appropriate theoretical grounding in research techniques for a range of related disciplines, develop specialist knowledge relevant to the broad disciplinary area, broaden students' experience and equip them with transferable skills and knowledge likely to be needed in a research career in academia or industry.

8.10.8 *Master in Systemic Psychotherapy (M.Sys.Psych)*

The award of Master in Systemic Psychotherapy is reserved for courses of specialised study in systemic psychotherapy. The entry requirement is an Honours degree, or equivalent.

8.10.9 *Master of Professional Studies (M Prof)*

A student who is awarded a Master of Professional Studies will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 8.1 above and which includes a compulsory element of advanced independent work. The minimum requirement for the award will be 240 credits at level 7 or 8 D level with a minimum of 120 credits at level D or level 8 and a minimum of 60 dissertation credits at level 7 or 8 D level.

8.10.10 *Master of Music (MMus)*

The award of MMus is reserved for courses which provide advanced study in musical performance, practice and/or theory. Entrants will possess a BMus (Hons) or equivalent.

8.10.11 *Master of Fine Arts (MFA)*

The award of Master of Fine Art is reserved for taught master's degrees which draw on creative and fine arts disciplines with an emphasis on professional skills and practice. The MFA award demonstrates the ability to sustain and promote a professional practice and contextualize this in relation to a professional or other creative artistic context.

8.11 Integrated Masters Degrees

The Integrated Masters degree is a four-year full-time course of study, integrating three years of study at undergraduate honours level at levels 4, 5 and 6 (minimum 360 credits) with at least the equivalent of one year of study (minimum 120 credits) at level 7. In order to gain an award, students would need to pass 120 credits at each level, from level 4 to level 7. Students would normally be expected to pass all 120 credits at a particular level before being able to move to the next level.

8.11.1 *Master of Engineering (MEng)*

The award of MEng is reserved for courses which have a primary focus on engineering. The normal duration of the course will be four years of full-time study or the equivalent. A student who is awarded a MEng will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 8.1 above during the final year. The first three years of the course will be equivalent to an undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours.

8.11.2 *Master of Sociology (MSoc)*

The award of MSoc is reserved for courses which have a primary focus on sociology. The normal duration of the course will be four years of full-time study or the equivalent. A student who is awarded a MSoc will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 8.1 above during the final year. The first three years of the course will be equivalent to an undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours.

8.11.3 *Master of Computing (MComp)*

The award of MComp is reserved for courses which have a primary focus on computing. The normal duration of the course will be four years of full-time study or the equivalent. A student who is awarded a MComp will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 8.1 above during the final year. The first three years of the course will be equivalent to an undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours.

8.11.4 *Master of Accounting and Finance (MAccFin)*

The award of MAccFin is reserved for courses which have a primary focus on accounting and finance. The normal duration of the course will be four years of full-time study or the equivalent. A student who is awarded a MAccFin will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in below during the final year. The first three years of the course will be equivalent to an undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours.

8.12 *Research Masters Degrees*

8.12.1 *Master of Philosophy (MPhil)*

A student who is awarded a MPhil degree will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 8.1 above. Students must have satisfactorily completed research training, investigated and evaluated or critically studied an appropriate topic over not less than 18 months of full-time study, and presented a satisfactory thesis.

9 Title and scope of doctoral degrees D level or level 8

9.1 The following learning outcomes relate to all doctoral awards. A student who gains a doctoral degree will normally be expected to have:

- created and interpreted new knowledge, through original research, or other advance scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, which extends the forefront of the discipline and merits publication;
- systematically acquired an understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice;
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry;
- an ability to make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- an ability to continue to undertake pure and/or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas, or approaches;
- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

9.2 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

A student who is awarded a PhD will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 9.1 above. Students must have satisfactorily completed a research training, investigated and evaluated or critically studied an appropriate topic over not less than 24 (if registered for PhD direct) or 33 months (if registered for PhD following transfer from MPhil status) of full-time study resulting in a significant contribution to knowledge, and presented a satisfactory thesis.

9.3 Professional Doctorates (eg DEd, DOccPsych, DSysPsych)

A student who is awarded a Professional Doctorate will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 9.1 above. Students must have satisfactorily completed a course of at least 33 months of full-time study incorporating a taught element, professional practice and appropriate investigative or creative work leading to the preparation of a thesis and, where relevant, artefacts or other products; the outcome shall represent an original contribution to the professional field. Where credit rated, the taught element of

the doctorate should be credit-rated at level 7 and / 8 D* level. The professional practice included in the specified period may be paid employment, provided it is approved as appropriate. The award title shall take the form provided in the examples above with the appropriate abbreviation being approved as part of the validation process.

9.4 Higher Doctorates (Doctor of Engineering, Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Technology)

A Higher Doctorate is awarded in recognition of professional and academic accomplishment over a sustained period of time. A candidate who is awarded a Higher Doctorate will be expected to have achieved and demonstrated learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 9.1 above. In addition, they will be a holder of at least seven years' standing of a first degree or a holder of at least four years' standing of a higher degree, who is a leading authority in the field of study concerned and has made an original and significant contribution in the advancement or application of knowledge in that field.

9.5 Practitioner Doctorate

A student who is awarded a Practitioner Doctorate will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 9.1 above. Students must have satisfactorily completed a course of at least 33 months of full-time study incorporating a taught element, advanced professional practice and appropriate work in practice leading to the preparation of a thesis and, where relevant, artefacts or other products; the outcome shall represent an original contribution to the professional field. The taught element of the doctorate should be credit-rated at level 7. The professional practice included in the specified period may be paid employment, provided it is approved as appropriate. A Practitioner Doctorate may be described as an Advanced Practitioner Doctorate if aimed at professionals who are already qualified and experienced practitioners, who are in practice, but who wish to further their qualifications and professional skills.

9.6 European Doctorate (PhD(Eur))

A student who is awarded a PhD(Eur) will be expected to achieve learning outcomes that match all of those listed in 9.1 above. Students must have satisfactorily completed a research training, investigated and evaluated or critically studied an appropriate topic over not less than 33 months of full-time study resulting in a significant contribution to knowledge, and presented a satisfactory thesis.

In addition, each of the following four conditions must apply:

- (a) There will be two external examiners for the thesis and any associated material, and they will come from universities in two separate European Union countries other than the United Kingdom.

- (b) The examiners conducting the viva-voce examination must include at least one from a university in a European Union country other than the United Kingdom.
- (c) Part of the viva-voce examination must be conducted in a European language other than English. This will be an official language of a country that is a member of the European Higher Education Area and must have the prior approval of the PGR Review Sub-Committee.
- (d) The thesis must have been prepared as a result of a period of research in another European Union country of not less than ten consecutive weeks full-time (or the equivalent part-time).