

Block Teaching refers to the approach where classes are delivered intensively over a period of 1 to 6 weeks, allowing for a focused and immersive learning experience.

All programmes offering block teaching must comply with the [University Policy on Block Teaching](#). This policy primarily addresses the "conversion" type, ensuring that these adaptations meet our high standards and support effective learning outcomes.

There are two forms of block teaching, both requiring approval from the Studies Committee:

CATEGORY 1: "TRUE"



When block teaching is the most appropriate pedagogic model for a programme.

Category 1 ("True") Proposals must include a supporting statement addressing the [four standard issues](#):

1. Rationale for the block approach
2. Overview of course design, including periods of learning before/after the block
3. Support available if teaching staff are not on campus for the full semester, including use of VLE
4. Format and timing of assessment activities

CATEGORY 2: "CONVERSION"



When an on-campus or conventional delivery model is adapted to block teaching for practical purposes.

Category 2 ("Conversion") Proposals, in addition to these four standard issues, must also address:

- The eight course design points (including limitations on teaching hours, inclusion of problem-based learning, structured pre- and post-block learning, and incorporation of formative assessment and feedback)
- The differences between conventional and block methods.

Emergency use of Block Teaching (e.g. staff illness) can be applied for with the submission of a proposal to the relevant Dean of the University addressing the standard four issues. Students should be supported in accordance with the Policy.

Resources

- Explore the **University Policy on Block Teaching** in [the online policy document](#).
- Access **Learning and Teaching Policies and Procedures** by visiting the [Learning and Teaching Policies and Procedures page](#) on the Heriot-Watt website.
- Find **advice and resources to help you design courses** using the Block Teaching model at the [Learning and Teaching Academic SharePoint Hub](#).

