

All HWU's taught qualifications across all modes and locations are part of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). The SCQF brings Scottish qualifications into a single national framework (secondary school, further and higher education, vocational) and promotes lifelong learning.

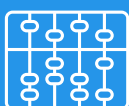
SCQF Levels



The SCQF has 12 levels, from introductory skills (Level 1) to doctoral degrees (Level 12). Levels indicate the complexity and demand of learning outcomes. At HWU, taught programmes/awards correspond to the following levels:

Level 6	Level 7	Levels 7-8	Levels 7-9	Levels 7-10	Levels 7-11
Foundation Programme Dubai 120 credits	Certificate of Higher Education/ Industrial Training 120 credits	Diploma of Higher Education/ Industrial Training 240 credits	Ordinary degrees 360 credits	Honours degrees 480 credits	Integrated Masters (UG) 600 credits
Level 9+	Level 9+	Level 11	Level 11	Level 11	
Graduate Certificate 60 credits	Graduate Diploma 120 credits	Postgraduate Certificate 60 credits	Postgraduate Diploma 120 credits	Masters (PGT) 180 credits	

SCQF Credits



Credits quantify the amount of learning, based on the average time required to complete a course or programme; 1 credit is awarded for 10 notional effort hours. At HWU, most courses and programmes correspond to the following credits:

Standard course	15 credits*	~150 hours to complete each course (including class time, self-study, and assessment)
UG programme	120 credits	8 courses per stage/year
PGT programme	180 credits	8 taught courses (120 credits) + dissertation/project (60 credits)

* HWU Online operates on a 20 credit per course model

Approval

Each course is allocated an SCQF level based on its learning outcomes, using [SCQF Level Descriptors](#) as guidance. All learning that leads to an award must be assigned an SCQF level and credit, recorded on student transcripts, and approved by the University Studies Committee (USC). Credit-rated learning without a formal award must also meet SCQF requirements and be approved by USC.

Resources

- [The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#)
- [Qualifications can Cross Boundaries: A guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland](#)
- [SCQF Interactive Framework](#) - view level descriptors, skills, and qualification comparisons

Reviewed: Sept 2025 This Learning & Teaching Briefing Paper was produced as part of a series of Academic Quality advice and guidance. Visit our [SharePoint Hub](#) for further information.