Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF): Key Points

- brings all mainstream Scottish qualifications into a single, national framework (secondary school, further education and vocational)
- aims to promote lifelong learning.
- uses two measures to describe qualifications:
  - Levels, reflecting the demand and difficulty of learning associated with a course/programme
  - Credits, used to quantify the outcomes of learning; based on the average amount of time taken to complete a course/programme

SCQF Levels and Credits at HWU

There are 12 levels within SCQF. HWU's taught degrees correspond to Levels 7-9 (Ordinary), 7-10 (Hons), 7-11 (UG Masters), 11 (PGT). Each course within a programme is allocated to a particular level, based on its learning outcomes. SCQF Levels Descriptors assist in the process of specifying learning outcomes at the appropriate level.

At HWU, a standard course is rated at 15 credits. A student will, on average, take 150 hours (incl. class time, self-study and assessment) to complete each course. SCQF credits are recorded on Transcripts.

- UG: 8 courses in each stage/year = 120 credits
- PGT Masters: 8 taught courses (120 credits) + dissertation (60 credits) = 180 credits

In HWU, all types of learning leading to an award must be rated by SCQF level and credit, and require approval of the Undergraduate or Postgraduate Studies Committees. Other forms of learning which do not have a formal award, but are credit-rated, must also adhere to SCQF level and credit requirements and be approved by U/PSC.