

# HE QUALIFICATIONS IN UK, IRELAND AND EUROPE

## HWU Qualifications

All of Heriot-Watt University's undergraduate and postgraduate taught qualifications (incl. taught Doctorates), *across all modes and locations of study*, are part of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, and are rated by SCQF credits and levels. <http://www.scqf.org.uk>

## European Credit and Transfer System

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is designed to facilitate transfer of credit for students who study at more than one European HEI.

With ECTS, a typical full-year of undergraduate study (= 1,200 effort hours) is rated at 60 ECTS. Within the Heriot-Watt, a full-year of study is rated at 120 SCQF credits. At 15-credit HWU course is equivalent to 7.5 ECTS credits. ECTS credits are, therefore, half of HWU/SCQF credits.

## SCQF and ECTS @ HWU

Academic Transcripts issued to students by the University on completion of their studies will show both SCQF and ECTS credit totals. Credits awarded through Recognition of Prior Learning are also shown on Academic Transcripts.

| Qualification      | SCQF/HWU | ECTS |
|--------------------|----------|------|
| PGT Masters        | 180      | 90   |
| PG Diploma         | 120      | 60   |
| PG Certificate     | 60       | 30   |
| Integrated Masters | 600      | 300  |
| Honours            | 480      | 240  |
| Ordinary           | 360      | 180  |
| Diploma HE         | 240      | 120  |
| Certificate HE     | 120      | 60   |

## Correspondences between HE Qualifications Frameworks in UK, Ireland and Europe

Within Europe, two over-arching qualifications frameworks provide a basis for comparison of qualifications and levels with the frameworks within UK and Republic of Ireland: the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA), also known as the Bologna Framework. The table below shows correspondences between levels and qualifications in these frameworks.

| Typical Higher Education Qualifications within each level | England, Wales, N.Ireland | Scotland (SCQF) | Republic of Ireland | European Qualif. Framework | Corresponding Framework for Qualif's of European HE Area         |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Doctoral Degrees  | 8                         | 12              | 10                  | 8                          | Third cycle (end of cycle) qualifications                        |
| Master's degrees (PGT + Integrated UG Masters)            | 7                         | 11              | 9                   | 7                          | Second cycle (end of cycle) qualifications                       |
| Postgraduate Diplomas                                     |                           |                 |                     | 7                          | Intermediate qualifications within second cycle                  |
| Postgraduate Certificates                                 | 6                         | 10              | 8                   | 6                          | First cycle (end of cycle) qualifications                        |
| Bachelor's Degrees with Honours/Honour's Bachelor Degrees |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |
| Irish Higher Diploma                                      |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |
| Bachelor's Degrees /Ordinary Bachelor Degrees             | 6                         | 9               | 7                   | 6                          | Intermediate qualifications within first cycle                   |
| Graduate Diplomas   |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |
| Graduate Certificates                                     |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |
| Foundation Degrees (eg FdA, FdSc)                         | 5                         | 8               | 6                   | 5/4                        | Short cycle (within or linked to the first cycle qualifications) |
| Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)                      |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |
| Higher National Diplomas (HND)                            |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |
| Irish Higher Certificate                                  |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |
| Higher National Certificates (HNC)                        | 4                         | 7               | 6                   | 3                          | Intermediate qualifications within the short cycle               |
| Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)                 |                           |                 |                     |                            |  |

## References and Further Information

UK Qualifications + Credit Frameworks: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks>

Quality Assurance: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/quality-assurance.htm> Learning and Teaching Policies and

Procedures: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/policy-bank.htm>

Contact: [quality@hw.ac.uk](mailto:quality@hw.ac.uk)