

CHAPTER 2

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CREDIT SYSTEM (Under Review)

2.1 ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year of the University is divided into 2 semesters, each of **15 teaching weeks' duration**.

2.2 PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A Programme of Study is an approved curriculum, which leads to an award upon successful completion.

A Programme of Study (e.g. BSc (Hons) Mathematics or BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering) is normally made up of a specified number of modules, which are drawn from one discipline or field of study or more and which often combine core modules with a range of electives from which students can choose.

2.3 MODULES

A module refers to any discrete and relatively self-contained course unit for curriculum option, each of which is likely to be characterised by a particular content and structure, specific methods of delivery (a combination of lectures, tutorials, practicals and independent learning, or a set of learning-teaching materials) and a particular approach to assessment. It is a subset of a Programme of Study.

Each module can either be taught in one semester (semester module) or throughout two semesters (yearly module).

Each module has a unique code of 4 digits ($\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4$), 5 digits ($\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4\#^5$ or $\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4(\#^6)$), or 6 digits ($\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4\#^5(\#^6)$) representing normally the following:

$\#^1$: Year (y), where $1 \leq y \leq 5$, for undergraduate Programmes. For postgraduate Programmes, $\#^1 = 6$ or 5 (for some postgraduate modules).

$\#^2$: Semester (s), where $1 \leq s \leq 2$; $s = 0$ if module is on offer during both semesters. Some modules may carry digit 3 or 4 corresponding to third or fourth semester.

$\#^3\#^4$: Module number (01 – 99); $\#^3\#^4\#^5$: Module number (100 – 999).

$(\#^6)$: Weighting (w), where $w = 1, 3$ or 5 depending on the module status (Introductory, Intermediate or Advanced). It gives an indication of the notional degree of difficulty or academic attainment expected by the student.

For example, the module CIVE 1116(1) is normally offered in year 1 semester 1, and carries a weighting of 1.

However, all modules offered at postgraduate level have the same weighting ($w = 1$).

Some modules are denoted by suffix Y after the fourth or fifth digit in the module code, e.g. CHEM 1011Y(1). These modules, termed yearly modules, are taught over a period of two semesters and are examined at the end of the second semester only. There are however continuous assessments over the period of two semesters.

Some module codes have an ‘R’ at the end and denote modules which contain a strong research component.

Module codes having an ‘l’ at the end (e.g. DFA 1200l) denote modules delivered by mixed mode and having ten hours face-to-face interaction with a tutor for each credit. Thus a student will have thirty hours face-to-face interaction with a tutor for a module carrying three credits.

Each module consists of a specified number of contact hours comprising lectures, tutorials, laboratory/ field work, etc. Students are, however, expected to put in additional work through personal study, library work, etc.

2.4 CREDIT SYSTEM

Almost all Programmes of Study at the University are structured on the credit system. A credit is a unit of measure, and each module normally carries a certain number of credits.

Note that some Programmes of Study (e.g. BSc (Hons) Medical Science or Doctor of Medicine) are non-credit based. For these programmes, students are strongly advised to refer to the specific regulations as detailed in their programme structure.

2.5 CREDIT EQUIVALENCE

- (i) 15 h of lectures and/or tutorials/ seminars: 1 credit
- (ii) 30 – 45 h of laboratory/ field work: 1 credit
- (iii) Undergraduate Certificate project: up to 3 credits
- (iv) Undergraduate Diploma project: 3 – 6 credits
- (v) Undergraduate 3-3½ final year project: 6 – 10 credits
- (vi) Undergraduate 4 year final year project and Master’s project: 6 – 12 credits

Normally a three-credit module is equivalent to 45 contact hours. “Contact hours” is defined as the amount of direct contact time between the student and the lecturers, adjusted for laboratory/ field work according to the above.

2.6 NUMBER OF CREDITS AND CONTACT HOURS FOR UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS AWARDS

Programme of Study	Number of credits	Number of contact hours
3-3½ year Undergraduate Degree	96 – 111	1440 – 1665
4-year Undergraduate Degree	120 – 130	1800 – 1950
Undergraduate Diploma	60 – 70	900 – 1050
Undergraduate Certificate	30 – 40	450 – 600
Postgraduate Certificate	12 – 18	180 – 270
Postgraduate Diploma	24 – 30	360 – 450
Master’s Award	36 – 42	540 – 630

Note that the number of credits and contact hours for some Programmes may differ from those indicated due to the nature of the Programmes (e.g. MBA) and/or exigencies of professional/ accrediting bodies (e.g. BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering).

2.7 DURATION OF PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

In general the duration of a Programme of Study is as follows:

Programme of Study	Normal		Maximum	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Undergraduate Certificate	1 year	1 – 1½ years	2 years	2 – 3 years
Undergraduate Diploma	1½ – 2 years	2 – 3 years	3 – 4 years	4 – 5 years
Undergraduate 3-year degree	3 years	5 years	5 years	7 years
Undergraduate 3½-year degree	3½ years	5½ years	5½ years	7 years
Undergraduate 4-year degree	4 years	5 – 6 years	6 years	7 years
Postgraduate Certificate	½ – 1 year	1 – 2 years	2 years	3 – 4 years
Postgraduate Diploma	1 – 1½ years	1½ – 2 years	2 – 3 years	4 years
Master's degree	1 – 1½ years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Flexible	7 years			

2.8 TYPES OF MODULES

Modules can be of different types as shown:

Module Type	Description
Core	Module that is essential in a particular Programme and must be passed by the student on the Programme.
Elective/ Optional	Module for which the student has a choice to register. In case of failure, the student can either retake/ resit the module or register for another elective/ optional module that is on offer unless otherwise stated.
Self-Study	A module can be offered on self-study mode only when it has been phased out, no alternative and/or equivalent module will be run and the student has not previously registered for the module or attended the classes. Under the above circumstances, a student may be allowed to complete a maximum of 12 credits for an Undergraduate Programme and a maximum of 6 credits for a Postgraduate Programme by Self-Study. There will be no formal lectures but laboratory work will be conducted, if necessary. Assessment will be based on laboratory work and/or assignments as well as tests and examinations. Self-study modules will be supervised (<i>to read in conjunction with section 3.9</i>).
Independent Study	One elective in the form of project may be offered to students who have already earned at least 75 credits for Undergraduate Programmes and 27 credits for Postgraduate Programmes subject to recommendation by Department and approval by Faculty/ Centre Board. This elective will carry 3 credits and may be completed in a maximum of 2 semesters.

Module Type	Description
	Grade S will be awarded for satisfactory completion of Independent Study.
Audit	Students who wish to follow specific module(s) or are advised to do so by a Department/ Centre may audit same (i.e. such modules are not examinable for them). However, such modules do not carry any credit nor any grade but would appear in their transcript subject to satisfactory attendance.

Given resource constraints and critical mass consideration, the University does **not** bind itself to offer any specific elective in any Semester/ Year.

2.9 MODE OF DELIVERY

A range of modalities (face-to-face lectures, mixed mode/ blended/ distance/ on-line education, seminars, workshops, study visits, practicals, use of ICT and other modern technology) is utilised to maintain and enhance the effective delivery of modules.

Most modules are delivered on a face-to-face basis. However, some modules are delivered by mixed mode (distance education or on-line education). These are indicated by letters D.E. and O.E. respectively in the Programme structures.

2.10 INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT/ PRACTICAL TRAINING/ PRACTICUM/ CLINICAL PLACEMENT/ PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT

Compulsory Industrial Placement/ Practical Training/ Practicum/ Clinical Placement modules are included in several Programmes of Study offered by Faculties/ Centre. The duration and assessment of these modules are detailed in their respective programme structures/ module specification sheet/ placement guidelines.

2.11 EQUIVALENCE OF UoM CREDITS TO ECTS, UK AND US CREDITS

The equivalence below serves as a guide for students and staff to calculate UoM credits earned through international study.

1 UoM credit = 1 US credit = 4 UK credits = 2 ECTS credits