

CREDIT, CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND MODULES

Note: except where specified, or where an explicit exemption has been approved by Academic Board, these Regulations apply to all assessed learning leading to the award of credit and/or a qualification, and apply to awards of both the University of London and the Royal Veterinary College.

1. LEARNING AND CREDIT

Credit will be used to specify and quantify achievement of assessed learning with reference to designated learning outcomes for the given level of award or stage of courses.

There are agreed national (English, Welsh and Northern Irish, "EWNI") norms for the descriptions of level and credit which are used in these regulations¹. In addition there is a European Credit Tariff (ECTS)². Whilst the details below do not mention ECTS, there are agreed norms for translation to ECTS from EWNI and these will be used by the RVC. (In the broadest terms, 2 credits are equivalent to 1 ECTS credit and the table in 4.1. ensures that the level of study involved meets the 'cycles of learning'³ described in the Bologna agreement).

2. CREDIT TARIFF

- 2.1. The credit tariff is the number of hours on average a student is expected to study to achieve specified learning outcomes at a specified level. This notional study time includes staff/student contact, independent study, private study, time spent in professional practice where required, revision and completion of assessment requirements.
- 2.2 One credit involves 10 hours of notional study time.
- 2.3 With the exception of CPD modules, the credit size of modules offered by the RVC is a multiple of 15 credits.
- 2.4 The minimum credit size of a module offered by the RVC is 5 credits for CPD modules and 15 credits for all other modules.
- 2.5 The maximum credit size of a module is 60 credits, except for:
 - 2.5.1 Project modules at Level 7 or above, and
 - 2.5.2 the Level 6 Placement Year Project module, and
 - 2.5.3 the Level 4 Certificate in Work-Based Learning and Research Project module.
- 2.6 The credit value and level of modules will be considered and approved at the time of validation or review.
- 2.7 The details of each approved module shall be set out in a Module Outline, the format of which shall be specified from time to time by the Academic Board or one of its committees.
- 2.8 Among the information to be set out in the Module Outline will be
 - pre-requisites, i.e. modules or other study to be completed successfully before taking the module;

¹ [Higher Education Credit Framework for England: Advice on Academic Credit Arrangements \(2021\)](#), published by QAA.

² http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/ECTS_Guide/00/0/ects-users-guide-2015_614000.pdf

³ https://web.archive.org/web/20080911042655/http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/EN/BASIC/050520_Framework_qualifications.pdf

- co-requisites, i.e. modules or other study to be undertaken simultaneously with the module;
- prohibited combinations, i.e. modules that together shall not contribute towards the credit required for an award.

3. CREDIT LEVEL AND AWARD OF CREDIT

- 3.1. A credit level is an indicator of the relative demand, complexity and depth of learning and of the autonomy expected of the learner. A module/unit of study shall be defined as being at a specified level, consistent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
- 3.2. Learning outcomes and their assessment requirements specify what a student must achieve to be awarded credit.
- 3.3. The assessment requirements of a module or unit of study will be proportionate to the credit tariff and level of the module and will be consistent with guidance published from time to time by the Academic Board, unless exempted from such at validation.⁴
- 3.4. In order for credit to be awarded to a module, the overall module assessment must be passed. Compensation is allowed for very limited failure and must be specified in the requirements to progress to the next stage of the course or gain an award.
- 3.5. Within a course, there shall be no summative assessment(s) except those required to pass individual modules.

4. CREDIT STRUCTURE OF AWARDS

- 4.1. Awards using credit must be designed to meet the following national norms⁵:

Cert HE	120 of which 90 are at level 4
FdSc or Dip HE	240 of which 90 are at level 5
BSc (Hons)	360 of which 90 are at level 6
MSci	480 of which 120 are at level 7
BVetMed	660 of which 180 are at level 7
Graduate Diploma	80 of which 80 are at level 6
Postgraduate Certificate	60 of which 40 are at level 7
Postgraduate Diploma	120 of which 90 are at level 7
MSc or MVetMed	180 of which 150 are at level 7
Professional Doctorate	540 of which 360 are at level 8

- 4.2. Each course, through the award map in its Assessment & Award Regulations, must specify the routes and choices of modules leading to a given degree title.
- 4.3 The routes must demonstrate that the title is justified by the range of modules taken

⁴ Guidance for Design of Assessment in Modules

⁵ Guidance on credit arrangements in England, including numbers and levels of credits required for awards, is set out in [Higher education credit framework for England: Advice on Academic Credit Arrangements \(2021\)](#), published by QAA. This guidance does not apply to the BVetMed, which is an award unique to the RVC.

and if a range of titles are available they must be demonstrably distinct from one another in terms of the different ranges of modules studied. This will be considered and approved during the validation of the course, or later be subject to specific approval by Academic Board.

- 4.4 For a named undergraduate degree to be approved, at least 50% of the total number of credits achieved by a student, which may include project modules, shall be in the named discipline or in supporting pre-requisite or co-requisite modules; for a named taught postgraduate degree to be approved, at least 75% of the total number of credits achieved by a student, which may include project modules, shall be in the named discipline or in supporting pre-requisite or co-requisite modules.
- 4.5 For a named pathway within a degree to be approved, at least 25% of the total number of credits achieved by a student shall be in the named discipline.
- 4.6 Academic Board shall approve a range of degree titles to be available to a candidate who has accumulated sufficient credit for the achievement of an award, but who does not meet the requirements for any approved award title.

5. CREDIT RATING OF LEARNING OFFERED BY EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS OR THROUGH WORK PLACEMENTS

- 5.1 Learning offered by organisations external to the RVC may be calibrated for credit. Where such credit is valid for awards of the RVC, credit calibration will normally be undertaken in conjunction with validation or approval of the award or module and will conform to the credit structure of the RVC's awards.
- 5.2 Credit may be awarded for placements and work-based learning undertaken outside the RVC as an approved part of the course. As with other credit rated modules, in order to be approved for credit the learning must have clear learning outcomes and an associated assessment to enable credit to be awarded.

6. PROGRESS OF STUDENTS

- 6.1 The recognition of prior credit (through the RVC's procedures for Accredited Prior Learning⁶) towards a RVC award will be permitted up to a maximum of two thirds of the course.
- 6.2 A student who has discontinued registration without having achieved or accepted an award may be considered for resumption of registration for that award at a later date subject to continuing to meet the requirements of that award. Credit or marks achieved from modules or units of study before registration ceased may contribute to the resumed award provided that the modules or units of study continue to be valid for the award and that the general regulations concerning periods of registration and any specific award and assessment regulations regarding the completion of the award within a specified time period are not contravened.
- 6.3 Each course that comprises multiple stages will specify the number of credits that must be passed to enable progress to the next stage of the course. Any arrangements for discontinuing study based on accumulation of failed modules must also be specified.

7. MODULE ENROLMENTS

- 7.1 The Academic Board will specify the minimum number of students required for a module to run. A module may, with the written agreement of the Vice Principal (Learning and Student Experience), run with fewer than the minimum number in the following circumstances:
 - the module is being offered for the first time;

⁶ [Assessment of Prior Learning Policy](#)

- candidates will be unable to satisfy the requirements for their award if the module does not run;
- a commitment to run the module has been made to students;
- the average enrolment over a defined group of cognate modules exceeds the specified minimum;
- the module is the only prerequisite to a module or modules that will be unable to enrol sufficient numbers if it does not run.

Approved by	Academic Board	29/06/16
Updated by	Paul Probyn	18/08/16
Updated by	Richard Sherry	23/05/22
Approved by	Academic Board	12/07/22