Awards and Programs Schedule

Section 1 - About this Schedule

Introduction

(1) The University of Newcastle (University):

a. is authorised under the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 to self-accredit programs of study that lead to a higher education qualification; and
b. is responsible for ensuring that all self-accredited programs of study comply with the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 and are consistent with the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Second Edition.

(2) This Schedule supports the Governance Rule and its associated Schedules. In the event of an inconsistency between this Schedule and a Rule(s) or Schedule to the Rule(s), the Rule(s) made by Council prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Purpose

(3) This Schedule describes the standard principles and program structures which must be satisfied for approval and self-accreditation of programs of study leading to higher education qualifications, and by non-award programs of study.

(4) These principles and structures are derived from the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 and Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Second Edition, and provide assurance that programs of study approved and self-accredited by the University are consistent with these frameworks.

Scope

(5) This Schedule applies to programs of study offered by the University, including those delivered in partnership with another institution.

(6) This Schedule applies generally to the Joint Medical Program (JMP). Please refer to the JMP - Joint Medical Program Schedule. In the event of an inconsistency between this Schedule and the JMP - Joint Medical Program Schedule, the JMP - Joint Medical Program Schedule will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency, unless the matter relates to a Rule or delegation of authority.

(7) This Schedule applies generally to Higher Degree by Research (HDR) programs. Please refer to the individual program schedule for each program type, which are linked in Section 6 – Higher Degree by Research Programs. In the event of an inconsistency between this Schedule and a schedule specific to a HDR program, the latter will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency, unless the matter relates to a Rule or delegation of authority.

(8) This Schedule does not apply to micro-credentials. Please refer to the Micro-credentials Policy and Micro-credentials Schedule.

(9) The principles and structures described in this Schedule apply to the design of programs of study. For information

on specific requirements that must be satisfied for an individual program of study, refer to the Program Handbook.

Related Policies

(10) This Schedule should be read in conjunction with the following related policies:

a. Awards and Graduation Policy;
b. Program Design and Management Manual;
c. Course Design and Management Manual;
d. Admissions Manual – Coursework and Enabling Programs; and
e. Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

Section 2 - Program and Award Fundamentals

Award Nomenclature

(11) The nomenclature for awards and programs must reflect the qualification type, level and field of study/discipline, should be nationally and internationally recognisable, and should communicate pathways to employment or further study.

(12) The approved naming conventions for awards issued by the University, in accordance with the AQF (Second Edition) Qualification Issuance Policy, are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 – Award Naming Conventions

Level of Study	Type of Award	AQF Level	Approved Nomenclature
Undergraduate	Undergraduate Certificate	5, 6 or 7	Undergraduate Certificate in (Field of Study)
	Diploma	5	Diploma in (Field of Study)
	Associate Degree	6	Associate Degree in (Field of Study)
	Bachelor Degree	7	Bachelor of (Field of Study)
	Bachelor Honours Degree	8	Bachelor of (Field of Study)(Honours)
Postgraduate	Graduate Certificate	8	Graduate Certificate in (Field of Study)
	Graduate Diploma	8	Graduate Diploma in (Field of Study)
	Masters Degree (Coursework)	9	Master of (Field of Study)
	Master Degree (Extended)	9	Master of (Field of Study) For exceptions, see clause 13.
Higher Degree by Research	Masters Degree (Research)	9	Master of Philosophy
	Doctoral Degree (Research)	10	Doctor of Philosophy

(13) The following exceptions to the naming conventions for Masters Degree (Extended) awards and programs are permitted:

a. the title ‘Juris Doctor’ may be used for a qualification in legal practice; and
b. the title ‘Doctor of (Field of Study/Discipline)’ may be used for a qualification in medical practice, physiotherapy, dentistry, optometry, veterinary practice or pharmacy; and
c. the title ‘Doctor of Podiatric Medicine’ or ‘Doctor of Clinical Podiatry’ may be used.

Learning Outcomes

(14) All programs of study must specify expected learning outcomes that are:

a. consistent with the program level, type and field of education of the qualification to be awarded, with reference to the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Second Edition level criteria and qualification type descriptor; and
b. informed by national and international comparators.

(15) Program learning outcomes will encompass both discipline-related and generic outcomes, including:

a. specific knowledge and skills and their application that characterise the field(s) of education or disciplines involved;
b. generic skills and their application in the context of the field(s) of education or disciplines involved;
c. knowledge and skills required for employment and further study related to the program, including those required to be eligible to seek registration to practice (where applicable); and
d. skills in independent and critical thinking suitable for life-long learning.

(16) Program learning outcomes must be mapped to the University's Graduate Attributes in accordance with the Program Design and Management Manual.

Admission and Selection Criteria

(17) Admissions policies and procedures are documented in the:

a. Admissions Manual – Coursework and Enabling Programs; and
b. Higher Degree by Research Policy and Procedure.

(18) Admission and selection criteria for individual programs of study will be approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee (PCAC), and must:

a. be appropriate for the program level, type and learning outcomes;
b. establish minimum English language proficiency requirements, determined in accordance with the English Language Proficiency Policy; and
c. establish minimum academic qualification requirements that ensure commencing students have adequate prior knowledge and skills for participation, progression and successful completion of the program.

(19) In addition to minimum English language proficiency and academic qualification requirements, admission and selection criteria may include requirements for:

a. completion of interviews, auditions, portfolios, entry tests or other similar mechanisms, where appropriate to assess an applicant's likelihood of success in the program; and/or
b. possession of professional registration and/or professional experience (including current employment) or other similar requirements, where necessary for completion of the program.

(20) Admission and selection criteria for an individual program should, where possible and appropriate:

a. provide for alternative pathways for entry into the program, including via approved nested programs and/or articulation agreements;
b. maximise recognition of prior learning through individual credit and/or advanced standing;
c. consider the inherent requirements for the program; and

d. take into account any relevant regulatory requirements and external benchmarking across the sector.

(21) Admission and selection criteria must be transparent and will be specified in the curriculum management system and published to the Program Handbook (for enabling and coursework programs) or the University website (for Higher Degree by Research programs).

(22) Additional provisions relating to admission and selection criteria may apply to specific types of programs, and have been added to the provisions for specific types of programs in the relevant sections below.

Maximum Time to Complete

Coursework Programs

(23) The maximum time to complete a coursework program of study, other than an enabling program or end-on Bachelor Honours Degree program, is:

a. equal to twice the standard full-time duration for the program plus 2 years. This is expressed as '2N+2' where N is equal to the standard full-time duration of the program (in years);
b. calculated from the term in which a student commenced the program; and
c. inclusive of periods of non-enrolment, leave of absence, or suspension from the program.

(24) Table 2 provides the maximum time to complete per coursework program type.

Table 2 – Maximum Time to Complete Coursework Programs

Level of Study	Type of Program	AQF Level	Volume of Learning	Standard Full-Time Duration	Maximum Time to Complete
Enabling	Non-Award	N/A	N/A – determined on a case-by-case basis for individual programs of study, with approval by PCAC		
Undergraduate	Undergraduate Certificate	5, 6 or 7	40 units	0.5 years	3 years
	Diploma	5	80 units	1 year	4 years
	Associate Degree	6	160 units	2 years	6 years
	Bachelor Degree	7	240 units	3 years	8 years
	Bachelor Degree	7	320 units	4 years	10 years
	Bachelor Honours Degree – embedded	8	320 units	4 years	10 years
	Bachelor Honours Degree – end-on	8	80 units	1 year	3 years
Postgraduate	Graduate Certificate	8	40 units	0.5 years	3 years
	Graduate Diploma	8	80 units	1 year	4 years
	Masters Degree (Coursework)	9	80 units	1 year	4 years
	Masters Degree (Coursework)	9	120 units	1.5 years	5 years
	Masters Degree (Coursework)	9	160 units	2 years	6 years
	Masters Degree (Extended)	9	240 units	3 years	8 years

(25) The Program and Course Approval Committee may specify a lesser maximum time for a coursework program, where a shorter duration is required to satisfy the requirements of a professional accrediting body. In such cases, the

maximum duration for the program will be specified in the curriculum management system and published to the Program Handbook.

Higher Degrees by Research

(26) The maximum time for completion of Higher Degree by Research (HDR) programs is:

a. determined in accordance with the conditions for the Australian Government's Research Training Program scholarship grants;
b. calculated from the date of the student's commencement in the program; and
c. exclusive of any periods of leave of absence or academic suspension.

(27) Table 3 provides the maximum time to complete for Higher Degree by Research programs.

Table 3 – Maximum Time to Complete Higher Degrees by Research

Level of Study	Type of Program	AQF Level	Volume of Learning	Minimum Duration	Maximum Full-Time Duration	Maximum Part-Time Duration
Higher Degree by Research	Masters Degree (Research)	9	160 units	1 year	2 years	4 years
	Doctoral Degree (Research)	10	320 units	2 years	4 years	8 years
	Doctoral Degree (Research) by Prior Publication	10	80 units	0.5 years	1.5 years	3 years

Extensions to Maximum Time

(28) For coursework programs, the President Academic Senate, on the recommendation of the relevant College Pro Vice-Chancellor, may approve an extension to the maximum time to complete a coursework program for an individual student.

(29) The Director, Graduate Research may approve an exception to a maximum timeframe for completion of a Higher Degree by Research program for an individual candidate.

Exit Awards

(30) An exit award provides an early exit point for students seeking to withdraw from study prior to completing the full requirements of their original program of study.

(31) An exit award may be available:

a. as a nested qualification within an integrated set of programs, offered as either a standalone program or an exit award only (see 'Nested and Integrated Programs' in the Program Design and Management Manual); or
b. as a named program of study, offered as an exit award only, for students who are unable to complete the remaining requirements for their original program of study.

(32) An exit award must be approved and self-accredited as a program of study in its own right, and must be consistent with the principles and program structures relevant for the type of qualification to be awarded.

(33) If a program is offered as an exit award only, the Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to the program structure requirements set out in this Schedule, where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the relevant AQF level criteria and qualification

descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

(34) All details of exit award programs must be specified in the curriculum management system, including:

a. the program(s) of study from which the exit award program is available; and
b. all program requirements which must be satisfied for a student to be eligible to leave with the exit award.

Nested Exit Awards

(35) A student who leaves with a nested exit award qualification is not precluded from subsequently returning to study in their original program. In such cases, the student must reapply for admission to the program following the standard procedures set out in the Admissions Manual – Coursework and Enabling.

(36) Readmission to the original program of study is not guaranteed and will be subject to the student satisfying the admission criteria in place at the time of reapplication.

(37) Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for study completed in the original program prior to exiting with a nested qualification will be subject to the Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

Named Exit Awards

(38) A student seeking to exit with a named exit award must obtain approval from the relevant College Pro Vice-Chancellor.

(39) A named exit award program may include provisions that restrict a student who has been awarded the exit qualification from returning to study, either indefinitely or for a defined period of time, in either:

a. their original program of study; and/or
b. any other program from which the named exit award is available.

(40) Any restriction on return to study under clause 39 must be approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee as part of the program approval process, and will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

(41) In exceptional circumstances, the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & Global) may approve an exemption from a restriction under clause 39 to permit a student to return to study.

Section 3 - Enabling Programs

(42) Refer to the Enabling Program Schedule.

Section 4 - Undergraduate Programs

Undergraduate Certificate

(43) The Undergraduate Certificate qualification is not located at a particular AQF level, but may be offered at AQF Level 5, 6 or 7.

(44) The volume of learning for an Undergraduate Certificate program is 40 units, corresponding to 0.5 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(45) An Undergraduate Certificate program will be composed of courses at the:

a. 1000-level when designed and offered at AQF Level 5;
b. 1000- and 2000-level when designed and offered at AQF Level 6; and
c. 1000-, 2000- and 3000-level when designed and offered at AQF Level 7.

(46) The level at which an Undergraduate Certificate program is offered:

a. must be factored into the admission criteria and recommended enrolment sequencing to ensure that students are sufficiently prepared for success in the program; and
b. will be specified in the curriculum management system, published to the Program Handbook and included on relevant graduation documents (such as the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement).

Diploma

(47) The Diploma qualification is located at AQF Level 5.

(48) The volume of learning for a Diploma program is 80 units, corresponding to 1 year of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(49) A Diploma program must include a minimum of 20 units of core courses. The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to this requirement for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 5 Diploma descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

(50) A Diploma program may incorporate a minor with a volume of learning of 40 units.

(51) A Diploma program will predominately be composed of courses at the 1000-level, but may include courses at the 2000- and/or 3000-level where appropriate and approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee.

(52) Where a Diploma program includes courses at the 2000- and/or 3000-level, the admission criteria and recommended enrolment sequence must ensure that students are sufficiently prepared for success in the higher-level courses.

Associate Degree

(53) The Associate Degree qualification is located at AQF Level 6.

(54) The volume of learning for an Associate Degree program is 160 units, corresponding to 2 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(55) An Associate Degree program must satisfy the following program requirements:

a. a minimum of 40 units of core courses;
b. a minimum of 10 units of electives.

(56) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 6 Associate Degree descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

Bachelor Degree

(57) The Bachelor Degree qualification is located at AQF Level 7.

(58) The volume of learning for a Bachelor Degree program is either:

a. 240 units, corresponding to 3 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent); or
b. 320 units, corresponding to 4 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(59) A Bachelor Degree program must satisfy the following program structure requirements:

a. a minimum of 60 units of core and/or compulsory courses;
b. a minimum of 10 units of electives;
c. a minimum of 40 units each at the 1000-, 2000- and 3000-levels; and
d. a maximum of:
    i. 100 units at the 1000-level for a program of 240 units; or
    ii. 120 units at the 1000-level for a program of 320 units.

(60) A Bachelor Degree program must incorporate either:

a. a minimum of 10 units of work integrated learning or career-ready placement courses;
b. a non-credit bearing (0-unit) Work Experience in Industry (WEI) course.

(61) A Bachelor Degree program may incorporate:

a. a major with a volume of learning of at least 80 units, of which
    i. a minimum of 60 units must be unique (ie. not be common with core courses); and
    ii. a minimum of 40 units must be at the 3000-level or higher; and/or
b. a minor with a volume of learning of 40 units, which may be at any level.

(62) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 7 Bachelor Degree descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

Bachelor Honours Degree

(63) The Bachelor Honours Degree qualification is located at AQF Level 8.

(64) The University may award Bachelor Honours Degree qualifications with either graded or ungraded Honours. For more information, see the Awards and Graduation Policy.

Embedded Honours

(65) The volume of learning for an Embedded Bachelor Honours program is 320 units, corresponding to 4 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(66) An Embedded Bachelor Honours program must satisfy the following program structure requirements:

a. a minimum of 60 units of core and/or compulsory courses;
b. a minimum of 10 units of electives;
c. a minimum of 40 units and a maximum of 120 units at the 1000-level; and
d. a minimum of 40 units each at the 2000-, 3000- and 4000-level.

(67) An Embedded Bachelor Honours program must incorporate either:

a. a minimum of 10 units of work integrated learning or career-ready placement courses; or
b. a non-credit bearing (0-unit) Work Experience in Industry course.

(68) An Embedded Bachelor Honours program must incorporate a research component, consisting of either:

a. for ungraded Honours:
    i. a minimum of 10 units research methodology courses at the 3000- or 4000-level; and
    ii. a minimum of 20 units of courses at the 4000-level which involve research-related activities and/or assessment items.
b. for graded Honours:
    i. a minimum of 10 units research methodology courses at the 4000-level; and
    ii. a minimum of 20 units research project courses at the 4000-level.

(69) An Embedded Bachelor Honours program may be structured such that:

a. all students in the program complete the same research component (either graded or ungraded); or
b. students who demonstrate an approved level of performance have the opportunity to complete a graded Honours component, while other students complete an ungraded Honours component.

(70) An Embedded Bachelor Honours program may incorporate:

a. a major with a volume of learning of at least 80 units, of which:
    i. a minimum of 60 units must be unique (ie. not be common with core courses); and
    ii. a minimum of 40 units must be at the 3000-level or higher; and/or
b. a minor with a volume of learning of 40 units, which may be at any level.

(71) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

End-on Honours

(72) The volume of learning for an End-on Bachelor Honours program is 80 units, corresponding to 1 year of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(73) To be eligible for admission to an End-on Bachelor Honours program, an applicant must have:

a. previously completed an AQF Level 7 Bachelor Degree;
b. undertaken a major (or equivalent study of at least 80 units) within that Bachelor Degree that is from a cognate field of study/discipline to the End-on Honours program; and
c. achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 5.0 calculated based on:
    i. all studies undertaken in the Bachelor Degree; or
    ii. all studies undertaken towards the relevant major (or equivalent); or
    iii. at least 60 units of courses at the 3000-level.

(74) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these admission requirements for an individual program, which may include a higher GPA threshold or other selection criteria (such as presentation of a portfolio, interview, auditions, etc). Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

(75) An End-on Bachelor Honours program must incorporate a research component consisting of:

a. a minimum of 10 units research methodology courses at the 4000-level; and
b. a minimum of 20 units research project courses at the 4000-level.

(76) An End-on Bachelor Honours program may incorporate a major with a volume of learning of at least 80 units, of which a minimum of 60 units must be unique (ie. not be common with core courses).

(77) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

Section 5 - Postgraduate Programs

Graduate Certificate

(78) The Graduate Certificate qualification is located at AQF Level 8.

(79) The volume of learning for a Graduate Certificate program is 40 units, corresponding to 0.5 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(80) A Graduate Certificate program must satisfy the following program structure requirements (noting that all units may be at the 6000-level):

a. a maximum of 20 units at the 3000-level; and
b. a minimum of 20 units at the 4000-level or higher.

(81) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 8 Graduate Certificate descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

Graduate Diploma

(82) The Graduate Diploma qualification is located at AQF Level 8.

(83) The volume of learning for a Graduate Diploma program is 80 units, corresponding to 1 year of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(84) A Graduate Diploma program must satisfy the following program structure requirements (noting that all units may be at the 6000-level):

a. a maximum of 20 units at the 3000-level; and
b. a minimum of 60 units at the 4000-level or higher.

(85) A Graduate Diploma program may incorporate a specialisation with a volume of learning of at least 40 units which must be at the 6000-level.

(86) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 8 Graduate Certificate descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

Masters Degree (Coursework)

(87) The Masters Degree (Coursework) qualification is located at AQF Level 9.

(88) The volume of learning for a Masters Degree (Coursework) program may be:

a. 160 units, corresponding to 2 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent);

b. 120 units, corresponding to 1.5 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent); or
c. 80 units, corresponding to 1 year of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(89) The appropriate volume of learning for an individual program is determined by the program learning outcomes, any applicable professional accreditation requirements, and the prior qualifications and professional experience of students admitted to the program.

(90) Table 4 outlines the typical minimum prior qualifications and professional experience required for entry to Masters Degree (Coursework) programs, based on the program's volume of learning.

Table 4 – Minimum Academic Entry Requirements for Masters Degree (Coursework) Programs

Volume of Learning for Masters Degree		Minimum Academic Entry Requiremeent	
Units	**Duration**	**Cognate Qualification**	**Non-Cognate Qualification**
160 units	2 years		AQF Level 7 Bachelor Degree
120 units	1.5 years	AQF Level 7 Bachelor Degree	AQF Level 7 Bachelor Degree plus relevant professional experience AQF Level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree, Graduate Certificate, or Graduate Diploma
80 units	1 year	AQF Level 7 Bachelor Degree plus relevant professional experience AQF Level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree, Graduate Certificate, or Graduate Diploma	AQF Level 8 Bachelor Honours Degree, Graduate Certificate, or Graduate Diploma plus relevant professional experience

(91) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a higher minimum academic entry requirement for an individual program where appropriate for the purpose of the qualification and/or necessary to ensure students are adequately prepared for the program requirements.

(92) A Masters Degree (Coursework) program must satisfy the following program structure requirements (noting that all units may be at the 6000-level):

a. a minimum of 80 units at the 6000-level;
b. a maximum of:
    i. 60 units at the 4000-level for a program of 160 units;
    ii. 40 units at the 4000-level for a program of 120 units;
    iii. 0 units at the 4000-level for a program of 80 units; and
c. a maximum of:
    i. 20 units at the 3000-level for a program of 160 units;
    ii. 0 units at the 3000-level for a program of 120 units or 80 units.

(93) A Masters Degree (Coursework) program must include a minimum of 10 units at the 6000-level which involve a research project, capstone experience and/or practice-related learning (or the equivalent spread across multiple courses within the program).

(94) A Masters Degree (Coursework) program may incorporate a specialisation with a volume of learning of at least:

a. 80 units at the 6000-level for a program of 160 units;
b. 60 units at the 6000-level for a program of 120 units; and
c. 40 units at the 6000-level for a program of 80 units.

(95) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 9 Masters Degree (Coursework) descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

Advanced Standing

(96) Advanced standing pathways allow a student to enter a program with a predetermined volume of credit granted in recognition of their prior qualifications and/or professional experience, which allows the student to complete the program in a shorter duration.

(97) A Masters Degree (Coursework) program of 160 units or 120 units may be structured to include advanced standing pathways for students entering the program with prior qualifications and/or professional experience that exceed the minimum specified in Table 4.

(98) Advanced standing pathways may not be included in a Masters Degree (Coursework) program of 80 units.

(99) Advanced standing pathways must be approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee and must:

a. be appropriate to ensure that all students admitted to the program are able to satisfy the learning outcomes, regardless of their point of entry; and
b. clearly specify the necessary requirements for students who enter with advanced standing to complete the program.

(100) Table 5 outlines the typical advanced standing pathways which may be included in a Masters Degree (Coursework) program.

Table 5 – Advanced Standing Pathways for Masters Degree (Coursework) Programs

Prior Qualification and Professional Experience				160 Unit Program		120 Unit Program	
AQF Level	**Qualification Type**	**Cognate**	**Professional Experience**	**Advanced Standing**	**Remaining Volume of Learning**	**Advanced Standing**	**Remaining Volume of Learning**
7	Bachelor Degree	No	No	Nil	160 units	N/A	N/A
			Yes	40 units	120 units	Nil	120 units
		Yes	No	40 units	120 units	Nil	120 units
			Yes	80 units	80 units	40 units	80 units
8	Bachelor Honours Degree Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma	No	No	40 units	120 units	Nil	120 units
			Yes	80 units	80 units	40 units	80 units
		Yes	Yes or No	80 units	80 units	40 units	80 units

(101) Advanced standing pathways will be entered into the curriculum management system as part of the program's admission criteria, for publication to the Program Handbook and other marketing materials.

(102) Admission to an advanced standing pathway does not preclude an individual student from receiving additional credit towards the remaining requirements of the program, in accordance with the Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy, if they have additional qualifications beyond what is required for the advanced standing.

(103) Where a program does not include an advanced standing pathway, this does not preclude students from applying for individual credit in accordance with the Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

Masters Degree (Extended)

(104) The Masters Degree (Extended) qualification is located at AQF Level 9.

(105) The volume of learning for a Masters Degree (Extended) program is 240 units, corresponding to 3 years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

(106) A Masters Degree (Extended) program must satisfy the following program structure requirements (noting that all units may be at the 6000-level):

a. a minimum of 160 units at the 6000-level;
b. a maximum of 60 units at the 4000-level; and
c. a maximum of 20 units at the 3000-level.

(107) A Masters Degree (Extended) program must include a minimum of 10 units at the 6000-level which involve a research project, capstone experience and/or practice-related learning (or the equivalent spread across multiple courses within the program).

(108) A Masters Degree (Extended) program may incorporate a specialisation with a volume of learning of at least 80 units at the 6000-level.

(109) The Program and Course Approval Committee may approve a variation to these requirements for an individual program where an alternative program structure is demonstrated to be appropriate and consistent with the AQF Level 9 Masters Degree (Extended) descriptors. Variations will be recorded in the curriculum management system.

Section 6 - Higher Degree by Research Programs

Masters Degree (Research)

(110) Refer to Masters Degree (Research) – Awards and Programs Schedule.

Doctoral Degree (Research)

(111) Refer to Doctoral Degree (Research) – Awards and Programs Schedule.

Doctoral Degree (Research) in Clinical Psychology

(112) Refer to Doctoral Degree (Research) in Clinical Psychology – Awards and Programs Schedule.

Doctoral Degree (Research) by Prior Publication

(113) Refer to Doctoral Degree (Research) by Prior Publication – Awards and Programs Schedule.

Section 7 - Relaxing Provision

(114) To provide for exceptional circumstances arising in any case, the President Academic Senate, on the recommendation of the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor or relevant College Pro Vice-Chancellor may relax any provision of this Schedule provided that the relaxation:

a. does not compromise compliance with external obligations (including but not limited to contractual, legislative or accreditation requirements);
b. does not override a decision made under a formal delegation of authority;

c. does not replace a decision that is subject to a formal delegation of authority; and
d. gives due consideration to the principles of procedural fairness.

(115) The President Academic Senate will report all applications of the relaxing provision of this Schedule to the Academic Senate.

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	10th September 2026
Review Date	10th September 2028
Approval Authority	Academic Senate
Approval Date	11th August 2026
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Responsible Executive	Belinda Yourn Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & Global)
Enquiries Contact	John Radvan Senior Manager, Academic Governance & Compliance Student Central

Glossary Terms and Definitions

"Enabling program" - A tertiary preparation program offered to domestic students.

"Higher Degree by Research (HDR)" - Is a postgraduate university degree involving a unique supervised research project. These degrees are either a Masters of Philosophy, or a Doctoral degree (either Professional Doctorate or a PhD).

"Nomenclature" - The system of naming awards and programs offered by the University.

"University" - The University of Newcastle, a body corporate established under sections 4 and 5 of the University of Newcastle Act 1989.

"Joint Medical Program (JMP)" - The Bachelor of Medicine or Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine as delivered in partnership by University of Newcastle and University of New England.

"Core course" - A course within a program which is necessary to fulfil the requirements of that program.

"Elective" - Any non compulsory course which may be undertaken within a program of study.

"Advanced standing" - A form of credit for any previous learning as defined by the Australian Qualifications Framework.

"Applicant" - Where referring to a student, an applicant is an individual seeking entry to a program or course offered by the University or its partner organisation/s. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Articulation agreements" - An agreement between the University and another education provider that enables students to progress from a completed qualification to another with admission and/or credit in a defined pathway.

"Assessment item" - Any form of work used to measure student learning outcomes and to determine the final result for a student in a course.

"Award" - When referring to a University qualification, this term means an academic qualification approved by Academic Senate that is conferred when a student has met the relevant program requirements. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Bachelor Honours" - Refers to AQF level 8 Bachelor Honours programs. These may be a one year 'end-on' and following a level 7 (240 unit) Bachelor program or be embedded in a 320 unit, level 8, program.

"Course" - When referring to a course offered by the University, a course is a set of learning activities or learning opportunities with defined, assessed and recorded learning outcomes. A course will be identified by an alphanumeric course code and course title. Course types include core courses, compulsory courses, directed courses, capstone courses and electives. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Credit" - When referring to course credit, credit is the recognition of equivalence in content and learning outcomes between different types of learning and/or qualifications. Credit can reduce the amount of learning required to achieve a qualification. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Student" - A person formally enrolled in a course or active in a program offered by the University or affiliated entity.

"Candidate" - With regard to Higher Degree by Research it has the same meaning as student. For all other instances it is a person considered for appointment to a position.

"Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)" - Means an assessment of an individual's prior learning to determine where credit will be granted. RPL includes formal, informal, and non-formal learning.

"Volume of learning" - Identifies the notional duration of all activities required for the achievement of the learning outcomes specified for a particular AQF qualification type. It is expressed in equivalent full-time years.

"Exit award" - An academic qualification that is conferred when a student has met the program requirements of a linked program within the same field of study as listed in the relevant Awards and Programs Schedule.

"GPA" - The Grade Point Average calculated over a set of courses or specified number of courses at a particular level as per the Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation Guideline.

"Learning outcome" - In accordance with the AQF definitions, the expression of a set of knowledge, skills and the application of the knowledge and skills a person has acquired and is able to demonstrate as a result of learning.

"Postgraduate" - Any qualification being at the level of Graduate Certificate or above.

"Program" - When referring to learning, a program is a sequence of approved learning, usually leading to an Award. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Research" - As defined in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, or any replacing Code or document.

"Term" - When referring to an academic period, term means a period of time aligned to an academic year for the delivery of a course in which students enrol and for which they are usually charged fees for example semesters, trimesters, summer, winter or full-year term. The academic year for a term is determined by the academic year in which the course commences, not concludes. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Undergraduate" - Refers to any qualification up to and including the level of a Bachelor Honours degree.

"Unit" - When referring to an academic unit, unit means the proportional amount of academic credit allotted to a course. This term is used to define the requirements for a program award of the University and indicate a student's enrolment load. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Major" - When referring to a program major, this is a sequence of courses approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee, which students may be required to complete as part of their undergraduate program (except undergraduate Diplomas). Each major will contain at least 80 units with at least 60 unique units. For all other uses of

this term, the generic definition applies.

"Specialisation" - When referring to a program, a specialisation is a sequence of courses, approved by the Program and Course Approval Committee, which students may be required to complete as part of their postgraduate coursework program. For all other uses of this term, the generic definition applies.

"Work integrated learning" - In the context of the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 (HES Framework), work-integrated learning (WIL) encompasses any arrangement where students undertake learning in a work context as part of their course requirements. WIL can be undertaken as part of coursework or research training.

"Inherent requirements" - When referring to program requirements, inherent requirements are the essential abilities, knowledge and skills required to complete a specific program and that must be met by all students enrolled in that program.