The MQ Model: Micro-credentials and Continuing Professional Development Curriculum

Architecture Principles

Principle 1: Nomenclature

Principle 2: Stewardship of Micro-courses

Principle 3: Micro-units

Principle 4: Recognition of study

Principle 5: Earned Access

Principle 6: Micro-unit design principles

Principle 7: International Student Enrolment

Principle 8: Micro-Course Semester System

Principle 9: Micro-Course Governance
Principle 1: Nomenclature

1.1 Programs will henceforth be known as “Courses”.

Principle 2: Stewardship of Micro-courses

2.1 All credit-bearing micro-courses are “owned” by Academic Senate on behalf of the University. Individual faculties/offices, however, act as stewards for individual micro-courses on behalf of Academic Senate. They are responsible for the design, delivery, review, and innovation of micro-courses in compliance with University policies and procedures.

2.2 Micro-courses can be terminating qualifications at 20cp or engage with the suite of formal AQF awards.

Principle 3: Micro-units

3.1 Students will not be required to enrol in a course of study to complete a micro-unit(s).

3.2 All units are aligned to the 10 credit point (150 hours of activity) system for postgraduate units but they are offered in smaller credit point sizes.

3.3 The volume of learning in a micro-credential unit can range from units of 15 hours (1cp) to 75 hours (5cp).

Principle 4: Recognition of study

4.1 Students will be able to claim recognition of their studies (Certificate of Attainment for a Unit(s), micro-course, or designated AQF award) when they meet the volume of learning requirements.

Principle 5: Earned Access

5.1 Course authorities may permit open access to their suite of micro-units. Successful performance in the first 20 cp of micro-units would “earn access” to continue studying with the prospect of claiming a designated AQF award.

Principle 6: Micro-unit design principles

6.1 Micro-units will usually be flexible blended learning offerings that can cater to fully online students but also take advantage of short intensive on-campus study opportunities.

6.2 Regardless of their size all micro-units must have a commensurate assessment requirement.
6.3 In the unit approval process the time-on-task for students will be explicitly stated.

**Principle 7: International Student Enrolment**

7.1 Micro-units and micro-courses may be available to offshore international students.

**Principle 8: Micro-Course Semester System**

8.1 The DVC(A) will approve standardised study periods for micro-units and courses.

**Principle 9: Micro-Course Governance**

9.1 Micro-units will be approved at the faculty/office level.

9.2 Academic Senate will approve micro-units and micro-courses delivered outside faculties.

9.3 Micro-courses (20cp) will be approved at the faculty level.

9.4 New micro-units and micro-courses will be tabled at ASQC.

9.5 The Office of the DVCA will be advised of new micro-courses.

9.6 AQF programs utilising micro-credentials will be approved through the current shared governance structures.