

The MQ Model: Postgraduate Curriculum Architecture Principles

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Principle 1: Nomenclature

- 1.1 Programs will henceforth be known as “Courses”. (“Course of study leading to an Award”).
- 1.2 The order of individual courses within a double degree combination will be determined by the naming hierarchy below. Stewardship of the double degree will reside with the course named second in the combination. The order of course names is to be determined when the combination is first constructed. Once determined the order can only be changed if the name of one of the combinations changes, or it is recommended by a formal course review. The naming principles for postgraduate combinations are as follows:
 - a. Where a double degree combination consists of a lower AQF level course and a higher AQF level course, the lower level course will be named before the higher level one.
 - b. Where a double degree consists of a non-accredited course and an accredited course, the non-accredited course will be named before the accredited one.
 - c. If neither of the previous criteria applies, the courses will be arranged in alphabetical order. i.e. Bachelor of Aardvark Studies and Bachelor of Zebra Studies.

Principle 2: Stewardship of Courses

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

Principle 3: Unit Credit Point System and Unit Identification Coding

- 3.1 Postgraduate courses will utilise a 10 credit point (cp) system or multiples thereof for all units.
- 3.2 A 10cp unit must meet the Commonwealth’s expectation that a unit of study will consist of 150 hours of activity for a student so enrolled.
- 3.3 Courses may continue to use zero credit point units as required.
- 3.4 From 2020 MQ will move to a four alpha/four numeric (e.g. MATH8002) coding system to make room for new unit codes and reduce rule complexity.
- 3.5 Current 800 and 900 level units will be recoded as 8000 Level.

- 3.6 Foundation units may be recorded as 6000 Level if the outcomes and assessment are an extension of the undergraduate unit from which they are drawn.

Principle 4: Postgraduate Course Types

- 4.1 The University offers four postgraduate course types leading to AQF awards. These are:
- a. Graduate Certificate (AQF Level 8)
 - b. Graduate Diploma (AQF Level 8)
 - c. Masters (Coursework) (AQF Level 9)
 - d. Masters (Extended) (AQF Level 9).
- 4.2 Vertical double degrees cross AQF Bachelor levels 7/8 and Masters 9.

Principle 5: Postgraduate Course Types — Volume of Learning

- 5.1 Postgraduate course types are informed by the following volume of learning restrictions:
- a. Graduate Certificate (AQF Level 8) — 40 credit points
 - b. Graduate Diploma (AQF Level 8) — 80 credit points
 - c. Vertical Doubles (AQF 7/8/9) — at least 320 credit points
 - d. Masters (Coursework) (AQF Level 9) — 80, 120, 160, 200 or 240 credit points
 - e. Masters (Extended) (AQF Level 9) — at least 240 credit points
- 5.2 The volume of learning for Vertical Doubles and Masters (Extended) Courses must always be set in multiples of 40cp.

Principle 6: Exit Awards

- 6.1 Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas can act as exit awards for the relevant Masters course.
- 6.2 When a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma is being utilised as an exit award any study zone requirements for that award as an entry qualification do not apply (see Principle 7).
- 6.3 To qualify for an exit award, a student must meet the course learning outcomes for that award.

Principle 7: Course Structure (Study Zones)

- 7.1 Postgraduate courses may comprise the following study zones:
- a. Core Zone
 - b. Flexible Zone

- c. Foundation Zone
- 7.2 A Graduate Certificate (as an entry qualification) will comprise 40cp.
- 7.3 A Graduate Diploma (as an entry qualification) will either comprise 40cp from the Foundation Zone and 40cp from the Core Zone or 80cp from the Core Zone.
- 7.4 A Masters award can comprise the following study zones depending on the volumes of learning being undertaken by the student and the field of study:
 - a. Core Zone: at least 80cp
 - b. Flexible Zone: 40cp or zero
 - c. Foundation Zone: 40cp or 80 cp
- 7.5 An Extended Masters award will comprise of either a core zone or a core plus foundation zone only.

Principle 8: Core Zone

- 8.1 The core zone consists of the course's specific depth requirements for the disciplinary, trans-disciplinary or professional area of study.
- 8.2 The core zone includes all compulsory requirements for the course (outside of foundation studies in the foundation zone) and may include elective units, essential units and/or specialisations.
- 8.3 Units in the core zone will always be at 8000 level.

Principle 9: Flexible Zone

- 9.1 The flexible zone consists of the course's breadth and/or maturity requirements.
- 9.2 A flexible zone can consist of free choice units which may include designated course electives.
- 9.3 Units in the flexible zone can be a mix of 6000 and 8000 units.
- 9.4 Students with a performance standard at least equivalent to an MQ WAM of 65 in their bachelor's degree (related or different) may forgo the Flexible Zone.

Principle 10: Foundation Zone

- 10.1 The foundation zone consists of the foundation knowledge and ways of performing for graduates without a related background.

- 10.2 The foundation zone may include 4000 level or above units and a maximum of 20 cp of 1000/2000/3000 level units.
- 10.3 Students who are eligible for admission to either the 80cp 120cp or 160cp version of a degree on the basis of holding a related degree or having approved informal and/or non-formal prior learning may forgo the Foundation Zone.

Principle 11: Study Types

- 11.1 Postgraduate courses can be offered in either full-time study or part-time study modes or both.

Principle 12: Specialisations

- 12.1 Masters and Extended Masters courses may have a specialisation and if they do the specialisation will be a component of the core zone.
- 12.2 A student completing a Masters course can only complete one specialisation.
- 12.3 Extended Masters courses may permit students to complete more than one specialisation.
- 12.4 A specialisation component will always be exactly half the credit points of the course's core zone (e.g. 40cp of an 80cp core zone etc.).
- 12.5 Graduate Certificates cannot have specialisations recognised.
- 12.6 Graduate Diplomas can recognize a specialisation but must be consistent with 12.2 and 12.4.

Principle 13: Postgraduate Degree Course Offer Modes

- 13.1 Postgraduate degrees can be offered in three modes:
1. Single Degree
 2. Double Degree
 3. Vertical Double Degree.

Principle 14: Admission Points

- 14.1 Entry to a Masters degree is dependent on the student meeting the course's admission requirements at one of the three volume of learning "admission points".
- 14.2 Admission Point — 80 cp Masters

To gain admission the student must meet either:

- a. Hold a related merit-based Honours (AQF 8), Graduate Diploma (AQF 8) or HDR degree

OR

- b. Hold two of the following three criteria:
 - i. A related bachelor's degree (AQF 7)
 - ii. Approved informal and/or non-formal prior learning
 - iii. Performance in their bachelor's degree (related or different) of an MQ equivalent WAM of +65

14.3 Admission Point — 120 cp Masters

To gain admission the student must meet either:

- a. Hold a related bachelor's degree (AQF 7)

OR

- b. Hold a non-related bachelor's degree (AQF 7) and one of the following criteria:
 - i. Approved informal and non-formal prior learning
 - ii. Performance in their non-related bachelor's degree of an MQ equivalent WAM of +65

14.4 Admission Point — 160 cp or more Masters

As set by the course authority and in compliance with AQF volume of learning standards.

14.5 Admission Point — minimum 240 cp Extended Masters

As set by the course authority and in compliance with AQF volume of learning standards.

14.6 Formal RPL (advanced standing)

Formal RPL is not used to determine eligibility for an admission point but may discount the number of units a student must complete to receive the award (subject to the University's Recognition of Prior Learning Policy).

14.7 In addition to these basic admission requirements, course authorities will continue to be able to set additional admission requirements that align with Academic Senate and University policy.

Principle 15: Advertising and Enrollment at Admission Points

- 15.1 Informed by market trends and University needs, a course authority can promote and admit students at specific admission points.

Principle 16: Double Masters

- 16.1 Outside stated University exclusions students may choose any combination of postgraduate degrees for which they are qualified to be admitted.
- 16.2 Students must gain entry to both courses. This can be at different admission points
- 16.3 In combining two courses the only volume of learning discount (outside formal RPL) will be the forgoing of any flexible zone requirement.

Principle 17: Unit Sharing

- 17.1 Units completed in a postgraduate double degree can meet the requirements of both courses.
- 17.2 This form of unit sharing is limited to 20cp of the core zone units, outside any required specialisations, for 160cp combinations, with an additional 10cp of unit sharing permitted for each additional 40cp of the combination.
- 17.3 Double degree combinations which exceed the requirements of Principle 17.2 cannot be combined as doubles and the combination will be placed on an exclusion list.
- 17.4 Where a student uses a single unit to satisfy the requirements of two core zones, to ensure the total volume of learning is not reduced, they will complete an additional unit of the same or higher level.
- 17.5 For the purpose of double degrees, specialisations where it is possible to choose a combination of units which share more than 50% of credit points in common with:
- a specialisation from a different course, or
 - the core part of a degree falling outside any specialisation

will be placed on an exclusion list to ensure a student cannot take these together.

Principle 18: Timely completion

- 18.1 All students must be advised that due to unit or pre-requisite unavailability, clinical placements, or other possible course restrictions

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(beyond their individual unit performance) they may be unable to complete their chosen connected double combination within expected normal full-time duration of the courses. Course authorities must monitor combinations to manage systemic timetable clashes.

Principle 19: Double Degree Governance

- 19.1 With each course's core zone previously approved by Academic Senate and with the student simply completing the core zone requirement of two University approved courses, double degree combinations do not require further Academic Senate approval.
- 19.2 If a popular double combination is to be marketed to international students, it must be approved by Academic Senate in order for it to meet TEQSA requirements to be registered on CRICOS.

Principle 20: Reversion to Single Degree

- 20.1 At any stage of their candidature a student may choose to cease their enrolment in a double degree course and transfer to the stand-alone version of either constituent course.

Principle 21: Graduation

- 21.1 Students will normally have their qualification recorded and their awards conferred upon meeting the requirements of both degree courses.
- 21.2 Students who successfully complete a double degree will receive two testamurs.

Principle 22: Award Nomenclature

- 22.1 Postgraduate qualifications are named after the specialist/professional area of study.
- 22.2 Specialisations can be recorded in brackets in the name of the degree course e.g. Master of Astro-Cartooning (Animation).