



Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE FRAMEWORK – GENERIC AIMS AND OUTCOMES

The following generic aims and learning outcomes apply to all programmes which are encompassed by the Taught Postgraduate Framework.

Aims

The shared aims of all programmes are to enable learners to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the relevant body of knowledge and their personal and professional skills in order to contribute to development of a subject area, field or profession;
- Engage in critical reflection on practice and independent study for life long learning.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of a programme, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate, through practice, knowledge of how strategies for research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the subject area, field or profession;
- Systematically and critically evaluate the practices, research and scholarship in a particular subject area, field or profession;
- Critically evaluate, interrelate and apply knowledge and processes relevant to a subject area, field or profession, much of which may be at, or informed by, the forefront of developments;
- Exercise responsibility, initiative and self-direction to support and further independent study and professional development;
- Contribute to a development of a given subject area, field or profession;
- Critically reflect on practice to develop skills of self-appraisal and insight;
- Identify, critically analyse and respond creatively to complex problems;
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences through media appropriate for the subject area, field or professional practice;

- Take an inter-disciplinary approach to study;
- Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge and/or practice.

These learning outcomes articulate with the characteristic outcomes described in the Level 11 descriptors of the SCQ Framework (SCQF, 2003).

It is expected that programmes validated under the Taught Postgraduate Framework will also have programme-specific aims and learning outcomes. Programmes may also have learning outcomes that reflect expectations of professional bodies. The programme-specific outcomes must be cross-referred to the SCQF Level 11 descriptors and defined in the Programme Specifications.

A **Masters** Degree will be awarded when the student has successfully completed:

- a) the equivalent of eight modules each contributing 15 M level credits. Two research methods modules will normally be compulsory. However, some Masters degrees will require only one research methods module where it can be demonstrated that the equivalent of 15 credits of research methods is embedded in other core modules;
- b) a Masters Project either by research, a portfolio, a professional intervention, creative piece of work or work-based study which includes theoretical testing and analysis to the same high standard as required from a piece of empirical research. The project is weighted at four modules i.e. 60 M level credits. Where students are required to complete a portfolio for the award of MFA, the portfolio will be weighted at 240 credits.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** will involve the equivalent of 30 weeks of full-time study. It will be awarded on the successful completion of the equivalent of eight modules each estimated to require 150 hours of student effort.

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in a designated subject the equivalent of eight modules must be successfully completed, as appropriate for each designated award. Of the eight modules:

- a) One of these must be a research module or a specialist taught module in which research methods are integrated.
- b) Depending upon the regulations for the specific award chosen, modules must be made from a selection related to the area of the designated award (the specific award modules). See relevant award handbooks.
- c) The remaining modules may be selected from the Taught Postgraduate Module Catalogue.

To be eligible for the award of **Postgraduate Certificate** in a designated subject area a student must have successfully completed the equivalent of 15 weeks of full time study in the form of four modules each requiring 150 hours of student effort or equivalent.

To be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate a student must successfully complete four modules in a specified field as set out in the Module catalogue.