

Academic Framework Guide

ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK: PRINCIPLES AND STRUCTURES

This document provides guidance for colleagues facing changes prompted by the new Academic Framework. It is hoped that the information contained in this guide will provide clarity regarding the differences between the current programme structure and the future structure outlined in the Academic Framework.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

The Academic Framework aims to facilitate students' academic progression, transition through the levels of undergraduate study, attainment and employment, through the creation of more streamlined programmes of study based on patterns of student choice. The key elements to note are:

- The new Academic Framework will be implemented for students entering Year 1 in September 2020
- Progression should be based upon a linear model of progress through discrete levels of study
- The range and status of modules in UG programmes should operate within clearly defined parameters at each level. Programmes will feature a combination of Compulsory and Optional modules only
- There will be a minimum limit of Compulsory modules that faculties can opt to exceed
- There will be a maximum limit of Optional modules that faculties will not be able to exceed
- The use of pre-requisites between levels might be superseded by progression requirements related to the successful completion of Compulsory modules
- Progression rules should be simplified with the removal of in-year pre/co-requisite modules
- All Programmes will have a compulsory Semester 1 for students entering Level 4
- The minimum number of Level 6 credits that a student must pass to graduate will increase from 90 to 120.



SINGLE HONOURS

CURRENT STRUCTURE	NEW ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK
PROGRESSION	
Progression is based upon a structural concept of Stage 1 and Stage 2	Linear model of progress through discrete levels of study. Programmes will be designed upon Levels 4, 5 and 6 (equating to years 1, 2 and 3)
LEVEL 4	
STAGE I (YEAR 1)	YEAR 1
Programmes of study at level 4 should carry 120 credits distributed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory + Alternative Compulsory: Minimum of 60 credits (4 module credits) at level 4 • Acceptable + Recommended + Top Up: 60 credits at level 4 	There must be a total of 150 credits (optional + compulsory) available at level 4 for students to construct their Year 1 programmes of study
	Programmes of study at level 4 should carry 120 credits distributed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory: Minimum of 90 credits (6 module credits) at level 4 • Optional: Maximum of 30 credits at level 4 (maximum, from a choice of 60)
	All Programmes will have a compulsory Semester 1 for students entering Level 4
LEVEL 5	
STAGE II (YEAR 2+YEAR 3)	YEAR 2
YEAR 1 OF STAGE II : Normally there will be a minimum of 60 credits which are compulsory or alternative compulsory	There must be a total of 180 credits (optional + compulsory) available at level 5 for students to construct their Year 2 programmes of study
	Programmes of study at level 5 should carry 120 credits distributed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory: Minimum of 60 credits (4 module credits) at level 5 • Optional: Maximum of 60 credits at level 5 (maximum, from a choice of 120)
Normally level 5 modules will have at least one level 4 prerequisite	The use of pre-requisites between levels will be superseded by progression requirements related to the successful completion of Compulsory modules Progression rules should be simplified with the removal of in-year pre/co-requisite modules
30 credit level 5 modules which span an entire academic year should be avoided if a subject wishes to encourage students to go on exchange	
LEVEL 6	
STAGE II (YEAR 2+YEAR 3)	YEAR 3
Students must pass a minimum number of 90 Level 6 credits to graduate	Students must pass a minimum number of 120 Level 6 credits to graduate
YEAR 2 OF STAGE II: There must be at least one double (30 credit) level 6 module available A maximum of 30 credits at level 4 may be included with the status 'acceptable' i.e. credits which will count towards the 240 credits required for Stage II (but these will not be included in a student's final classification calculation)	There must be a total of 180 credits (optional + compulsory) available at level 6 for students to construct their Year 3 programmes of study
	Programmes of study at level 6 should carry 120 credits distributed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory: Minimum of 30 credits (2 module credits) at level 6 • Optional: Maximum of 90 credits at level 6 (maximum, from a choice of 150)
All level 6 modules must have at least one level 5 module as prerequisite	Progression rules should be simplified with the removal of in-year pre/co-requisite modules

COMBINED HONOURS



Whilst the majority of future students at Brookes will be studying either single honours or named interdisciplinary awards, there remains a significant market interest in studying subjects in combination. The combined offer will be rooted in the same principles and structures of programme design intended to enhance student progression, transition and attainment through three levels of study as the single honours awards.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- **Students will not combine subjects freely.**
Only specific combinations of Subjects will be advertised through UCAS and the university website
- **Each combination will have a named academic** who will be responsible for the student experience and quality assurance of that combination
- **Each combination will need to have a Programme Specification** that describes the programme details, including the entry requirements, learning outcomes, curriculum structure, and details of how the programme will be taught and assessed
- All students must undertake a minimum of 30 credits from each contributing subject at each Level.
- **There will be no pre-requisite status in the new awards:**
In consequence, modules that students cannot successfully engage in based upon the compulsory content should not be listed as Options in the combined awards.
- **The existing titles of Major and Minor will no longer pertain,**
 - Students can choose freely from the remaining Optional modules offered by each programme and elect optional modules without regard for balance or other programme requirements.
 - Students will graduate with the title of BA Hons in Programme A and Programme B. The title will be generated alphabetically, not by relative number of modules chosen.
- The list of Compulsory and Optional modules that constitute the combined offer for any programme cannot vary from one combination to another
- The modules made available as the combined offer will be validated as part of the Programme Specifications for the Single Honours programmes
- A new programme level regulation will ensure that students take 30 CATs of dissertation modules, this could be a double dissertation from either subject or 2 x interdisciplinary dissertations. At the subject level dissertations will have 'optional' status
- Students on Combined programmes will adhere to the same dates for module selection as all single honours students.

COMBINED HONOURS

NEW ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK	DESIGN PRINCIPLES
PROGRESSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progression should be based upon a linear model of progress through discrete levels of study. Programmes will be designed upon Levels 4, 5 and 6 (equating to years 1, 2 and 3) • All students must undertake a minimum of 30 credits from each contributing subject at each Level. 	
LEVEL 4	
<p>There must be a total of 150 credits (optional + compulsory) available at level 4 for students to construct their Year 1 programmes of study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 90 COMPULSORY credits will be drawn from the Compulsory credits in the single honours programmes. • The OPTIONAL credits may include the compulsory modules for single honours programmes as Options within the combined offer. • Students can progress to Level 5 with a '5:3' ratio of credits.
<p>Programmes of study at level 4 should carry 120 credits distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory: Minimum of 90 credits (6 module credits) at level 4 • Optional: Maximum of 30 credits at level 4 	
<p>All Programmes will have a compulsory Semester 1 for students entering Level 4</p>	
LEVEL 5	
<p>There must be a total of 180 credits (optional + compulsory) available at level 5 for students to construct their Year 2 programmes of study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Compulsory credits must be drawn from the Compulsory elements of the Single honours programmes. • The Optional credits can include modules designated as Compulsory in the single honours programmes. In the Combined programmes, these will be Optional modules. • Optional modules should only be offered if they are serviced by the Compulsory modules. • Some subjects MAY choose to offer only a fully Compulsory Level 5 content of 60 credits. However, students are only required to take the 30-credit minimum required for each contributing subject in any combination.
<p>Programmes of study at level 5 should carry 120 credits distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory: Minimum of 60 credits (4 module credits) at level 5 • Optional: Maximum of 60 credits at level 5 	
<p>Progression rules should be simplified with the removal of in-year pre/co-requisite modules</p>	
<p>30 credit level 5 modules which span an entire academic year should be avoided if a subject wishes to encourage students to go on exchange</p>	
LEVEL 6	
<p>Students must pass a minimum number of 120 Level 6 credits to graduate</p>	<p>The compulsory element offered by participating programme teams will need to be sufficient preparation for all the Optional modules offered to students on Combined Programmes and programme teams must ensure the Compulsory and Optional modules they offer for students on combined study are pedagogically matched.</p>
<p>There must be a total of 180 credits (optional + compulsory) available at level 6 for students to construct their Year 3 programmes of study</p>	
<p>Programmes of study at level 6 should carry 120 credits distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory: Minimum of 30 credits (2 module credits) at level 6 • Optional: Maximum of 90 credits at level 6 	
<p>Progression rules should be simplified with the removal of in-year pre/co-requisite modules</p>	