

**Information for Students, Teachers and Examiners**  
**Annex 4: Minimum Credit Requirements for Awards**

- 1** In order to be eligible for the award of a certificate, diploma or degree by the University, a student must obtain at least the minimum number of credits at the levels prescribed for the award in question, as set out below, and must meet any further requirements specified for the particular programme of study and award concerned unless he/she has been granted exemption from these requirements via credit transfer (see Annex 3).
- 2** It should be noted that many programmes of study require that the student should obtain more than the minimum number of credits specified below. For example, while most Honours degree programmes require three years of full time study of modules amounting to the minimum of 360 credits for an Honours degree, others require four years of full time study of modules amounting to 480 credits and students taking such programmes are required to obtain 480 credits to qualify for the award.
- 3** When an award is delivered through a Dual Award/Multiple Award arrangement, 50% of the standard Kent minimum credit requirements for awards must be University of Kent credits.
- 4** With regard to undergraduate programmes of study:  
 Level 4 modules may be studied in Stages 2, 3 or 4 or Level 5 modules studied in Stages 3 or 4 only where one of the following conditions are met:
  - (a) the design of the programme of study has incorporated specified modules at these levels into Stages 2, 3 or 4 of the programme of study in question; or
  - (b) where the optional modules in question are language modules offered by SECL or CEWL; and/or
  - (c) where the optional modules in question are considered on an exception basis by the student's School to enhance employability.
- 5** The Education Board is authorised to approve exceptions to the requirements listed below of no more than 30 credits at each level, the total number of credits for the award remaining the same, provided that it is satisfied that there is good reason to do so.
- 6** The minimum requirements for awards are as follows:

<b>Award</b>	<b>Minimum number of credits required</b>	<b>Levels</b>
Certificate of Higher Education	120	At least 120 credits at level 4 or above
* BTEC Higher National Certificate	120	At least 90 credits at level 4
* BTEC Higher National Diploma	240	At least 135 credits at level 5 and at least 90 credits at level 4
Diploma of Higher Education	240	At least 90 credits at level 5 or above
Foundation degree	240	At least 90 credits at level 5 or above
Non-Honours Bachelor's Degree	300	At least 150 credits at level 5 or above including at least 60 credits at level 6 or above at Stage 3

**UNIVERSITY OF KENT**  
**CREDIT FRAMEWORK FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES: ANNEX 4**

Honours Bachelor's Degree	360	At least 210 credits at level 5 or above including at least 90 credits at level 6 or above at Stage 3 <sup>1</sup>
Honours degree top-up	120	At least 90 credits at level 6 or above, and awarded as part of the top-up degree itself
Integrated Master's degree	480	At least 330 credits at level 5 or above including at least 120 credits at level 7
Graduate Certificate	60	At least 40 credits at level 6 or above
Graduate Diploma	120	At least 80 credits at level 6 or above
Postgraduate Certificate	60	At least 40 credits at level 7
Postgraduate Diploma	120	At least 90 credits at level 7
MA/MSc/LLM/MBA/MFA	180	At least 150 credits at level 7
Taught MPhil	360	At least 240 credits at level 7
Taught/Professional Doctorate	540	At least 510 credits at level 7 or above including at least 360 credits at level 8

\* **Note 1:** This reflects Pearson's<sup>2</sup> credit requirements for HNs from September 2010. For HNC/HND awards where student registration commenced prior to 31 December 2010, the minimum credit requirements were -

Higher National Diploma	240	At least 90 credits at level 5 or above
Higher National Certificate	150	At least 30 credits at level 5 or above

---

<sup>1</sup> Where an honours degree programme is taken over four stages, at least 90 credits at level 6 or above must be taken in the final stage.

<sup>2</sup> Formerly Edexcel