Statement of Compatibility with the European Higher Education Area

The University of Kent’s Credit Framework has been designed to be fully compatible with the Quality Assurance Agency’s (QAA) UK Quality Code for Higher Education and the qualifications framework adopted by the Bologna Process for the creation of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Kent’s minimum credit requirements for awards are set out in Annex 4 of the Credit Framework.

The framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area

The Bergen Conference of the Bologna Process in 2005 adopted an overarching framework for qualifications in the EHEA, divided into three cycles. University of Kent qualifications meet the requirements of each cycle as follows:

1. **First Cycle Qualifications:**
   Honours degrees at the University of Kent are first cycle qualifications with outcomes that meet the relevant qualification descriptors of the QAA and the EHEA. These degrees require a minimum of three years study full-time and are worth 180 ECTS credits. Honours degrees are awarded as Bachelor qualifications (Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) etc).

2. **Second Cycle Qualifications:**
   There are three routes to second cycle qualifications:
   
   i) Taught Masters degrees at the University of Kent are second cycle qualifications with outcomes that meet the relevant qualification descriptors of the QAA and the EHEA. These degrees require a minimum of one year study full-time and are worth 90 or 120 ECTS credits. Taught Masters degrees are awarded as Master qualifications (Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc), Master of Business Administration (MBA) etc).

   ii) Integrated Masters degrees at the University of Kent are second cycle qualifications with outcomes that meet the relevant qualification descriptors of the QAA and the EHEA. These degrees comprise a minimum of three years study full-time to complete a first cycle qualification, followed by a minimum of one year study full-time worth 60 or 90 ECTS credits to obtain the second cycle qualification. Integrated Masters degrees are awarded as Master qualifications (Master in Engineering (MEng), Master in Science (MSci), Master in Pharmacy (MPharm) etc).

   iii) Research Masters degrees at the University of Kent are second cycle qualifications with outcomes that meet the relevant qualification descriptors of the QAA and the EHEA. These degrees comprise a minimum of one year study full-time and (if credit-bearing) are worth 90 ECTS credits. Research Masters degrees are awarded as Master qualifications (Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Master of Research (MRes) etc).

3. **Third Cycle Qualifications:**
   Doctoral degrees at the University of Kent are third cycle qualifications with outcomes that meet the relevant qualification descriptors of the QAA and the EHEA. These degrees comprise a minimum of three years study and (if credit-bearing) are worth 270 ECTS credits. Doctoral degrees are awarded as Doctoral qualifications (Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) etc).