CHAPTER 2

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CREDIT SYSTEM

2.1 PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A Programme of Study is an approved curriculum, which leads to an award upon successful completion.

A Programme of Study (e.g. BSc (Hons) Mathematics or BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering) is normally made up of a specified number of modules, which are drawn from one discipline or field of study or more and which often combine core modules with a range of electives from which students can choose.

Almost all Programmes of Study at the University are structured on the credit system. A credit system is a systematic way of describing an educational programme by attaching credits to each of its components. A credit is a unit of measure, and each module normally carries a certain number of credits.

Note that some Programmes of Study (e.g. Doctor of Medicine) are non-credit based. For these programmes, students are strongly advised to refer to the specific regulations as detailed in their programme structure.

2.2 MODULES

A module refers to any discrete and relatively self-contained course unit for curriculum option, each of which is likely to be characterised by a particular content and structure, specific methods of delivery (a combination of lectures, tutorials, practicals and independent learning, or a set of learning-teaching materials) and a particular approach to assessment. It is a subset of a Programme of Study.

Each module can either be taught in one semester (semester module) or throughout two semesters (yearly module).

Each module has a unique code of 4 digits ($\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4$), 5 digits ($\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4\#^5$ or $\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4(\#^6)$), or 6 digits ($\#^1\#^2\#^3\#^4\#^5(\#^6)$) representing normally the following:

$\#^1$: Year (y), where $1 \leq y \leq 5$, for undergraduate Programmes. For postgraduate Programmes, $\#^1 = 6$ or 5 (for some postgraduate modules).

$\#^2$: Semester (s), where $1 \leq s \leq 2$; $s = 0$ if module is on offer during both semesters. Some modules may carry digit 3 or 4 corresponding to third or fourth semester.

$\#^3\,\#^4$: Module number (01 – 99); $\#^3\,\#^4\#^5$: Module number (100 – 999).

$(\#^6)$: Weighting (w), where w = 1, 3 or 5 depending on the module status (Introductory, Intermediate or Advanced). It gives an indication of the notional degree of difficulty or academic attainment expected by the student.

For example, the module CIVE 1116(1) is normally offered in year 1 semester 1, and carries a weighting of 1.

However, all modules offered at postgraduate level have the same weighting (w = 1).

Some modules are denoted by suffix Y after the fourth or fifth digit in the module code, e.g. CHEM 1011Y(1). These modules, termed yearly modules, are taught over a period of two semesters and are examined at the end of the second semester only. There are however continuous assessments over the period of two semesters.

Some module codes have an 'R' at the end and denote modules which contain a strong research component.

Module codes having an 'l' at the end (e.g. DFA 1200l) denote modules delivered by mixed mode and having ten hours face-to-face interaction with a tutor for each UoM credit. Thus a student will have thirty hours face-to-face interaction with a tutor for a module carrying three UoM credits.

Each module consists of a specified number of contact hours comprising lectures, tutorials, laboratory/ field work, etc. Students are, however, expected to put in additional work through personal study, library work, etc.

2.3 CREDIT SYSTEM

The University of Mauritius has historically operated under the UoM Credit System and introduced the Learner Centred Credit System (LCCS) in 2019/2020. With effect from the Academic Year 2026/2027, the University has implemented the National Credit Value and Transfer System (NCVTS), in accordance with the framework prescribed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and as approved by Senate. The Regulations governing the applicable credit systems shall apply to all cohorts, unless otherwise specified in the relevant Programme of Study.

Equivalence between UoM credits and LCCS/NCVTS credits:

1 UoM credit = 2 LCCS/NCVTS credits

2.4 LEARNER CENTRED CREDIT SYSTEM (LCCS)

The University of Mauritius introduced the Learner Centred Credit System (LCCS) in 2019/2020, which is based on the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) to replace the UoM credit system which has been in place for decades. It proposes to inspire itself by the European Credit Transfer System as a modern and dynamic learning system for the future generations of learners. The LCCS takes into account learning outcomes which have become important in the recognition of skills acquired during learning and which are equally important for employability.

LCCS credits are based on the workload students need in order to achieve expected learning outcomes, i.e. the time typically needed to complete all learning activities such as lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, self-study and examinations (notional learning hours). 1 LCCS credit = 30 notional learning hours.

Thus a semester module bearing 6 LCCS credits shall be taught over 10 weeks and shall normally include 3 hours of contact, 6 hours of self-study and 9 hours of other learning activities per week.

The hours of contact shall include class hours, tutorials and practicals. It is noteworthy that the contact hours for practicals may be increased due to the nature of the programmes or accreditation requirements.

Tutorials will normally be organised for a group comprising a maximum of 25 students, and can be split into more groups as the number exceeds 25. The minimum and maximum number of tutorial hours allowed for a module bearing 6 LCCS credits shall be 4 and 10 respectively.

Self-study is meant exclusively for the notion of studying what has been delivered in class and holds a ratio of 2:1 in the allocation of learning hours i.e. 2 h of self-study are equal to 1 hour of lecture or contact time. Furthermore, Self-Study should not be confused with *Self-Study Module* as clearly defined in Section 2.9.

The other learning activities may comprise of the following:

- Working on assignments;
- Directed Learning
- Sitting for Class Tests and preparation time for same;
- Sitting for Examinations and preparation time for same;
- Group work;
- Attending Workshops/Conferences recommended by the Department/Faculty;
- Fieldwork;
- Site Visits/Trips;
- Additional Practicals;
- Presentations among peers;
- Experiential Learning;
- Placements/Internships;
- Guest lectures.

More information on the LCCS is available on the following webpage: http://www.uom.ac.mu/index.php/centres-offices/quality-assurance

2.5 NATIONAL CREDIT VALUE AND TRANSFER SYSTEM (NCVTS)

The National Credit Value and Transfer System (NCVTS) introduced by the HEC as a national framework for credit accumulation, transfer and recognition across higher education institutions in Mauritius.

The NCVTS framework supports:

- Harmonisation of credit allocation across higher education institutions
- Alignment of qualifications with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) levels 5–10
- Facilitation of credit accumulation and transfer
- Recognition of formal, non-formal and informal learning
- International comparability with credit systems such as European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and SADC Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS).

Through this framework, qualifications, modules, and micro-credentials can be recognised within a common national system, thereby promoting mobility between institutions and supporting lifelong learning pathways. The HEC has requested higher education institutions to align their programmes with the NCVTS framework.

The National Credit Value and Transfer System (NCVTS)

NCVTS Credits are based on learner workload, not contact hours.

- **1 NCVTS credit = 30 notional learning hours**
- **40 NCVTS credits = 1 full-time academic year**

The same learning outcomes shall carry the same credit value regardless of delivery mode (face-to-face, blended, online)

International Alignment

- **1 NCVTS = 1 ECTS**

2.5.1 Calculation of Notional Learning Hours and Credit Value

The notional hours and credit value for any individual module shall be calculated using a workload-basedmodel. This model accounts for the total time required by a typical student to achieve the specified learning outcomes. The baseline calculation for a single module is structured as follows:

Item	Learning Activity Components	Allocated Notional Hours
1	Contact Hours (Teaching)	A
2	Time spent on self-study and assignments	B
3	Time spent on practical classes and tutorials	C
4	Time spent on assessment	D
5	Others (such as work-based learning, apprenticeship)	E
	Total Hours	**A + B + C + D + E**

Alignment with the NCVTS Framework

i. The University of Mauritius falls within Group A institutions, that is, institutions already using an internationally recognised credit system for which equivalence tables exist.
ii. UoM programmes are designed using the LCCS/NCVTS, which mirrors the ECTS framework and is based on learning outcomes, learner workload and notional learning hours.
iii. Given that the NCVTS framework is itself aligned with ECTS, the transition at UoM would primarily involve alignment rather than restructuring of programmes.
iv. UoM adopts a dual credit referencing system, whereby existing LCCS/NCVTS credits are retained, and equivalent NCVTS credits are indicated in all programme documentation and transcripts.

2.6 ACADEMIC YEAR

2.6.1 The academic year of the University is divided into 2 semesters. Each semester will consist of 15 teaching weeks' duration under the UoM Credit System and 10 teaching weeks' duration under the LCCS/NCVTS System, unless otherwise specified in the programme of study.

2.6.2 No religious festival/practice/belief (except for those which are public holidays) will be considered by the University when scheduling any function/event/lecture/examination.

2.7 CREDIT EQUIVALENCE

(i) 15 h of lectures and/or tutorials/ seminars: 1 UoM credit

(ii) 30 – 45 h of laboratory/ field work: 1 UoM credit

(iii) 30 notional learning hours (5 contact hours, 10 hours self-study and 15 other learning activities hours): 1 LCCS/NCVTS credit

(iv) Undergraduate Certificate project: up to 3 UoM credits or 6 LCCS/NCVTS credits

(v) Undergraduate Diploma project: 3 – 6 UoM credits or 6 – 12 LCCS/NCVTS credits

(vi) Undergraduate 3-3½ final year project: 6 – 10 UoM credits or 12 – 20 LCCS/NCVTS credits

(vii) Undergraduate 4 year final year project and Master's project: 6 – 12 UoM credits or 12 – 24 LCCS/NCVTS credits

Normally a three-UoM credit module is equivalent to 45 contact hours. "Contact hours" is defined as the amount of direct contact time between the student and the lecturers, adjusted for laboratory/ field work according to the above. On the other hand, a six-LCCS/NCVTS credit module is equivalent to 180 notional learning hours (30 hours contact, 60 hours self-study and 90 hours of other learning activities).

2.8 NUMBER OF CREDITS AND CONTACT HOURS FOR UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS AWARDS

	UoM Credit System		**Learner Centred Credit System (LCCS)/NCVTS**		
Programme of Study	**Number of UoM credits**	**Number of contact hours**	**Number of LCCS/NCVTS credits**	**Number of contact hours**	**Notional Learning Hours**
3-Year Undergraduate Degree	96 – 106	1440 – 1590	192 – 212	960 – 1060	5760 – 6360

3½ -Year Undergraduate Degree (Includes Placement/Practicum/Internship which varies from 12 to 18 LCCS Credits)	105 - 112	1575 - 1680	210 - 222	1050 - 1110	6300 - 6660
4-year Undergraduate Degree	120 – 130	1800 – 1950	240 – 260	1200 – 1300	7200 – 7800
Undergraduate Degree (Top-Up)	36-54	540-810	72-108	360-540	2160-3240
Undergraduate Diploma	60 – 70	900 – 1050	120 – 140	600 – 700	3600 – 4200
Undergraduate Certificate	30 – 40	450 – 600	60 – 80	300 – 400	1800 – 2400
Postgraduate Certificate	12 – 18	180 – 270	24 – 36	120 – 180	720 – 1080
Postgraduate Diploma	24 – 30	360 – 450	48 – 60	240 – 300	1440 – 1800
Master's Award	36 – 42	540 – 630	72 – 84	360 – 420	2160 – 2520

Note that the number of UoM credits or LCCS/NCVTS credits and contact hours for some Programmes may differ from those indicated due to the nature of the Programmes (e.g. MBA) and/or exigencies of professional/ accrediting bodies (e.g. BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering).

2.9 DURATION OF PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

In general, the duration of a Programme of Study is as follows:

Programme of Study	**Normal**		**Maximum**	
	Full-Time	**Part-Time**	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**
Undergraduate Certificate	1 year	1 – 1½ years	2 years	2 – 3 years
Undergraduate Diploma	1½ – 2 years	2 – 3 years	3 – 4 years	4 – 5 years
Undergraduate 3-year degree	3 years	5 years	5 years	7 years
Undergraduate 3½-year degree	3½ years	5½ years	5½ years	7 years
Undergraduate 4-year degree	4 years	5 – 6 years	6 years	7 years
Undergraduate Top Up degree	1 year	2-3 years	2-3 years	4 years
Postgraduate Certificate	½ – 1 year	1 – 2 years	2 years	3 – 4 years
Postgraduate Diploma	1 – 1½ years	1½ – 2 years	2 – 3 years	4 years
Master's degree	1 – 1½ years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Flexible	7 years			

2.10 TYPES OF MODULES

Modules can be of different types as shown:

Module Type	Description
Core	Module that is essential in a particular Programme and must be passed by the student on the Programme.
Elective/ Optional	Module for which the student has a choice to register. In case of failure, the student can either retake/ resit the module or register for another elective/ optional module that is on offer unless otherwise stated.
Self-Study	A module can be offered on self-study mode only when it has been phased out, no alternative and/or equivalent module will be run and the student has not previously registered for the module or attended the classes. Under the above circumstances, a student may be allowed to complete a maximum of 12 UoM credits or 24 LCCS/NCVTS credits for an Under/NCVTS graduate Programme and a maximum of 6 UoM credits or 12 LCCS credits for a Postgraduate Programme by Self-Study. There will be no formal lectures but laboratory work will be conducted, if necessary. Assessment will be based on laboratory work and/or assignments as well as tests and examinations. Self-study modules will be supervised (*to read in conjunction with section 3.9).*
Independent Study	One elective in the form of project may be offered to students who have already earned at least 75 UoM credits or 150 LCCS/NCVTS credits for Undergraduate Programmes and 27 UoM credits or 54 LCCS/NCVTS credits for Postgraduate Programmes subject to recommendation by Department and approval by Faculty/ Centre Board. This elective will carry 3 UoM credits or 6 LCCS/NCVTS credits and may be completed in a maximum of 2 semesters. Grade S will be awarded for satisfactory completion of Independent Study.
Audit	Students who wish to follow specific module(s) or are advised to do so by a Department/ Centre may audit same (i.e. such modules are not examinable for them). However, such modules do not carry any UoM credit or LCCS/NCVTS credit nor any grade but would appear in their transcript subject to satisfactory attendance.

Given resource constraints and critical mass consideration, the University does **not** bind itself to offer any specific elective in any Semester/ Year.

2.11 MODE OF DELIVERY

A range of modalities (face-to-face lectures, mixed mode/ blended/ distance/ on-line education, seminars, workshops, study visits, practicals, use of ICT and other modern technology) is utilised to maintain and enhance the effective delivery of modules.

Most modules are delivered on a face-to-face basis. However, some modules are delivered by mixed mode (distance education or on-line education). These are indicated by letters D.E. O.E. and D.E.O.L. respectively in the Programme structures.

Any scheduled Lecture/Tutorial be conducted Online via the E-Learning Platforms on the particular day(s) whereby any *Communiqué* would be issued by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology with regard to no Lectures to

be conducted on UoM Campus due to bad weather conditions or during Cyclone Warning Class 2; and

Onus is on the Faculty with regard to the holding of Class Tests on the basis that some students may not have access to internet/electricity.

2.12 INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT/ PRACTICAL TRAINING/ PRACTICUM/ CLINICAL PLACEMENT/ PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT

Compulsory Industrial Placement/ Practical Training/ Practicum/ Clinical Placement modules are included in several Programmes of Study offered by Faculties/ Centre. The duration and assessment of these modules are detailed in their respective programme structures/ module specification sheet/ placement guidelines.

2.13 EQUIVALENCE OF UoM AND LCCS/NCVTS CREDITS TO ECTS, UK AND US CREDITS

The equivalence below serves as a guide for students and staff to calculate UoM credits earned through international study.

1 UoM credit = 2 LCCS/NCVTS credits = 1 US credit = 4 UK credits = 2 ECTS credits

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