

# UNSW POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK DEGREE

In addition to upholding UNSW graduate attributes, postgraduate coursework programs are designed to provide further depth of knowledge and technical skills in the area of specialisation which equip the graduates with tools and skills for competencies in their chosen field. Entry into a postgraduate coursework program requires the completion of a recognised undergraduate degree and/or work experience that is considered equivalent.

All UNSW postgraduate coursework programs can be categorised in one of three ways:

## 1. Graduate Certificate

These programs enable graduates or those with appropriate experience in the field to specialise in their own area of expertise or for those changing fields to gain an understanding in another discipline.

Example: Graduate Certificate in Art Education and Design

## 2. Graduate Diploma

Programs provide graduates with opportunities to extend their existing knowledge, or to gain a solid grounding in the frameworks, tools and basic knowledge relevant to another discipline.

May permit early exit with a graduate certificate or articulate into a Masters program, provided that requirements are met. Most Grad.Dip programs are designed to be completed in one year full-time or the equivalent part-time.

Example: Graduate Diploma in Planning

## 3. Masters by Coursework

These programs allow graduates and practising professionals to obtain and develop the required competencies in their area of expertise or to become expert in a new area, different from their prior qualifications. Programs may include core and specialisation courses to be completed in 1 – 1.5 years full-time or equivalent part-time. Extended Masters Programs may require an additional 1/2 – 1 year full time workload. Some programs offer two areas of specialisation, awarding a combined masters degree.

Example: Master of Architecture/ Master of Built Environment

The UNSW is following developments of the ‘three-cycle’ Bologna Process across Europe<sup>i</sup>. In a global sense, these developments have important implications for present and future students of the University, such as recognition of their award in Europe and vice versa and the involvement of professional accreditation bodies. With this in mind, the Proposed Rules for Postgraduate coursework programs retain the structure of ‘learning phase’ with core courses where necessary, and the ‘skills development phase’ with specialisation courses or restricted elective courses in the Masters programs.

## Proposed Rules Objectives

Currently there are 255 postgraduate coursework programs offered at UNSW<sup>ii</sup> which includes 51 Graduate Certificates, 73 Graduate Diplomas and 131 Masters Degrees. UoC requirements for these programs vary; Graduate Certificate requires anywhere between 16 – 48 UoC, Graduate Diploma 32 – 72 UoC and Masters 48 – 96, although in March 2006, the Academic Board passed *Postgraduate Coursework Programs Structure, UoC and Naming Conventions*<sup>iii</sup>.

The proposed rules seek to reinforce the above *Conventions* and reduce complexity, with the following amendments to the Articulated Programs only,

- Remove distinction between ‘Long’ and ‘Short’ Programs
- Standardise Masters UoC requirement to 48, 72 and 96 and
- Option to include the term ‘Extension’ in Naming where desired
- Permit an extra 24 – 48 UoC addition to the programs for those with inadequate academic preparation

# PROPOSED RULES FOR POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK PROGRAMS

## B. Postgraduate Coursework Programs

### 1. Entry, Progression and Exit Requirements

An applicant to a Postgraduate coursework program shall, as approved by the Program Authority,

- a) at entry, have met the requirements set out to be acceptable grounds for admission into the degree,
- b) normally, not attempt more than 24 UoC per semester
- c) undertake courses and/or project/s and pass assessments as prescribed
- d) if appropriate, articulate from Graduate Certificate into Graduate Diploma or Masters or from Graduate Diploma into Masters
- e) graduate within eight years from the commencement of the initial program
- f) Exit a Graduate Diploma or a Masters program with a Graduate Certificate, or a Masters program with a Graduate Diploma, if that program requirement is satisfied before the completion of the intended program.

### 2. Postgraduate by coursework Program Rules

A Faculty shall in its

- a) Postgraduate coursework programs, specify any core courses as such
- b) Graduate Certificate program, require the completion of at least 24 UoC
- c) Graduate Diploma Program, require the completion of at least 36 UoC
- d) Masters by Coursework Program, require the completion of at least 48 UoC
- e) Masters by Coursework Combined Program, require the completion of 72 - 96 UoC in total.
- f) A faculty may offer a program 24 uoc longer than the minimum lengths mentioned in b), c) and d) if the program is designed for candidates with three year degrees or whose degrees are from a different area.
- g) A faculty may offer programs up to 24uoc longer than the minimum length s listed in b), c), d) and augmented as in f) if it is necessary for professional accreditation.
- h) Graduate Diploma and Masters Programs may systematically<sup>iv</sup> offer up to 12 UoC in advanced standing in accordance with UNSW policy for those with approved professional experience.
- i) In consideration of advanced standing/credit transfer for individual students, the rules of UNSW policy<sup>v</sup> apply
- j) UNSW postgraduate coursework articulation rules apply<sup>vi</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Bologna Process 1999, [www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/](http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/)

<sup>ii</sup> Appendix D: Comparison of UNSW Postgraduate coursework programs

<sup>iii</sup> Postgraduate Coursework Programs Structure, Units of Credit and Naming Conventions – Approved by the Academic Board 7 March 2006 [AB06/18]

<sup>iv</sup> Appropriate to the enrolled postgraduate degree

<sup>v</sup> A-Z Student Guide Handbook @ [myunsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html](http://myunsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html)

<sup>vi</sup> Refer to Academic Board Policy AB03/69 File 911138<sup>vi</sup>