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Alternative format

If you require this Academic Regulations (Apprentices) document in an alternative format, please contact the Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST). Students living in Wales can speak with a student support adviser in Welsh on 029 2047 1170, should you wish to do so.

Summary of Regulations

These are the Regulations which apply to qualifications studied as part of an Open University Apprenticeship Programme.

The regulations in this document set out how you become an Apprentice of The Open University, how we award academic credit if you complete a module successfully, what you have to do to progress through an Open University qualification and how to meet the academic requirements for the award of a qualification. They include information about the structure of Open University qualifications, how and why we may make changes to courses, study restrictions for academic reasons, and time limits for completing your qualification. They also set out the circumstances in which you will cease to be an Open University Apprentice studying a qualification including where you, your Employer or The Open University are entitled to end the relationship before you have completed all of your intended studies.

You should also refer to the specific regulations governing your apprenticeship qualification.

Scope

What this document covers

These Regulations apply to all Students who are registered on an Open University Apprenticeship Programme to study a qualification that starts from the academic year 2023/24 onwards.

- a) These Regulations apply to all academic studies undertaken as part of an Apprenticeship Programme, for which study commenced in or after the academic year 2023/24 and will continue to apply for so long as you remain registered for that qualification and are an Apprentice with The Open University.

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- b) If you register for a qualification in a subsequent academic year, including re-registering for the apprenticeship qualification you were studying previously through an Apprenticeship Programme, the regulations in force at the time of that registration will apply to that further study.
- c) As an Apprentice, you cannot change your qualification within the Apprenticeship Programme itself, unless expressly agreed by your Employer, The Open University, and your Funding Provider rules (if applicable). This may have implications on your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme. If you change your qualification, the regulations that apply will be those that apply at the date of the change.
- d) If you register for a qualification or any modules outside of the Apprenticeship Programme, you will be liable to pay module fees as governed by the [Fee Rules](#), and must abide by all other regulations applicable to Open University Students, including the standard [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#). The regulations that will apply to your qualification will be those in effect at the date you register for the further qualification.
- e) If you wish to count credit awarded from the study of a module within a previous qualification towards the credit requirements of a new qualification, the regulations that will apply will be those in force at the date you register for the new qualification, not those in force at the time you studied the module (if different).

Throughout these Regulations, ‘we/us/our’ refers to The Open University, and ‘you/your’ refers to any Apprentice who falls under the scope of the Regulations.

This document may be updated throughout the year to correct errors, improve clarity or accessibility, or to reflect changes in legal or regulatory requirements. If these amendments occur after you have registered, you will be notified by email of any significant changes to this document.

What this document does not cover

These Regulations do not apply to Students or Learners who:

- have registered for a non-apprenticeship qualification;

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- are sponsored by an employer as part of an employer-supported non-apprenticeship programme;
- are studying a non-work-based learning taught course;
- have registered for a research degree (who should refer to the [Research Degree Regulations](#));
- have registered for a standalone module;
- have registered for a Short Course;
- have registered for an Open University Microcredential who should refer to the [Terms and Conditions \(Microcredentials\)](#)
- are studying at other academic institutions or with professional bodies, companies or other organisations towards a qualification that is validated by The Open University. If you fall into this category, you will be covered by the regulations of the organisation with which you are studying.

If you are not studying for an Apprenticeship or if you change your qualification, the standard [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#) will apply to you.

The Open University Student Charter Values

[The Student Charter](#) was developed in partnership by The Open University and the OU Students Association. It sets out our shared values and the commitments we make to each other as a community of staff and students. This document has been developed with the Student Charter values as its foundation.

Commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion at The Open University

Our policies are inclusive of all Open University Students, Learners, Enquirers and Alumni, regardless of age, civil status, dependency or caring status, care experience, disability, family status, gender, gender identity, gender reassignment, marital status, marriage and civil partnerships, membership of the Traveller community, political opinion, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, socio-economic background, sex, sexual orientation or trades union membership status.

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Safe Space Reporting

The Open University is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment in which everyone feels safe and is treated with dignity and respect. Unlawful discrimination of any kind across The Open University will not be tolerated. Safe Space Reporting is available through [an online tool](#) through which staff, students, learners and visitors are encouraged to report incidents of assault, bullying, harassment, hate crime, or sexual harassment. It also provides information about what you can do if these incidents happen to you, or to someone you know, and where you can find support.

Introduction

These Regulations set out what you have to do to become and remain an Apprentice studying a qualification as part of an Open University Apprenticeship Programme. These Regulations govern the academic qualification within the Apprenticeship Programme.

If you withdraw or are withdrawn from your Apprenticeship Programme for any reason and wish to register for a non-apprenticeship qualification, the standard current [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#) document will apply to you.

[Section G](#) of this document presents regulations which are specific to undergraduate apprenticeship qualifications. [Section H](#) presents regulations which are specific to postgraduate apprenticeship qualifications.

You should also refer to the specific regulations governing your apprenticeship qualification, which set out the detailed academic requirements that you will have to meet including any exceptions to the general rules set out in these Regulations. The specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification are available through your Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST).

These Regulations and, unless stated otherwise, all of the rules, regulations (with the exception of the specific qualification regulations available through your AEST), policies and procedures referred to in these Regulations are available from the [Student Policies and Regulations](#) section of The Open University website.

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The Academic Regulations (Apprentices) has been produced to combine both those regulations which govern your study for an academic qualification at The Open University, and those external regulations provided by your apprenticeship Funding Provider which govern your Apprenticeship Programme. We acknowledge that these Regulations are heavily influenced by external apprenticeship regulations which are amended on an ongoing basis. Wherever possible, these Regulations will be reviewed and revised to reflect any changes to the external governing environment. In any instances where an external regulatory change impacts upon a Regulation listed within this document, your AEST, or equivalent contact, at The Open University will be able to advise on the most up-to-date rules which govern your personal circumstances as an Open University Apprentice. You can also contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information using the contact details at the end of this section.

These Regulations have been produced in line with current external rules published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) specifically for English Apprentices. Regulations governing apprenticeships within other Nations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) will be provided by your Funding Provider, and therefore exact rules or terminology may differ to those presented within these Regulations. Wherever possible, these Regulations will be reviewed and revised to reflect any changes to the external governing environment across all Nations. If you are an Apprentice studying for a qualification in a UK Nation other than England, your AEST or equivalent contact will be able to advise on the most up-to-date funding rules governing your personal circumstances. You can also contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information on the funding rules related to your Nation:

- [The Open University Apprenticeships Enrolment and Support team](#) (+44 (0) 300 303 4121)
- Faculty Office for Apprentices studying Nursing Programmes, Social Work or Advanced Clinical Practice (+44(0) 1908 541070)
- [The Open University in Scotland Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 131 226 3851)
- [The Open University in Wales](#) (+44 (0) 29 2047 1170)
- [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#) (+44 (0) 2890 245025).

For specific guidance on how this policy may relate to your personal circumstances, please contact your AEST or equivalent contact.

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Unfamiliar terms are explained in a Glossary at the end of this document.

Section A: The authority of The Open University to make regulations

A1 Making academic regulations

- a) The Royal Charter and Statutes of The Open University set out our legal status and powers as a University. They give the Senate authority for academic matters and the power to make regulations and rules regarding all Students (including Open University Apprentices) who are studying a taught course, the registration and enrolment of Students, continuation of study, content of studies, teaching or supervision of Students, assessment of Students, award of Open University credit and credit awarded in Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL credit), structure and content of qualifications, and the award and classification of a qualification. The Senate may delegate the power to make and vary the academic regulations.
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A2 Making assessment rules

- a) The Senate sets the rules governing assessment for any module, certificate, diploma, degree, or other qualification of the Open University. These are set out in the [Code of Practice for Student Assessment](#) and in the Assessment Policies and specific regulations governing individual qualifications.
-

A3 Language of instruction, teaching, assessment and administration

- a) Unless the Senate says otherwise, or when the Welsh Language Standards compliance Notice issued under Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 applies, English will be the language that is used for and in all materials, assessment and examinations, tuition, residential and online schools, student support and administration in The Open University.
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A4 Communicating regulations

- a) Regulations approved by the Senate will be published on The Open University website.

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Section B: Changes to regulations and curriculum

B1 Changes to these Regulations

B1.1 The circumstances when we may make changes

a) It may be necessary, or desirable, to make changes in the relationship between The Open University, its Apprentices and their Employer during your studies. We may amend regulations and rules, or the way in which we apply them, in order to:

- Improve the experience of Students,
- Ensure the efficient and economic use of Open University resources,
- Comply with changes in legal or regulatory requirements,
- Maintain the reputation, good standing and academic standards of The Open University,
- Correct errors or improve clarity and accessibility of regulations,
- Take advantage of new technologies, methods, ideas and opportunities.

B1.2 How changes will be made

a) Where such changes are to be made, The Open University will follow its rules for governance approval of those changes including, where appropriate, consultation with Students or their representative bodies, and Employers.

B1.3 Notice of changes

a) We will give reasonable notice of changes to the regulations and rules, and the date they take effect.

B2 Changes to Open University apprenticeship curriculum and qualifications

B2.1 Changes to Modules

a) We will not normally make changes to a module for Students who are enrolled on that module.

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- b) A change to a module on which you are enrolled will normally only be made if it is required immediately in order to correct a significant error or omission, as the result of a legal or regulatory requirement, or in order to meet the requirements of a validating or accrediting body.
- c) Where a change is made to a module on which you are enrolled, you will be given as much notice as possible of the change. If you or your Employer no longer wish to continue with the new module, you would need to withdraw from the Apprenticeship Programme (see [Section J2](#)).
- d) Modules on which Students are not yet enrolled may be changed or withdrawn at short notice.

B2.2 Changes to Qualifications

- a) Availability of modules:
 - (i) Your registration for a qualification (as part of an Apprenticeship Programme) will enable us to enrol you on the modules required to complete the qualification. The modules that are available to count towards your qualification are set out in the Module Descriptors that you receive when you register for the Apprenticeship Programme.
 - (ii) If you have not completed your qualification during the time that the modules indicated at the date of registration are available as noted in paragraph B2.2a(i), we will continue to make available sufficient academically appropriate modules to enable you to complete your qualification, subject to any notice given of a change to the structure or study requirements of that qualification, or for its withdrawal. Apprenticeship qualifications have Planned Start and End Dates (as defined within the “Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates” definition of the Glossary of Terms). The Apprenticeship Programme (including the qualification) must be completed within these dates.
 - (iii) The Open University continually seeks to enhance its Students’ experience and ensure that courses remain valid, relevant and current. The modules that are made available in future will reflect those aims and may therefore not include the same subject content, teaching or assessment methods as the modules available at the commencement of your qualification.

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Modules on which Students are not yet enrolled may also be amended in any of the circumstances listed in B1.1.

- b) Changes in the structure or study requirements of a qualification:
- (i) A change to the structure or study requirements of a qualification on which you are registered will normally only be made if the change is required immediately in order to correct a significant error or omission, as the result of a legal or regulatory requirement, or in order to meet the requirements of a validating or accrediting body.
 - (ii) We will not normally make changes to the structure or study requirements of a qualification for Students who are registered on an apprentice qualification.
 - (iii) In line with our aim to enhance our Students' experience and ensure that courses remain valid, relevant and current, and in any of the circumstances listed in B1.1, we may make changes to the structure of our qualifications. These may include the balance between core, options and free choice modules (if applicable); the balance between coursework and examination or other forms and types of assessment; the order of study and rules for progression through the qualification; and the requirements for attendance at, or participation in, specified learning activities.
 - (iv) Where a change is made to the structure or study requirements of a qualification on which you are registered, you will be given as much notice as possible of the change. If you or your Employer no longer wish to continue with the new structure or study requirements, you would need to withdraw from the Apprenticeship Programme (see [Section J2](#)).
- c) Changes in the classification scheme of a qualification
- (i) If a previously unclassified qualification introduces a classification scheme, this will take effect for all awards where the conferral date follows the introduction of the scheme, regardless of the date of completion or qualification date.
 - (ii) If an existing classification scheme is amended and there is no possible detriment to any Student as a result of the change, the amendment will take effect for all awards where the conferral date follows the amendment, regardless of the date of completion or the qualification date.

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- (iii) If an existing classification scheme is amended to include additional requirements, the new requirements will only apply to Students who register for or declare the qualification after the new scheme is published. Continuing Students will be classified under the existing scheme. Where this applies, details will be in the specific qualification regulations.

B2.3 Withdrawal of apprenticeship qualifications

- a) In line with our aim to ensure that courses remain valid, relevant and current, we may withdraw qualifications that will cease to meet those requirements. We may also withdraw a qualification if it has become uneconomic to continue to offer that qualification or its constituent modules, or if there is a strategic decision to change the curriculum or how it is delivered.
- b) If you are registered for an apprenticeship qualification and we have decided to withdraw that qualification, you will still be able to complete it if you successfully pass all related assessments, academic, and practice or work-based modules as specified in the individual qualification description within the withdrawal period. If the period for withdrawal is shorter than that of the qualification time limit or the planned Apprenticeship Duration, then the withdrawal date will take precedence.

Section C: Becoming a Student of The Open University

C1 Requirement for registration

- a) In order to be registered as an Open University Student and study an Open University qualification as an Apprentice, you must register for a qualification as part of an Apprenticeship Programme.

C2 What you have to do to register

C2.1 Eligibility to register

- a) You may register as an Apprentice if you meet the requirements set out in [Section C4](#) under these Regulations in conjunction with the terms of all agreements required by your Funding Provider, and any rules of your Funding Provider.

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C2.2 Provision of information

- a) You and/or your Employer must provide us with the information we request in order to establish your eligibility to register. The information you provide must be accurate and you must not omit anything which might result in us being misled as to your eligibility. Your information will only be used for the purposes set out in our [Student Privacy Notice](#).

C2.3 Registration Procedure and Conditions of Registration

- a) You must follow the registration procedure sent to you/your Employer by the Apprenticeship Operations Delivery Team (AODT) or by the related Faculty for your qualification.
- b) You and your Employer will be required to complete registration documents in order to study with The Open University as an Apprentice. A complete list of Registration Documentation cannot be provided within this document due to Apprenticeship Programme and Funding Provider rules being under ongoing review. You can contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information on the Registration Documentation related to your UK Nation:
- [The Open University Apprenticeships Enrolment and Support team](#) in England (AEST) (+44 (0) 300 303 4121),
 - [The Open University in Scotland Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 131 226 3851),
 - [The Open University in Wales](#) (+44 (0) 29 2047 1170), and
 - [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#) (+44 (0) 2890 245025).
- c) In England, you must agree to all sections relevant to 'Apprenticeships in England' within our [Conditions of Registration](#).

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C2.4 Fees and other charges

- a) In England, your Employer must pay or agree to pay any fees and other charges that are due as set out in the Apprenticeship Training Services Agreement (Employer Written Agreement).
 - b) If your Employer does not pay your tuition fees or any other charges when they become due, we may withdraw your registration.
 - c) In Scotland, if SDS does not confirm your eligibility for funding, The Open University will withdraw your registration.
-

C3 Effect of registration

C3.1 Entitlement to study

- a) As an Apprentice registered for a qualification as part of an Apprenticeship Programme, you are entitled to the study materials, tuition and assessment for the relevant modules required to enable you to complete your qualification.

C3.2 Entitlement to award of credit and qualifications

- a) You will only be awarded credit for a module for which you are enrolled and upon successful completion of the academic requirements for that module. You may count the credit from modules that you have completed successfully towards an Open University qualification, subject to the rules set out within these Regulations, and in the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification.

C3.3 Exceptional circumstances

- a) We intend to provide the educational services that you have registered or enrolled to receive. However, there may be circumstances outside of our control where we are unable to provide those services in full or in part. In some cases, we may have to postpone, re-locate, re-structure or cancel tutorials, forums, day schools, residential or online schools and other teaching sessions, assessments, or examinations.

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- b) These circumstances may include fire, flood, pandemic, war, terrorist acts, industrial disputes, short notice absence of teaching or other staff, short notice unavailability of premises, facilities or materials. Where those, or similar circumstances arise, we will minimise disruption so far as we are reasonably able and, wherever practicable, will provide you with reasonable alternative arrangements to continue with your studies. We will make all reasonable efforts to inform you of any such changes as early as possible.
-

C4 Requirements for registration

C4.1 General Requirements

a) Eligibility

Your eligibility to register on an Apprenticeship Programme is governed by the funding rules set by your Funding Provider.

b) Age

You must be 16 or over at the start of your apprenticeship.

c) Study restrictions

You cannot be enrolled for modules which exceed the study restrictions set out in [Section D1](#).

d) Suspension

You will not be enrolled on any module while you are suspended or temporarily expelled from The Open University under the provisions of the [Code of Practice for Student Discipline](#).

e) Expulsion

You will not be enrolled on any module if you are permanently expelled from The Open University under the provisions of the [Code of Practice for Student Discipline](#).

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f) Health, Safety, Safeguarding and Equality

We may apply conditions to your qualification registration or module enrolment or refuse it entirely if, in our opinion, it is reasonably necessary to do so in order to comply with our duties:

- to protect the health and safety of Students, staff, contractors and members of the public;
- with respect to the safeguarding of young persons or vulnerable adults, in line with our [Safeguarding Policy – Protecting children and vulnerable adults](#);
- to comply with our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 in England, Scotland and Wales, Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 for Northern Ireland, or any other statutory duty or obligation; and
- to comply with any order of a court or other authorised body made for the protection of the public, any section of the public or any individual.

C4.2 Academic requirements for registration

- a) The Senate can agree entry requirements for any qualification or module, which you would have to meet in order to be eligible to register. Any academic requirements decided upon by the Senate under this regulation will be set out within the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification.

C4.3 Vocational and professional requirements for registration

- a) Any vocational and professional requirements are set out by your Funding Provider.
- b) In England these requirements are available through the relevant Apprenticeship Standard and can be viewed on the [Institute for Apprenticeships Website](#). In Scotland, the requirements are available through the Apprenticeship Framework, and can be viewed on the [Skills Development Scotland](#) website. Information on the vocational and professional requirements within other Nations will be available from your Funding Provider. You can contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information on the registration requirements related to your Nation:

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- [The Open University Apprenticeships Enrolment and Support team \(England\)](#) (+44 (0) 300 303 4121),
- [The Open University in Scotland Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 131 226 3851),
- [The Open University in Wales](#) (+44 (0) 29 2047 1170), and
- [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#) (+44 (0) 2890 245025).

C5 Counting Open University credit awarded before you register for a qualification

- If you have completed any Open University credit before being registered onto an Open University Apprenticeship Programme, it may be possible to count this credit towards your apprenticeship qualification if valid and agreed by the relevant Teaching Committee for your qualification, and your Practice Tutor.
- [Section F4](#) of the standard [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#) provides the rules around how to count Open University credit towards your qualification.

C6 Counting Open University credit towards more than one qualification

- If you have completed Open University credit before being registered onto an Open University Apprenticeship Programme, and this credit is valid and countable towards your apprenticeship qualification, it might be possible to count this Open University credit towards more than one qualification. This will be subject to meeting the unique study requirements and the curriculum requirements for each qualification, and subject to this having been negotiated with the relevant Teaching Committee for your qualification, and with your Practice Tutor.
- [Section H](#) of the standard [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#) provides the regulations around unique study rules, and the maximum reuse of credit for undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications.

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Section D: Module enrolment

We will enrol you for modules as required to achieve your qualification, provided you have met any eligibility requirements in the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification (available through your AEST).

D1 Study restrictions for academic reasons

- a) At any one time, you must not be enrolled to study modules that total more than 120 credits, unless this is a specific requirement of your apprenticeship qualification. The 120-credit limit excludes credit for postponed examinations, and examination resits and resubmissions.
 - b) You will not be eligible to be enrolled for further modules unless you have made sufficient academic progress in your previous undergraduate studies. Your AEST and Practice Tutor will be able to advise whether you are making suitable progress and will be able to support you in making an application for permission to undertake further study if you are not deemed to be making suitable progress. Full rules and procedures are set out within the [Academic Progress Policy 2023/2 \(Apprentices\)](#). If you are unable to successfully complete a module, this may have implications on your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme (as detailed in [Sections D3](#) and [J3](#)).
-

D2 Modules with pre-requisite or co-requisite requirements

D2.1 The pre-requisite or co-requisite requirement

- a) Some modules, referred to as principal modules, have pre-requisite requirements. This means that you can only study them if you have completed another specified module first. Other principal modules have co-requisite requirements, which means that you can only study them if you have studied another specified module ('the co-requisite module') either prior to the start of the principal module, or will be studying it at the same time as the principal module.

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- b) In order to study the principal module, you must either:
- (i) (for principle modules with pre-requisites) have been awarded credit for the pre-requisite module before the start date of the principal module; or have completed study of the pre-requisite module but the result, including the result for a resit or resubmission, is not available before the start date of the principal module; or
 - (ii) (for principle modules with co-requisites) on the start date of the principal module, be enrolled on the co-requisite module for a presentation which starts on that date or which started at an earlier date, and is not yet completed; or
 - (iii) have been exempted from the requirement to study that module as a pre-requisite or co-requisite, by a decision of the Teaching Committee responsible for the module; or
 - (iv) have been awarded credit in Recognition of Prior Learning which specifically exempts you from the pre-requisite or co-requisite module; or
 - (v) have provided evidence of prior learning and/or experience which has been approved as exempting you from studying the pre-requisite or co-requisite module, or from the requirement to study that module as a pre-requisite or co-requisite.
- c) If you have been exempted from the requirement to study a module as a pre-requisite or co-requisite, but not from studying a principal module which is compulsory within your qualification, you will still be required to achieve credit for the principal module in order to be awarded the qualification.

D2.2 Effect of non-completion of a pre-requisite or co-requisite module

- a) If you have started to study a module with pre-requisite requirements, but you do not subsequently achieve credit for the pre-requisite module, you may (unless the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification state otherwise) continue to study that module.
- b) If you have started to study a module with co-requisite requirements and you do not successfully complete study of the co-requisite module, you may (unless the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification state otherwise) continue to study that module.

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D3 Restrictions on repeating study of modules

- a) As an Apprentice, your academic right to repeat study of a module will be subject to the consent of your Employer (who may be required to fund the repeated module study). You should discuss your options with your AEST and your Employer. Your AEST may also be required to liaise with your Funding Provider for approval.
- b) If you are not entitled to repeat study of a module under these Regulations, or repetition is not confirmed as permissible by your Employer, this may have implications on your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme.
- c) If you have been awarded credit for a module, you are not allowed to repeat study of that module.

Section E: Module credit

E1 Award of credit

E1.1 Criteria for award of credit

- a) We will award you module credit if you successfully meet the requirements for the completion of that module. The requirements may include reaching a certain performance standard during the module and its examinable component (where applicable), successfully completing a competency-based work-based learning element, attending a residential school or online school, participation in specified learning and assessment activities, and meeting specified professional standards.

E1.2 Residential school element

- a) If a module includes a residential school element, you must satisfactorily complete the residential school or the online school (where available), in order to be awarded module credit.

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E1.3 Specified learning and assessment activities

- a) As part of your Apprenticeship Programme you may be required to attend, carry out or participate in a specified activity at a specified place and time, an End-Point Assessment, a set number of hours of work-based learning or practice hours, Functional Skills study, or participate in an online activity during a specified period. You must carry out or participate in those activities to a satisfactory standard or fulfil the requirement to carry out a specified number of hours of work-based learning or practice, in order to be awarded module credit.

E1.4 Specified professional standards

- a) You may need to satisfactorily demonstrate and maintain standards for suitability or [Fitness to Practise](#) as specified by an appropriate professional body. You must meet those standards in order to be awarded module credit.
-

E2 Value and level of credit

- a) Each module has a credit value and an Open University level of study (e.g. 60 credits, Open University level 1). We will award the appropriate number of credits to you when you have successfully completed a module for which you have been enrolled. You will need to complete a specified total number of credits made up of credit from modules at specified Open University levels in order to complete your qualification, as described in the specific qualification regulations for your apprenticeship qualification (available through your AEST).
-

E3 Grade of credit

- a) We may award you module credit with a grade as set out in the [Module Results Determination Policy](#)
-

E4 Failure of a module

- a) We will consider you to have failed a module that you are enrolled for if you do not fulfil the academic and other relevant requirements for successful completion of the module. You will not be awarded credit for a module that you have failed.

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This might have implications for your eligibility to enrol for further modules in line with the [Academic Progress Policy 2023/24 \(Apprentices\)](#) and [Section D1](#) of these Regulations. If you are unable to successfully complete a module, this may have implications on your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme (in line with [Section D3](#) and [Section J3](#)).

Section F: External Study and Experience: Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

F1 The Approved Scheme for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

F1.1 Summary of scheme

- a) Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the identification, assessment and formal acknowledgement of prior learning and achievement which is considered when a Student registers or enrolls in an Open University qualification. There are two types of RPL which may lead to the award of credit towards qualification offered by The Open University: Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL) and Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL).

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- b) In the majority of qualifications which permit RPL, we award credit for prior certificated learning (RPCL). This means that we make an award of Open University credit in recognition of Higher Education study you have successfully completed at another institution. To be eligible for Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL), your prior learning must have been formally assessed and certificated and approved as eligible for Open University credit by the Senate. The level and content of the study must be appropriate for The Open University qualification concerned and all applications are subject to academic judgement. An individual award will confirm the number of credits awarded, the form of exemption approved and the modules or stage within the qualification to which the credit may be applied. An award of RPCL credit may also be referred to as 'Credit Transfer'.
- c) The specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification will specify whether RPCL, referred to as credit transfer is permitted for your qualification and if so, will also stipulate the maximum permitted award of RPCL credit and the maximum age of RPCL credit.
- d) Some apprenticeship qualifications may recognise Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL), which is experiential or work-based learning which is either non-certificated or is awarded by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB), but not simultaneously awarded by another recognised Higher Education Institution. The specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification will indicate whether this is possible for your qualification and if so, will also stipulate the maximum permitted award of RPEL credit and the maximum age of the relevant experiential or work-based learning.
- e) All RPL applications will be subject to academic scrutiny to ensure their relevance to the apprenticeship qualification and must be facilitated through the Apprenticeship Operations Delivery Team (AODT).

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F1.2 Forms of RPL credit

- a) For apprenticeship qualifications, RPL credit will be awarded in the form of either:
- (i) Module exemption, exempting you from studying specified Open University module(s) where the learning outcomes, level and amount of your previous study or experience match or exceed those of the relevant Open University module(s).
 - (ii) General credit exemption, exempting you from studying a specified amount of credit at a particular level or stage of a qualification where the learning outcomes of your previous study or experience broadly align with the learning outcomes in the relevant level or stage of the Open University qualification. The level and amount of your previous study or experience must match or exceed the amount of general credit awarded to you.
- b) RPL in the form of either RPCL or RPEL is not approved for every Open University qualification.

F1.3 Age of RPL credit awarded

- a) You will only be awarded RPL credit if your prior study or experience has been completed within a timescale appropriate to the Open University qualification. For most Open University undergraduate apprenticeship qualifications, this will be up to a maximum of 16 years prior to the start of study on your qualification, but some undergraduate qualifications and postgraduate qualifications will have different age limits. Age limits on awards of RPL credit which are shorter than the maximum age limits will be stated within the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification.

F1.4 Time limit to complete qualifications with RPL Credit

- a) The Open University specifies time limits within which all undergraduate qualifications (including those within an apprenticeship) must be completed. Table 1 below shows the maximum time limits for the completion of undergraduate qualifications where RPL credit is used. The time you have to complete the required Open University credit will depend on the amount of RPL credit awarded and number of credits still to complete.

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- b) Your qualification may have shorter time limits than The Open University maximum, which will be set out in the specific qualification regulations for your apprenticeship qualification.

Table 1: Time limit for completing undergraduate qualifications with RPL credit

Number of credits still to complete	Time limit for completion of these credits
30-60	4 years
90-120	7 years
150-180	9 years
210-240	12 years
270-300	14 years
330 or more	16 years

- c) If you are studying a postgraduate qualification, any time limit which includes RPL credit will also be stated in the specific qualification regulations.
- d) For Apprentices, the Apprenticeship Duration will take precedence over Open University maximum time limits for completion of the academic qualification. Apprenticeship qualifications have Planned Start and End Dates (as defined within the “Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates” definition of the Glossary). The Apprenticeship Programme (including the qualification) must be completed within these dates.

F2 RPL Restrictions

F2.1 Award of RPL credit to a specified qualification in a specific academic year

- a) Any award of RPL credit will be made towards a specific Open University qualification commenced in a specific academic year and may only be counted toward that qualification if you commence your study within that academic year.

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- b) If you postpone study until another academic year, you may need to apply for your award to be reassessed due to potential changes to the structure or academic content of your chosen qualification. You will be advised if your award of credit remains valid, is due to expire, or needs to be reassessed.
- c) If your Funding Provider permits, and you receive approval to change your qualification to a related qualification within the Apprenticeship Programme as described in [Section G5](#) and [Section H5](#) of this document (permissible only under restricted circumstances with the prior consent of your Employer); or if you withdraw from the Apprenticeship Programme with agreement from your Employer and subsequently choose to undertake further non-apprenticeship study as a self-funding Open University Student, you may need to apply for your award to be reassessed. This may have implications on your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme.

F2.2 Applicable regulations in force

- a) If you apply for an award of RPL credit, you must follow the regulations that are in force at the time of the application. If you ask us to reassess a previous award, you will follow the regulations in force at the time that you ask for the reassessment.

F2.3 Restrictions to prevent overlap in subject matter

- a) If we award RPL general credit exemption, you may be given a limited choice of available Open University modules (if there is a significant overlap in learning outcomes of the studies for which you were awarded the general credit exemption and the content of any Open University modules).

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F3 Applying for an award of RPL Credit

F3.1 How and when to apply

- a) To apply for an award of Open University RPCL credit, you must use the relevant form provided during the registration process. You will normally be asked to provide independent evidence in support of the application which could include:
- Evidence of the award of credit and the date of the award;
 - The identity and nature of the awarding institution and its authority to award credit
 - The academic level and content of the previous study. This might be in the form of a certificate, academic transcript and/or learning outcomes.
- b) If RPEL credit is available on your apprenticeship qualification, you will be provided with information about how to make an application.

F3.2 Applying to have more than one period of previous study or experience assessed

- a) You may provide evidence of more than one period of study or experience to support an application for an award of RPL credit. There must be no significant overlap in content between the periods of study or experience. The total award of RPL credit must not be more than the maximum permitted for the particular Open University qualification concerned.

F4 Abandoning an award of RPL credit

- a) If you receive an award of RPL credit towards a particular Open University qualification, you may abandon all or part of it before the qualification is awarded and in line with any other conditions that may be set. Note that abandoning credit awarded in recognition of RPL must be agreed with your Employer and would result in an increase in duration of study towards the Apprenticeship Programme and increase in funding required. This may also conflict with the rules of your Funding Provider.

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Section G: Regulations applicable to undergraduate qualifications

G1 Who these Regulations apply to

- a) These Regulations apply to Apprentices who are studying for an academic undergraduate qualification of The Open University as part of an Apprenticeship Programme.
-

G2 Registration

G2.1 Registration for a qualification

- a) You must be registered for a qualification in order to be awarded it.

G2.2 Restriction on multiple qualification registration

- a) You may only be registered for one Open University qualification at any one time. You are however permitted to register for additional non-Open University qualifications as specified as part of your Apprenticeship Programme (for example, Functional Skills qualifications).
-

G3 Enrolling on modules studied as part of your qualification

G3.1 Entitlement

- a) When you are registered for a qualification, you will be enrolled for modules which will enable you to achieve that qualification. The exact modules will be subject to the circumstances in which The Open University may make changes to curriculum and qualifications, as set out in [Section B](#).
- b) Subject to the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification, you may count credit you are awarded:
- for any module for which you are enrolled;
 - for any module for which you were previously registered or enrolled which is eligible to be counted.

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G3.2 Module enrolment

- a) Once you are registered for a qualification as part of an Apprenticeship Programme, you may, subject to these Regulations, be enrolled for modules which will count towards that qualification. These will be modules that are specified as available in the enrolment process and in the Module Descriptor for your qualification (subject to any changes specified in paragraph G3.1a).
- b) While you are registered as an Open University Apprentice, study for a module outside of the Apprenticeship Programme is only permissible with agreement from your AEST or equivalent contact (who will review all current requirements of the Apprenticeship Programme), your Employer, and in line with Open University study limit rules ([Section D1](#)). If your AEST or equivalent contact, Employer, and the study limit rules (as specified in [Section D1](#)) permit you to register for any standalone modules outside of the Apprenticeship Programme, you will be required to self-fund any fees (as advertised on the Open University website and governed by the [Fee Rules](#)) and abide by all other regulations applicable to Open University Students.
- c) If you are eligible to study an additional module (as per paragraph G3.2b) that is not specified as available within the qualification you are studying through the Apprenticeship Programme, you must register for that module as a standalone course outside of the apprenticeship, and you will not be able to count any credit awarded for that module towards your registered qualification and Apprenticeship Programme unless exceptional permission is given by the Teaching Committee for the qualification.
- d) The Module Descriptor information available when you register onto the qualification will show you the available compulsory and core option modules (if applicable to your qualification) that are required for each Stage of your qualification, the order in which they should be studied, and whether there are any pre-requisite or co-requisite requirements (see [Section D2](#)).

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G4 Qualification Stages, Study order and Progression

G4.1 Qualification stages

- a) If your qualification has a credit value of 120 credits or more, the modules which comprise that qualification will be assigned to a Stage of the qualification, in addition to a level of credit. Each Stage will normally be made up of modules at the equivalent level, so Stage 1 will usually be made up of 120 credits from Open University Level 1 modules.
- b) A qualification may have up to four Stages that should each be studied in the prescribed sequence.
- c) Each Stage will comprise a minimum of 120 credits for modules included in that Stage or RPL credit awarded.
- d) A Stage will be completed when you have met all the credit requirements for that Stage and any other requirements as set out within the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification (available through your AEST).

G4.2 Commencement of studies

G4.2.1 General requirement to start at Stage 1

- a) You will commence your studies towards your qualification by becoming enrolled on one or more Stage 1 modules. You can start at a Stage other than 1 if you have agreed this with the Teaching Committee for the qualification and if:
 - (i) you are counting Open University credit awarded prior to registration for the qualification that meets the requirements for Stage 1; or
 - (ii) you are counting an award of RPL credit that meets the requirements for Stage 1; or
 - (iii) you are counting a combination of the two (a-i and a-ii).

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G4.3 Specified order of study

- a) Stages of qualifications must be studied in order (from Stage 1 through to 3 or 4, dependent on your qualification) and you must meet the rules for progression between Stages as set out in [Clause G4.4](#) unless your qualification permits otherwise in the specific qualification regulations.
- b) If you are counting Open University credit that was awarded before registering for the qualification, or an award of RPL credit, or if you are changing your study route within the qualification (permissible only in exceptional circumstances with explicit agreement from your Employer and AEST, or equivalent contact, the remaining credit must be studied in the specified order, unless exceptional permission is given by the Teaching Committee for the qualification.

G4.4 Progression

G4.4.1 Progression between Stages

- a) You will need to meet the requirements for progression from one Stage of your qualification to the next unless the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification state otherwise. If you have been awarded all of the credit within a Stage of your qualification, you will usually have met the University progression requirement unless the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification specify any additional progression rules. The structure of some apprenticeship qualifications means that it is not possible to complete all of the credit in one Stage before starting modules in the next Stage. If this applies, you will need to meet one of the requirements in G4.4.2 or G4.4.3.
 - (i) You may be enrolled on a module at Stage 2 (if any) if you have met the requirements for progression from Stage 1 or you meet the criteria in G4.4.2 or G4.4.3 below.
 - (ii) You may be enrolled on a module at Stage 3 (if any) if you have met the requirements for progression from Stage 2 unless you meet the criteria in G4.4.2 or G4.4.3 below.
 - (iii) You may be enrolled on a module at Stage 4 (if any) if you have met the requirements for progression from Stage 3 unless you meet the criteria in paragraph G4.4.2 or G4.4.3 below.

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G4.4.2 Criteria for progression

- a) If you have not met the requirements for progression, you will be permitted to study at the next Stage of a qualification if you have been awarded at least 60 credits for the previous Stage of the qualification and either:
- (i) you are enrolled on the final module in a Stage and that module will not be completed, or the module result will not be available, prior to the start of the next Stage; or
 - (ii) you have completed study of the remaining modules for that Stage subject only to a discretionary postponement or outstanding resit or resubmission of the examinable component.
- b) If you are permitted to remain enrolled after the start date on a next Stage module pending a result for a module in a previous Stage and do not subsequently achieve the award of credit for the previous Stage module, you will be permitted to complete the next Stage module on which you are enrolled. However, you will not be enrolled for any further modules at the higher Stage until you have completed or are repeating study of the outstanding credit at the lower Stage with the permission of your Employer and your AEST or equivalent contact at The Open University. This is the case even if you are awarded credit for the next Stage module.
- c) You will not be enrolled for a module at Stage 3 of your registered qualification until you have completed the credit requirement for Stage 1 of that qualification unless the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification state otherwise.
- d) You will not be enrolled for a module at Stage 4 of your registered qualification until you have completed the credit requirement for Stage 1 and 2 of that qualification unless the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification state otherwise.

G4.4.3 Exceptions from progression requirements

- a) We may also exceptionally permit progression with the approval of the relevant Teaching Committee.

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G5 Changing your study plans for exceptional or personal reasons

- a) As an Apprentice, you cannot change your qualification unless expressly agreed by your Employer, The Open University, and your Funding Provider (if applicable). The Funding Provider rules according to your Nation must also permit this change. This may have implications on your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme. If you change your qualification, the regulations at the date of the change will apply.
- b) As an Apprentice, you have limited options to take a Break in Learning or make a Change in Study Plan due to guidance laid down by your Funding Provider.
- (i) For English Apprentices, any Change in Study Plan and Break in Learning will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances or for personal reasons.
 - (ii) If you are an Apprentice studying within another Nation, an agreed Change in Study Plan or Break in Learning may have an impact on your continuation of the Apprenticeship Programme and you should speak to your AEST or equivalent contact at the Open University, who will be able to advise on your available options and liaise with your Funding Provider for approval if appropriate. This may require your withdrawal from the programme.
- c) In order to request a Change in Study Plan or Break in Learning, you must have written permission/agreement from your Employer and you must discuss your options with both your Employer, Practice Tutor, and your AEST, who will liaise with your Funding Provider for approval if appropriate.

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G6 Time limits for completion of apprenticeship qualifications

- a) Your Funding Provider will set rules which restrict your flexibility to study towards qualifications over an extended period of time. As an Apprentice, the Apprenticeship Programme will have a Planned Start and End Date to ensure compliance with rules or guidance set by your Funding Provider and the appropriate Apprenticeship Standard related to your programme (in England), or Apprenticeship Framework (in Scotland).
- b) You must complete your apprenticeship (including the qualification) within this Apprenticeship Duration unless additional arrangements have been agreed under exceptional circumstances with your Employer and AEST or equivalent contact, and with the permission of your Funding Provider if required (see [Sections G5](#) and [Section H5](#) for further details). Further details on where to find your Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates are listed within the “Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates” definition of the Glossary of Terms. Your planned Apprenticeship Duration and Planned Start and End Dates take precedence over any other Open University academic time limits.

G6.1 Open University academic time limits

- a) Although the planned Apprenticeship Duration takes precedence over all other time limits, The Open University also specifies academic time limits under which all registered qualifications must be completed to ensure coherence of academic study, external credibility and satisfactory academic progress.
- b) Unless the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification state otherwise, the time limit within which you must complete your qualification starts at the earliest of:
 - (i) the start date of the first module. This includes any modules that you fail, defer or withdraw from; or
 - (ii) if you are counting Open University credit that was awarded prior to registration for the qualification, the start date of the earliest module for which you are counting credit; or

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- (iii) if you are counting an award of RPL credit, the start date allocated to you will be based upon the date your credit is awarded. If your credit is awarded between 1 January and 31 August, your start date will be 30 November. If your credit is awarded between 1 September and 31 December, your start date will be 31 August of the following year.
- c) Subject to any specific requirements of your qualification and your apprenticeship Start and End Dates/Duration, academic maximum time limits for all undergraduate qualifications are as follows (Table 2):

Table 2: Maximum time limit for completion of qualifications

Number of credits and qualification	Time limit for completion of qualification
60-credit certificates	4 years
120-credit certificates of HE	7 years
120-credit diploma	7 years
240-credit foundation degree	12 years
240-credit diplomas of HE	12 years
300-credit Bachelor's (Ordinary) degrees	16 years
360-credit Bachelor's degrees with Honours	16 years
480-credit Bachelor's Honours degree	16 years

Where specific academic time limit requirements are shorter than the maximum academic qualification time limits listed here, these will be stated in the specific regulations governing your qualification. You must also comply with any time limits for counting modules towards qualifications.

- d) In exceptional circumstances, a Teaching Committee may allow you to exceed the qualification time limits set out in the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification.

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- e) If you do not achieve the credit required for your qualification within the set Open University time limit, you will not normally be eligible to be awarded the qualification. You may be eligible for any other qualification that you meet the requirements for within the time limit applicable to that other qualification.
- f) If you are counting an award of RPL credit within your qualification, you should refer to the additional information about time limits based upon the amount of credit still to complete as detailed in Table 1 in [Section F](#) of these Regulations.
- g) Apprenticeship time limits take precedence over any other Open University academic time limits as described in [Section G6](#). Module study for a qualification outside of the Apprenticeship Programme and Planned Start and End Dates, and independent of the Employer will incur fee liability (as defined within The Open University [Fee Rules](#)) and you would be subject to all other regulations applicable to Open University Students.

G7 Classification of Honours Degrees

- a) Undergraduate Bachelor’s degrees with Honours, including Scottish 480 credit Undergraduate Bachelor’s degrees with Honours are awarded with a classification. The classes of Honours which will be awarded are:
 - (i) first class
 - (ii) upper second class (2:1)
 - (iii) lower second class (2:2)
 - (iv) third class.
- b) No other undergraduate qualifications are classified.
- c) You can find worked examples of these regulations in the [Understanding Your Class of Honours](#) guidance document.

G7.1 How classification is calculated

- a) The majority of undergraduate modules award pass grades as one of: Distinction (1; the highest grade), Pass grade 2, Pass grade 3, or Pass grade 4. Module result grades approved for graded modules at postgraduate level are Distinction, Merit and Pass.

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- c) Not all of the credit included in your qualification will count towards your classification. Detailed information is included in [Clause G7.2](#).
- d) The classification of your qualification will be automatically calculated in accordance with the Open University scheme of classification.
- e) The Honours classification scheme for Bachelor's degrees is calculated using the Weighted Grade Credit score, explained in [Clause G7.3](#) and uses the thresholds and the Borderline test set out in [Clause G7.4](#) or [Clause G7.5](#) if you have an award of RPL.

G7.2 Which credit will count towards your classification

- a) This section explains which credit will be used in the calculation of your Weighted Grade Credit score as part of the award of your classification.

G7.2.1 360-credit Undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours (not Scotland)

- a) If you have completed 360 credits for an Undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours (not available in Scotland), including 120 credits of Open University level 1 modules in Stage 1, 120 credits of Open University level 2 modules in Stage 2 and 120 credits of Open University level 3 modules in Stage 3:
 - (i) We will use 240 credits from result grades from Open University modules – 120 credits of Open University level 2 modules from Stage 2 and 120 credits of Open University level 3 modules from Stage 3

G7.2.2 480-credit Scottish Undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours

- a) If you have completed 480 credits for a Scottish 480 credit Undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours:
 - (i) We will use 240 credits from result grades from Open University modules, of which at least 120 credits will be Open University level 3 and a further 120 credits at Open University level 2 or above. The Stage credit which will be used for classification will be included in the specific regulations governing your apprenticeship qualification.

G7.2.3 Qualifications including RPL credit

- a) If you have completed your qualification with an award of RPL credit, your performance in any work for which an award of RPL credit has been made is not taken into account in classification. See Section F for more information about RPL.

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- b) If you have less than 240 credits of Open University study because of RPL credit, your classification will be based on reduced thresholds to reflect the reduced amount of Open University credit you have studied, as per Clause G7.5

G7.3 Calculation of Weighted Grade Credit score

- a) Your Weighted Grade Credit score is calculated from the grades you have achieved from a maximum of 240 credits from Open University modules or Collaborative Scheme modules at Open University level 2 or above (see [Clause G7.2](#) for information on which modules will be used in this calculation).
- b) Your module grades are multiplied by the credit value of that module. For 360 credit Undergraduate Bachelor's Degrees with Honours and Scottish 480 credit Undergraduate Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, modules which are included in the highest Stage of your qualification will be double-weighted.
- c) The total of this calculation is referred to as your Weighted Grade Credit score.
- d) If you have less than 240 credits of Open University study because of RPL credit, your classification will be based on reduced thresholds to reflect the reduced amount of Open University credit studied, as per Clause G7.5.

G7.4 Calculation of Classification for 360-credit Bachelor's Degrees with Honours and 480-credit Scottish Bachelor's degrees with Honours.

- a) The total Weighted Grade Credit score based on 240 credits will be between 360 and 1440.
- b) The Weighted Grade Credit ranges for each classification are as follows:

Weighted Grade Credits range	Classification
360 to 630	First Class
631 to 900	Upper Second Class (2:1)
901 to 1170	Lower Second Class (2:2)
1171 to 1440	Third Class

- c) If your weighted grade credit score is within 60 credit points of a higher classification band, you will be awarded the higher classification if you have a minimum of 60 Level 3 credits with a grade of at least the same level as that higher classification.

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Weighted Grade Credits Borderline range	Requirement for higher classification	Classification
631 to 690	60 L3 credits at Grade 1	First
901 to 960	60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	Upper 2 nd (2:1)
1171 to 1230	60 L3 credits at Grade 1, 2 or 3	Lower 2 nd (2:2)

G7.5 Reduced Weighted Grade Credit ranges for Undergraduate Bachelor's Degrees with Honours and Scottish 480 credit Undergraduate Bachelor's Degrees with Honours awarded with RPL credit.

- a) The weighted grade credit ranges for the first element of classification are reduced pro-rata if you have been awarded RPL credit and so you have less than the full 240 credits of graded Open University modules at Open University level 2 or higher available to classify your Undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours or Scottish 480 credit Undergraduate Bachelor's Degree with Honours.
- b) The reduced Weighted Grade Credit ranges for each classification according to the amount of credit valid for classification are as follows:

Amount of graded Open University Credit available	First Class	Upper Second class (2:1)	Lower Second Class (2:2)	Third Class
210	330 to 577	578 to 825	826 to 1072	1073 to 1320
180	300 to 525	526 to 750	751 to 975	976 to 1200
150	270 to 472	473 to 675	676 to 877	878 to 1080
120	240 to 420	421 to 600	601 to 780	781 to 960

- c) If your weighted grade credit score is within 60 credit points of a higher classification band, you will be awarded the higher classification if you have achieved at least 60 Level 3 credits at the same level as that higher classification.

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Amount of graded Credit available	Borderline range and Requirement for higher classification for First Class	Borderline range and Requirement for higher classification for Upper Second class (2:1)	Borderline range and Requirement for higher classification for Lower Second Class (2:2)
210	578 to 637 60 L3 credits at Grade 1	826 to 885 60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	1073 to 1132 60 L3 credits at Grade 1, 2 or 3
180	526 and 585 60 L3 credits at Grade 1	751 to 810 60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	976 to 1035 60 L3 credits at Grade 1, 2 or 3
150	473 and 532 60 L3 credits at Grade 1	676 to 735 60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	878 to 937 60 L3 credits at Grade 1, 2 or 3
120	421 and 480 60 L3 credits at Grade 1	601 and 660 60 L3 credits at Grade 1 or 2	781 and 840 60 L3 credits at Grade 1, 2 or 3

Section H: Regulations applicable to postgraduate qualifications

H1 Who these Regulations apply to

- a) These Regulations apply to Apprentices who are studying for an academic postgraduate qualification of The Open University as part of an Apprenticeship Programme. Regulations for postgraduate qualifications studied outside of the Apprenticeship Programme (declared postgraduate qualifications) are presented within the standard [Academic Regulations \(Taught Courses\)](#).

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H2 Registration

- a) You must be registered for a qualification in order to be awarded it.
-

H3 Enrolling on modules studied as part of your qualification

H3.1 Entitlement

- a) When you are registered for a qualification as part of an Apprenticeship Programme, you will be enrolled for modules that will enable you to achieve that qualification. The exact modules will be subject to the circumstances in which the Open University may make changes to curriculum and qualifications, as detailed in [Section B2](#).
- b) Subject to the specific regulations governing your qualification, you may count credit you are awarded:
- for any module for which you are enrolled;
 - for any module for which you were previously registered or enrolled which is eligible to be counted.

H3.2 Module enrolment

- a) Once you are registered for a qualification as part of an Apprenticeship Programme you may, subject to these Regulations, be enrolled for modules which will count towards that qualification. These will be modules that are specified as available in the enrolment process and in the Module Descriptor for your qualification (subject to any changes specified in paragraph H3.1a).
- b) While you are registered as an Open University Apprentice, study for a module outside of the Apprenticeship Programme is only permissible with agreement from your AEST or equivalent contact (who will review all current requirements of the Apprenticeship Programme), your Employer, and in line with Open University study limit rules ([Section D1](#)).

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If your AEST or equivalent contact, Employer, and the study limit rules (as specified in [Section D1](#)) permit you to register for any standalone modules outside of the Apprenticeship Programme, you will be required to self-fund any fees (as advertised on the Open University website and governed by the [Fee Rules](#)) and abide by all other regulations applicable to Open University Students.

- c) If you are eligible to study an additional module (as per paragraph H3.2b) that is not specified as available within the qualification you are studying through the Apprenticeship Programme, you must register for that module as a standalone course outside of the apprenticeship and you will not be able to count any credit awarded for that module towards your registered qualification and Apprenticeship Programme unless exceptional permission is given by the Teaching Committee for the qualification.
- d) The Module Descriptor information available when you register onto the qualification will show you the available compulsory and core option modules (if applicable to your qualification) that are included for each Stage of your qualification, the order in which they should be studied and whether there are any pre-requisite or co-requisite requirements (see [Section D2](#)).

H4 Time limit for completion of postgraduate qualifications

- a) Your Funding Provider will set rules which restrict your flexibility to study towards qualifications over an extended period of time. As an Apprentice, the Apprenticeship Programme will have a Planned Start and End Date to ensure compliance with rules or guidance set by your Funding Provider and the appropriate Apprenticeship Standard related to your programme (in England), or Apprenticeship Framework (in Scotland).
- b) You must complete your apprenticeship (including the qualification), within this Apprenticeship Duration unless additional arrangements have been agreed under exceptional circumstances with your Employer and AEST or equivalent contact, and with the permission of your Funding Provider if required (see [Sections G5](#) and [Section H5](#) for further details).

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Further details on where to find your Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates are listed within the “Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates” definition of the Glossary of Terms. Your planned Apprenticeship Duration and Planned Start and End Dates take precedence over any other Open University academic time limits.

- c) If your qualification has an academic time limit for completion, this will be included in the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification.
- d) Credit awarded for a specified module may cease to be countable towards a qualification at a specified point in time after the final presentation of that module.

H5 Changing your study plans for exceptional or personal reasons

- a) As an Apprentice, you cannot change your qualification within the apprenticeship itself, unless expressly agreed by your Employer, The Open University, and your Funding Provider (if applicable). The Funding Provider rules according to your Nation must also permit this change. This may have implications on your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme. If you change your qualification, the regulations at the date of the change will apply.
- b) As an Apprentice, you have limited options to take a Break in Learning or make a Change in Study Plan due to guidance laid down by your Funding Provider.
 - (i) For English Apprentices, any Change in Study Plan and Break in Learning will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances or for personal reasons.
 - (ii) If you are an Apprentice studying within another UK Nation, an agreed Change in Study Plan or Break in Learning may have an impact on your continuation of the Apprenticeship Programme and you should speak to your AEST or equivalent contact at the Open University, who will be able to advise on your available options and liaise with your Funding Provider for approval if appropriate. This may require your withdrawal from the programme.
- c) In order to request a Change in Study Plan or a Break in Learning, you must have written permission/agreement from your Employer and you must discuss your options with both your Employer, Practice Tutor, and your AEST, who will liaise with your Funding Provider for approval if appropriate.

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H6 Dissertations and Projects

H6.1 Material used for another qualification

- a) You may not submit material that you have included in a previous submission for a Master's Degree or other academic qualification awarded by The Open University or any other awarding body. You may refer to this material in your dissertation or project as long as you reference it in the dissertation or project and in the accompanying statement.

H6.2 Submission of dissertation or project and accompanying statement

- a) You must submit your dissertation or project in accordance with the deadline and format requirements. You must submit a statement specifying what part, if any, of the material you have previously used for another degree or qualification awarded by The Open University or any other awarding body. If you are submitting joint work, you must say what your contribution is.

H7 Classification

H7.1 Classification schemes

- a) Postgraduate qualifications can award classifications of Distinction, Merit or Pass.
- b) The classification of your qualification will be automatically awarded in accordance with the relevant Open University scheme of classification.
- c) Some postgraduate qualifications may either not award classified awards, or may have an approved exceptional scheme which varies from the Framework in H7.2.
- d) Postgraduate qualification schemes may specify which modules(s) if any must be included within the modules used for classification.
- e) In all cases, Postgraduate classification schemes are included in the specific qualification regulations.

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H7.2 Classification Framework

- a) The award of Distinction will normally require a minimum of 30 module credits at Distinction grade for a Postgraduate Certificate, 60 module credits at Distinction grade for a Postgraduate Diploma and 90 module credits at Distinction grade for a Master's Degree.
- b) The award of Merit will normally require a minimum of 30 module credits at Merit grade for a Postgraduate Certificate, 60 module credits at Merit grade for a Postgraduate Diploma and 90 module credits at Merit grade for a Master's Degree.

H7.3 Classification of postgraduate qualifications and the reuse of module credit

- a) You may, subject to the conditions in [Section C6](#), be able to count Postgraduate Level modules that have already been included in a qualification towards the credit requirement of a subsequent qualification at a higher level (such as that studied through an Apprenticeship Programme).
- b) However, postgraduate level modules that have already been used in the classification of an Open University qualification cannot be used to classify a subsequent qualification at the same level or at a lower level. For example, modules used to classify a postgraduate Diploma may be used in the classification of a subsequent Master's degree, but module credit used to classify a first taught Master's degree cannot be used to classify a later taught Master's degree.

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Section I: Award of qualifications

- a) When you are registered on a qualification, you will either be awarded or offered an award of a qualification when you have successfully completed all of the appropriate requirements. When an award is offered, including degree qualifications, you will need to formally accept this offer of an award.

I1 Eligibility

I1.1 Eligibility by completion of Open University modules

- a) If you are registered on a qualification, you will be awarded this once you have successfully completed the requirements set out in the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification. You may count awarded credit towards your qualification from any module that is eligible to be counted in the specification for that qualification.

I1.2 Excluded combinations

- a) Within a particular qualification, credit cannot be counted from a module that is designated as an excluded combination with another module, or module exemption RPL credit.

I1.3 Specified professional standards

- a) An award of a qualification may be subject to satisfactory demonstration and maintenance of standards for suitability or [Fitness to Practise](#) specified by an appropriate professional body. If this is the case, you must meet those standards in order to be awarded that qualification. If you do not meet these standards, you may still be awarded a different qualification to which all of the credit you have been awarded can count.

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I2 Eligibility by exceptional arrangements

- a) We may also exceptionally award a qualification on the recommendation of the Module Results and Qualifications Classification Panel following either:
- (i) an award of Aegrotat Credit;
 - (ii) an award of higher-level credit which has been counted down with the approval of the Teaching Committee; or
 - (iii) an award of credit from modules not normally included in the qualification which have been assessed by the Teaching Committee as demonstrating appropriate learning outcomes.
-

I3 Name of qualification

I3.1 Name and letters

- a) The specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification will confirm the name of the qualification and the letters that holders of the qualification are permitted to use after their names once that qualification has been conferred. If your qualification can have more than one name, this will be indicated in the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification.

I3.2 Honours degrees

- a) An undergraduate degree will be awarded with Honours. The classification is determined in line with [Section G7](#) of these Regulations.
-

I4 Date of award of your academic qualification

- a) The University sets annual qualification dates to follow the dates of the award of module credit. These qualification dates are always the final day of the appropriate month.
- b) Your qualification will be awarded on the first qualification date after you become eligible for your qualification, having met the credit requirement

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I4.1 End Date for the Apprenticeship Programme

- a) The Academic Qualification date is different to the Planned End Date for your Apprenticeship Programme.
 - b) In England, your Commitment Statement and Individual Learning Plan will state the Planned End Date of your apprenticeship. You are expected (as agreed to in the Commitment Statement) to continue with your apprenticeship until the End-Point Assessment has been completed (if applicable to your Apprenticeship Programme).
 - c) For Apprentices studying in other UK Nations, you should refer to the relevant documents specified by the Funding Provider for details of the Planned End Date for your apprenticeship. Further details on where to find your Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates are listed within the “Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Dates” definition of the Glossary of Terms.
-

I5 Accepting an offer of an academic qualification

- a) For some qualifications, including degrees, when you become eligible you will receive a formal offer of an award of the qualification, and will be asked to confirm that you accept the offer.
-

I6 Conferral of qualifications

I6.1 Conferral

- a) Following your award date or where appropriate, the acceptance of your award offer, your qualification will be formally conferred at a meeting of congregation (the Senate and Council), after which your certificate will be issued.

I6.2 Student names and conferral

- a) Your certificate will be issued in the name that we hold on our records at the point when your qualification is conferred. Certificates will not be amended or reissued in a different name if a change of name is notified after the date your qualification is conferred except in the case of an error by The Open University in recording your personal details, or if a valid request is made under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 in conjunction with the [Gender Identity Policy and Guidance](#),

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or if an application for a change of name on public safety grounds has been approved by The Open University. Any duplicate certificates will be issued in the same name as the original certificate (unless amended for the reasons listed earlier), even if a change of name has subsequently been notified (except in the cases listed earlier).

I6.3 Classification schemes changes and conferral

- a) If a qualification introduces or amends its classification scheme, the scheme which will apply, will be that in force when your award is conferred, unless stated otherwise in the specific regulations governing your qualification.
-

I7 Rescinding qualifications

- a) Qualifications conferred by The Open University will not normally be rescinded. However, we may agree to rescind a qualification to enable a Student to claim a higher-level qualification for which they have met the credit requirements but are unable to meet the unique study and/or qualification designation rules due to a previously awarded qualification. Qualifications may also be rescinded very exceptionally, on the recommendation of the Module Results and Qualifications Classification Panel or if credit is withdrawn as a disciplinary penalty following a hearing by the Central Disciplinary Committee.

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Section J: Ending your registration

J1 Duration of registration as a Student

- a) If you are registered for a qualification as part of an Apprenticeship Programme, you are a registered Student of The Open University during the period you remain registered for that qualification.
-

J2 Your right to withdraw registration

J2.1 Withdrawing from your apprenticeship

- a) You or your Employer may withdraw you from the Apprenticeship Programme at any time. This will result in immediate withdrawal of your registration on the qualification.
- b) Withdrawal will take effect only if you follow the specified withdrawal procedure as discussed with your AEST or equivalent contact. Your Employer must provide confirmation of the withdrawal in writing. If the specified withdrawal procedure is not followed, your registration on the Apprenticeship Programme will continue and your Funder/Employer must continue to pay any fees and other charges that are due as set out in your contractual or registration documentation (see the definition “Contractual or registration documentation” within the Glossary).
- c) If you or your Employer withdraw from the Apprenticeship Programme, you will be unable to continue studying for any module that you have registered for or begun studying, unless you have been made redundant or are permitted to transfer your Apprenticeship Programme to another Employer in accordance with your Funding Provider rules. If you wish to continue to study any module that you have enrolled on, your withdrawal from the apprenticeship must occur after completing the module. If you are eligible, you may be able to count that module credit towards another qualification that you register for outside of the Apprenticeship Programme.

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- d) If you leave your employment with your Apprenticeship Employer under any circumstances other than those stated in the Redundancy definition in the Glossary, and wish to continue to study any module that you have enrolled on, your withdrawal from the apprenticeship must occur after completing the module. If you are eligible, you may be able to count that module credit towards another qualification that you register for outside of the Apprenticeship Programme.
- e) If you are made redundant by your Apprenticeship Employer, you may be able to complete the study and assessment of any module(s) that you are currently studying subject to the terms in the [Conditions of Registration \(Apprentices\) Redundancy Appendix](#). If you are eligible, you may be able to count that module credit towards another qualification that you register for outside of the Apprenticeship Programme.
- f) A change in Employer may have implications for your ability to continue with the Apprenticeship Programme. If you wish to change your Employer and continue studying for your apprenticeship qualification, you will need to discuss your options with your AEST (or other equivalent contact).
- g) If you or your Employer withdraw from the Apprenticeship Programme and your qualification registration and module enrolment are withdrawn as a result, you will cease to be a registered Student of The Open University.

J2.2 Registering for another qualification outside of the Apprenticeship Programme

- a) Registration onto modules that are studied towards a non-apprenticeship qualification will be subject to the standard regulations and [Fee Rules](#), and you will be liable to pay fees.

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J3 Our right to end your registration

- a) We may end your registration if:
- (i) your Employer or Funding Provider does not pay your tuition fees when they become due;
 - (ii) you do not meet or cease to meet any of the requirements set out in [Section C](#), or your Funding Provider rules;
 - (iii) you have been enrolled for module(s) within a registered qualification, but you do not successfully complete your current modules, your enrolment for future modules and your registration on the Apprenticeship Programme may be withdrawn;
 - (iv) you have been enrolled for module(s) within a registered qualification, but you do not meet either the progression requirements or the progression criteria in [Clause G4.4](#), your registration on the Apprenticeship Programme may be withdrawn;
 - (v) you have been enrolled but not yet commenced study for module(s) with pre-requisite or co-requisite requirements and you do not successfully meet those requirements, your enrolment for those module(s) and your registration on the Apprenticeship Programme may be withdrawn (see [Section D2](#) for further details);
 - (vi) you will be unable to complete your registered qualification within the time limits specified in [Section G6](#) (undergraduate qualifications), [Section H4](#) (postgraduate qualifications) or within your apprenticeship Planned Start and End Dates, without exceeding the study restrictions set out in [Section D1](#);
 - (vii) you are expelled or suspended from the Open University under the [Code of Practice for Student Discipline](#);
 - (viii) we terminate the Apprenticeship Written Agreement in accordance with its terms.

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- b) We may withdraw your registration or apply conditions to your continued registration if, in our opinion, it is reasonably necessary to do so in line with our duties to:
- (i) protect the health, welfare and safety of Students, staff, contractors and members of the public,
 - (ii) respect the safeguarding of young persons or vulnerable adults, in accordance with our [Safeguarding Policy – Protecting children and vulnerable adults](#),
 - (iii) comply with our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 in England, Scotland and Wales, Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 for Northern Ireland, or any other statutory duty or obligation,
 - (iv) comply with any order of a court or other authorised body made for the protection of the public, any section of the public or any individual.

J4 Effect of withdrawn registration

- a) If your enrolment for a module is ended by withdrawal, you will no longer receive the material, tuition and assessment for the relevant module, and you will not be eligible for the award of any credit for that module.
- b) If your registration for a qualification is ended by withdrawal, you will no longer be able to count credit towards it and you will no longer receive any information about qualification changes or withdrawals.

J4.1 Entitlement to re-register

- a) If you become eligible to do so, you may subsequently re-register on a module or qualification, by following the regulations and procedures in effect at the time. We will maintain your record of study and if you are eligible to do so under the regulations and time limits in force at the time, you may be able to count any credit you have been awarded in an earlier period of study to an Open University qualification.
- b) If you wish to re-register on a qualification as part of an apprenticeship, you must meet the requirements of registration as set out within these Regulations and in line with your apprenticeship Funding Provider (see the “Registration” definition within the Glossary of Terms section).

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Glossary

Aegrotat Credit

An aegrotat is an award of credit that may under certain conditions be awarded posthumously, or if a Student is too ill to complete the assessment for module(s). Aegrotat credit may comprise up to 20% of the credit requirement for a qualification. An aegrotat can only be awarded where there is evidence that the Student no longer has capacity to study.

Apprentice

An Apprentice is a Student aged 16 or over, who is registered on an Apprenticeship Programme which combines working with studying for a work-based, academic or combined undergraduate or taught postgraduate qualification. They are in paid employment for the duration of their apprenticeship.

An English apprentice will have in place a contractual Apprenticeship Agreement with their Employer, who has agreed to support and pay for the apprenticeship.

Scottish Graduate Apprentices will provide their Student qualification fees through a funding provider.

Funding arrangements and contractual agreements may vary between apprentices and their Employers within other Nations.

Apprenticeship Duration/ Planned Start and End Date

As an Apprentice, the Apprenticeship Programme will have a Planned Start and End Date to ensure compliance with guidelines set by your Funding Provider and the appropriate Apprenticeship Standard related to your programme, or Apprenticeship Framework:

- (i) For English Apprentices, the Planned Start and End Dates for your Apprenticeship Programme are detailed within your Commitment Statement, Individual Learning Plan, and Individual Learner Record.
- (ii) For Apprentices studying within other UK Nations, the exact nature of the documentation may vary in line with the requirements of your Funding Provider. At the time of publication, the following information was available:

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- For Apprentices studying in Scotland, your Planned Start and End Dates will be detailed within your Tripartite Agreement and Individual Learning Plan.

You can contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information on the registration documentation related to your Nation:

- [The Open University Apprenticeships team in England](#) (+44 (0) 300 303 4121),
- [The Open University in Scotland Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 131 226 3851),
- [The Open University in Wales](#) (+44 (0) 29 2047 1170), and
- [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#) (+44 (0) 2890 245025).

Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST)

The Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team (AEST) provides support to apprentices throughout their Apprenticeship journey. The Open University’s team of Senior Advisors offer advice and support for a range of queries apprentices may have whilst studying their modules, including advice on an upcoming assignment or exam, navigation around the OU online learning platforms, or when experiencing difficult circumstances that are having an impact on their studies. The AEST can reach out to a wide range of support teams within The Open University to help support our apprentices.

The AEST has been listed within this document as a first point of contact for brevity, in line with Apprenticeship Programmes in England, Scotland and Wales.

Email: apprentice-support@open.ac.uk Telephone: 0300 3034121

For other Nations and for Apprentices studying Nursing Programmes, Social Work or Advanced Clinical Practice, your most appropriate contact may be your Staff Tutor.

Email: hsc-support@open.ac.uk Telephone: 01908 541070

Apprenticeship Frameworks

These are documents provided by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) for each specific Apprenticeship Programme, to guide the content and structure of Scottish Graduate Apprenticeships.

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Apprenticeship Operations Delivery Team (AODT)

The AODT team sits within the Business Development Unit of The Open University and is responsible for the delivery of The Open University's Apprenticeship Programme. The team manages the registration and contractual process, Funding Provider compliance and returns, Open University policy compliance, tracking of Apprentice's progress from start to completion of the End-Point Assessment (if applicable), Employer support, invoicing of additional fees (if applicable), supporting faculties on degree delivery, identifying and responding to Employer/Apprentice issues, capturing and responding to apprenticeship related feedback.

Apprenticeship Programme

Apprenticeship Programmes vary by UK Nation. Your Apprenticeship Programme will have Planned Start and End Dates, and a predicted Apprenticeship Duration.

In England, Apprenticeship Programmes follow an Apprenticeship Standard (approved by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Institute for Apprenticeships (IfATE)). It is a skills development programme, which accompanies a job including training and an End-Point Assessment, it leads to Apprenticeship qualification.

In Scotland, Apprentices follow the Apprenticeship Framework (approved by the Skills Development Scotland Co. Ltd) and consist of only the set qualification.

In Wales, Apprentices follow an Apprenticeship Framework (approved by Instructus and Welsh Government) which currently consists of only the set qualification. Apprentices are required to complete their Apprenticeships through evidenced on and off the job training.

Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager (APDM)

APDMs support Employers participating in an Apprenticeship Programme. They offer support and advice on recruitment, registration and eligibility; act as the conduit between the Employer and the OU; and provide support to line managers/workplace mentors and Apprentices.

APDMs also review, track and respond to Apprentice progression by working with the Employer, the Apprentice and the Faculty to achieve successful completion. They collect and act upon feedback from the Employer and the Apprentice to continually enhance this process.

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Apprenticeship Standards

In England, Apprenticeship Standards detail what an Apprentice will be doing under each Apprenticeship Programme and the skills required of them, by job role. Standards are listed on the [Institute for Apprenticeships \(IFA\) website](#).

Apprenticeship Written Agreement

In England, apprenticeships are regulated by the Government's Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and therefore all parties must abide by the ESFA's funding rules. The ESFA states that a signed Written Agreement must be in place between the Employer and the training provider prior to commencement of the apprenticeship. In accordance with this funding rule, The Open University has developed a standard Written Agreement which covers the terms and conditions of our relationship and gives details of the cost, payment schedule and the Apprentices who are covered by the Written Agreement, and the Apprenticeship Standard under which they are studying.

Examples of this documentation will vary according to your Nation. A complete list of Written Agreement documentation for Nations other than England, cannot be provided within this document due to Apprenticeship Programme and Funding Provider Rules being under continuous development.

You can contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information on the registration documentation related to your Nation:

- [The Open University Apprenticeships team in England](#) (+44 (0) 300 303 4121),
- [The Open University in Scotland Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 131 226 3851),
- [The Open University in Wales](#) (+44 (0) 29 2047 1170), and
- [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#) (+44 (0) 2890 245025).

Award of qualification

When you have successfully completed all of the requirements for the qualification that you are registered on, you will be identified for the award of that qualification. For some degrees, you will be offered the qualification, which you will need to accept.

See [Section I](#) for information on how qualifications are awarded at The Open University.

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BA/BSc with Honours

The Open University's Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) Honours degrees require 360 credits of study, with at least 240 credits above Open University Stage 1, and at least 120 credits at Open University Stage 3.

BA/BSc with Honours (Scotland)

In addition to standard Honours degrees, the University offers some 480 credit Honours degrees in order to meet specific requirements of professional bodies in Scotland. If you withdraw from your Honours degree in Scotland before completion and have achieved 360 credits, you might be eligible to be awarded an exit qualification of a BA/BSc Ordinary degree.

Break in Learning/ Change in Study Plan

For English Apprentices, a Break in Learning is a period of time during an Apprenticeship Programme when an individual is not continuing with their apprenticeship, but has told their employer beforehand that they intend to resume their apprenticeship in the future. This may be due to circumstances such as illness, pregnancy or another reason which makes an Apprentice temporarily unable to continue with the apprenticeship.

For Apprentices within other Nations (e.g. Scotland) who request a Change in Study Plan, this will be processed differently and may have an effect on your ability to continue studying for the Apprenticeship Programme.

Certificate of Higher Education

A Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) is an undergraduate qualification of at least 120 credits, including 60 credits at Open University level 1 and 60 credits at Open University level 1 or above.

Commitment Statement

A Commitment Statement is a statement held by the main provider (The Open University), the Apprentice and their Employer. The Commitment Statement sets out how the Apprentice will be supported to successful achievement of the apprenticeship. It must be signed by the Apprentice, their Employer and the main provider (The Open University), and all three parties must retain a current signed and dated version.

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Component of a qualification

A component of a qualification is a defined element of a qualification. It could include a Stage, a group of modules defined by their level, modules that may be required for a particular title to be awarded, designation or classification, modules that may be required for a qualification to be accredited or recognised by an external body, or an individual module.

Compulsory module

Compulsory modules must be studied for the qualification to be awarded.

Conferral of qualification

This is the legal granting of the qualification following ratification by Council and Senate, after which the formal certificate is issued.

Core option module

Core option modules are those which are chosen from a restricted set of options, and together with the compulsory modules address all of the specific learning outcomes of a qualification.

Contractual or registration documentation

Any contractual or registration documentation which governs your Apprenticeship Programme (as specified by your Apprenticeship Programme Funding Provider).

A complete list of contractual and/or registration documentation cannot be provided within this document due to Apprenticeship Programme and Funding Provider Rules being under development. You can contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information on the contractual and/or registration documentation related to your Nation:

- [The Open University Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 300 303 4121),
- [The Open University in Scotland Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 131 226 3851),
- [The Open University in Wales](#) (+44 (0) 29 2047 1170), and
- [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#) (+44 (0) 2890 245025)

Credit/Credits

Credit is a means of quantifying and recognising learning; it is the 'value' attached to the courses you study. Each module is assigned a credit value, which is related to the workload required to successfully complete it. For academic (rather than work-based) modules, one credit represents about 10 hours of study.

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When you successfully complete a module, you will be awarded credits, so if you pass a 60-credit module you will be awarded 60 credits. Some modules may have a zero-credit value as necessitated by the Apprenticeship Programme.

Department for the Economy (DfE)

DfE is a Funding Provider for Northern Ireland Apprenticeships. The Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland) is a devolved Northern Ireland government department responsible for economic policy development, enterprise, innovation, energy, telecoms, tourism, health and safety at work, Insolvency Service, consumer affairs, and labour market and economic statistics services, learning and research, skills training and promoting good employment practice.

Diploma of Higher Education

A Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) is an undergraduate qualification of at least 240 credits including at least 120 credits at Open University Level 2 or above.

Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)

The ESFA is a Funding Provider for English Apprenticeships. The ESFA brings together the former responsibilities of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to create a single agency accountable for funding education and skills for children, young people and adults.

End-Point Assessment

In England, an End-Point Assessment assesses an Apprentice's knowledge, skills and behaviours at the end of the Apprenticeship Programme to confirm that the Apprentice has met the requirements of the approved Apprenticeship Standard being followed.

The End-Point Assessment is carried out by an Apprentice Assessment Organisation. An End-Point Assessment is not required for Apprentices studying within Scotland.

Enrolment

Enrolment is the process by which a Student who is registered for a qualification is allocated to a module which will be studied as part of that qualification. For Apprentices, the enrolment process will be implemented by The Open University on their behalf.

Examinable component

An examinable component may be an assignment, examination, dissertation or project.

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Foundation Degree

In England, a foundation degree is an undergraduate qualification of at least 240 credits including at least 120 credits at Open University level 2.

Functional Skills

Applied practical skills in English, maths and ICT that provide the individual with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to operate effectively and independently in life and work.

Funding Provider/ Funding Body

The Funding Provider will vary according to the Nation in which you are studying. Funding Providers set down a list of rules by which the Apprenticeship Programme must run, which supersede any Open University Academic Rules within this document. While every effort has been made to account for external Funding Provider rules, and these Regulations will be reviewed on a regular basis; your AEST or equivalent contact will be able to provide the most up-to-date information according to your circumstances.

Funding Providers may include:

- European Social Fund (ESF)
- **England:** The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
- **Scotland:** Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
- **Northern Ireland:** Department for the Economy (DfE)

Individual Learner Record

This contains information that allows providers to collect, return and check data on Apprentices, which must be submitted regularly to the ESFA.

Individual Learning Plan

This is an agreed plan between The Open University and the Apprentice which features what is due to be studied and when. It will record the milestones that should be reached. It is an ongoing plan that will be updated regularly.

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Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA)

The IfA oversees the development of Apprenticeship Programmes in England, and carries out supportive and advisory functions, which focus on ensuring that Apprentices have the skills, knowledge and behaviours to make a significant contribution to their job role, sector and employer. The IfA website presents the Apprenticeship Standards which guide English Apprenticeship programmes.

Level

Modules offered by The Open University are assigned a level of study. For undergraduate modules, these are expressed as Open University levels 1, 2 and 3. For postgraduate modules, these are at postgraduate level.

Module

A module is a self-contained unit of teaching, learning and assessment which may be studied in combination to form qualifications. Each module is assigned a credit value and level of study. Apprentices will be registered onto a specific qualification and will be enrolled by Open University staff onto all specified modules as required to complete the qualification.

Module Descriptor

A module descriptor presents a breakdown of the modules an Apprentice can expect to study as part of their apprenticeship qualification, including any additional requirements.

Online school (for residential schools)

This refers to an alternative way to complete the residential school requirement for a module where a Student is not able to attend a face-to-face residential school. This may involve a written assignment, online project and/or online conferencing.

Options modules

Options modules are choices from a specified group of modules from which the required number of credits must be completed.

Practice Tutor

This is an Open University staff member who helps to integrate learning into the workplace across the entire programme and supports the delivery of the work-based learning modules. Apprentices and their line managers will be visited by a Practice Tutor at least four times per year.

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Postgraduate Certificate

A Postgraduate Certificate is a postgraduate qualification of at least 60 credits of Postgraduate Level study.

Postgraduate Diploma

A Postgraduate Diploma is a postgraduate qualification, normally of a minimum of 120 credits of Postgraduate Level study, although individual qualifications may permit up to 30 credits of study at Open University third level.

Postgraduate Master's Degree

The Open University awards postgraduate degrees of Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) to Apprentices who successfully complete their academic study.

The Open University's Master's degrees are postgraduate qualifications, normally of a minimum of 180 credits of Postgraduate Level study, although some individual qualifications may permit up to 30 credits of study at Open University third level.

Postgraduate Student

A postgraduate Student is a Student who is registered for a qualification designated as an apprenticeship postgraduate qualification.

Principal Module

Principal modules have pre-requisite or co-requisite requirements. This means that you can only study them if you have completed another specified module first (pre-requisite) or you can only study them if you have studied another specified module either prior to the start of the principal module or at the same time as the principal module (co-requisite).

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL involves any form of recognition of any kind of prior learning and/or assessment. There are two types of RPL which you might be offered: Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL) and Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL).

You might see RPCL referred to as "Credit Transfer" within other parts of the University (for example the Credit Transfer team, or within the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification). Almost all RPL at the Open University is RPCL. See [Section F](#) for more information on RPL.

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Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL, also known as Credit Transfer)

If you have previously studied elsewhere and your studies were completed at the same academic level as Open University modules, we may be able to award you RPCL credit towards an Open University qualification. This will allow you to use your previous study instead of completing more Open University modules. RPCL involves the identification, assessment and formal acknowledgement of learning and achievement that has occurred prior to the start of your qualification, and for which you have been awarded credit.

Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) or Recognition of Work-based Learning (WBL)

Occasionally, some courses may award you credit for prior experiential or work-based learning, whether non-certificated or is awarded by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) but not simultaneously awarded by another recognised Higher Education Institution. The specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification will specify whether this is available for your qualification.

RPEL involves the identification, assessment and formal acknowledgement of learning and achievement that occurred prior to the start of your qualification, but not in the context of formal education or training. This may include work experience, voluntary activity or other occupational learning and is not usually certificated.

Redundancy

The statutory definition of redundancy (Employment Rights Act 1996) identifies three sets of circumstances (business closure, workplace closure, diminished requirements of the business for employees to do work of a particular kind) and an employee's dismissal can be considered to be by reason of redundancy if one of these circumstances is the reason for the dismissal.

Redundancy includes voluntary redundancy.

Registered Qualification

A registered qualification is a qualification that you have formally registered to study, are enrolled on modules for, and are counting credit towards. In England, this qualification will form one part of your Apprenticeship Programme.

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Registration

Registration is the process by which you become a Student of The Open University. Subject to these Regulations and any funding rules of the Funding Provider for your Nation, you may register for a qualification as part of an Apprenticeship Programme. Registration for an Apprenticeship Programme will be completed by the prospective Apprentice and countersigned by their Employer.

You must also agree to the sections relevant to Apprentices within our [Conditions of Registration](#).

Repeating study of a module (retaking a module)

If you fail a module and are not eligible for a resit/resubmission; or if you then fail the resit/resubmission, you cannot be eligible to be awarded credit unless you repeat study of the module. This involves repeating all assessed tasks such as Tutor-Marked Assignments (TMAs) and exams. You will only be permitted to repeat study of a module with the consent of your Employer and/or Funding Provider, in line with the restrictions on repeating study of modules as set out within these Regulations ([Section D3](#)).

Resit and resubmission

In order to pass a module, you may be required to pass an exam or an end-of-module assessment (EMA) either in conjunction with or in addition to the continuous assessment assignments. If you fail this element of the module, you may (in some circumstances) be offered an opportunity to resit (exam) or resubmit (EMA). However, module passes achieved following a resit or resubmission, will be capped at the lowest grade of pass.

If you are eligible to resit an exam or resubmit an EMA, you will be offered one opportunity for a resit or resubmission.

Senate

The Senate oversees the University's academic management, including the curriculum and all aspects of quality and standards associated with the University as a degree-awarding body. It has the power to make regulations, including those which (subject to the approval of the Council), delegate any of its powers.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

SDS is a Funding Provider for Scottish Graduate Apprenticeships. It is the national skills agency of Scotland.

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Stage

Undergraduate qualifications of 120 credits or more are divided into Stages which are made up of modules. Each Stage will include 120 credits and will normally be made up of modules at the equivalent level, so Stage 1 will usually be made up of 120 credits from Open University 1 modules.

Stages of some qualifications may include modules of different levels. This is referred to as Exceptional Stage Credit and details will be included in the specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification if applicable.

Postgraduate qualifications may also include Stages of 60 or 120 credits. If this applies, details will be set out in the specific regulations governing the qualification.

Structure of a qualification

The structure of a qualification describes the components of that qualification and how they fit together. It includes the Stages and the way that the modules within each stage are designated as compulsory, core options, options or free choice. The majority of modules making up apprenticeship qualifications will be compulsory, and these modules must be studied for the qualification to be awarded. Core option modules are those which are chosen from a restricted set of options, and together with the compulsory modules address all of the specific learning outcomes of a qualification. Optional modules are a group of module choices from which a specified number of credits must be counted. Free choice indicates that a specified number of credits at an appropriate level can be counted from a wide range of modules offered by The Open University.

Student of The Open University

For the purposes of these Regulations, you are a Student of The Open University if you are currently registered for a qualification as part of an Open University Apprenticeship Programme.

Subordinate qualification

A subordinate qualification is one which has a lower credit requirement. For example, a Diploma of Higher Education is a subordinate qualification to a Bachelor's degree.

Taught course

For the purpose of these regulations, a taught course is either a module studied as a standalone course, or an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification, including any module studied as part of that qualification. It does not include research degrees and short courses.

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Teaching Committee

Teaching Committees form part of the University's academic governance structure and are responsible for decisions about exemptions and exceptions to academic regulations as outlined in this document.

Undergraduate Bachelor's degrees

The Open University awards undergraduate degrees of Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) to Apprentices who successfully complete their academic study.

Undergraduate Student

An undergraduate Student is a Student who is registered for a qualification designated as an apprenticeship undergraduate qualification.

Unique Study

Unique study is Open University module credit which has not previously been counted towards an Open University qualification. All qualifications have a unique study requirement. Credit which has only been counted towards undergraduate qualifications of less than 120 credits may be treated as unique study for the purposes of completing a Bachelor's degree.

“We/us/our”

Throughout the *Academic Regulations (Apprentices)*, “we/us/our” refers to The Open University.

“You/your”

Throughout the *Academic Regulations (Apprentices)*, “you/your” refers to any Apprentice who falls under the scope of the regulations.

For specific guidance on how these Regulations may relate to your personal circumstances, please contact your AEST or equivalent contact.

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Related Documentation

Refer to the following documentation in conjunction with this document:

- [Academic Progress Policy 2023/24 \(Apprentices\)](#)
- [Academic Regulations 2023/24 \(Taught Courses\)](#)
- [Apprenticeship Framework \(Scottish Apprentices\)](#)
- [Apprenticeship Standards \(English Apprentices\)](#)
- Assessment Policies
- [Code of Practice for Student Assessment](#)
- [Code of Practice for Student Discipline](#)
- [Conditions of Registration \(Apprentices\)](#)
- Section 75 of the [Northern Ireland Act 1998 for Northern Ireland](#)
- [Equality Act 2010 for England, Scotland and Wales](#)
- Any Registration Documentation which governs your Apprenticeship Programme (as specified by your Apprenticeship Programme Funding Provider). A complete list of Registration Documentation cannot be provided within this document due to Apprenticeship Programme and Funding Provider rules being under continuous development. You can contact your relevant Open University Office for up-to-date information on the Registration Documentation related to your UK Nation of residence:
 - [The Open University Apprenticeships team \(England\)](#) (+44 (0) 300 303 4121),
 - [The Open University in Scotland Apprenticeships team](#) (+44 (0) 131 226 3851),
 - [The Open University in Wales](#) (+44 (0) 29 2047 1170), and
 - [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#) (+44 (0) 2890 245025).
- Funding Provider rules, examples of which may include:
 - English Apprentices: Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)

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- Scottish Apprentices: Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
- Northern Ireland Apprentices: Department for the Economy (DfE)
- Module Results Determination Policy
- [Safeguarding Policy – Protecting children and vulnerable adults](#)
- [Student Privacy Notice](#)
- [Understanding your Class of Honours](#)
- The specific regulations for your apprenticeship qualification (available through your Apprenticeship Enrolment and Support Team – AEST).

Feedback

Comments and feedback about this document and how it might be improved are welcomed. Please submit these to [:SPR-Policy-Team@open.ac.uk](mailto:SPR-Policy-Team@open.ac.uk).

Summary of significant changes since 2022/23 versions

- Changes which took effect on 1st March 2023 to Section G7, Classification of Honours Degrees, are carried forward.
- Document layout has been adjusted.
- The Student Charter Values paragraph has been re-written in response to changes made in the annual review of the Student Charter in 2022.
- A new subsection welcoming feedback has been introduced at the end of the document.

Policies superseded by this document

This document replaces the Academic Regulations 2022/23 (Apprentices), with effect from 1st August 2023.

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