

CREDIT LOAD POLICY: POSTGRADUATE

Introduction

1. A standard postgraduate course in Fall and Spring carries 4 US /20 UK credits.
2. The University also offers variants such as:
 - a. 2 US / 10 UK courses
 - b. Capstone courses of 10-12 US / 50-60 UK credits
3. This policy sets out the credit expectations for postgraduate students in line with UK and US requirements for the 36 US / 180 UK credit degree.
4. In some cases, a postgraduate programme may be offered in two formats: direct entry or with a preparatory semester. The direct entry route comprises 36 US credits (180 UK credits), while the route including a preparatory semester comprises 44 US credits (220 UK credits).

General Principles

5. The normal credit load for a full-time postgraduate student is 10-14 US/50-70 UK credits per semester, and students should consult their specific programme specification.
6. The normal time-to-completion for a full-time postgraduate degree is three-four semesters, and students should consult their specific programme specification.
7. Full-time student status is considered a minimum of 8 US/40 UK credits.
 - a. Full-time visa-sponsored students must maintain the normal credit load for their programme (10-14 US/50-70 UK credits per semester).
8. Any postgraduate student taking fewer credits per semester than the normal credit load is classified as a part-time student; this will affect the normal time to completion.
 - a. Part-time study is only available to visa-sponsored PG students who applied for a part-time student visa during admission to the University.
 - b. Part-time study is not available for many student finance/funding schemes. Students are advised to contact the Financial Aid office for advice.
9. Postgraduate courses are subject to cycling, with some courses being timetabled only once in each academic year. Some postgraduate course options are subject to student demand.
10. The attendance of visa-holding students is rigorously monitored. The University is obliged to report any Student Visa-holding students who fall below full-time enrolment to UK

Visas and Immigration (UKVI), unless they have a part-time visa status. The University reserves the right to alter its policies and procedures to meet any changes in UKVI regulations.

VERSION MANAGEMENT

Responsible Department: Registry Services			
Approving body: Academic Board			
Version no.	Key Changes	Date of approval	Date of effect
001		24 July 2018	28 August 2018
002	Updated credit weightings and removed reference to Tier 4 visas.	July 2020	28 August 2020
003	Renamed to Credit Load Policy, references to courses removed, UK credits updated.	June 2022	01 September 2022
004	Added details on PT visa status	June 2024	01 Sept 2024
005	Editorial updates to improve clarity.	June 2025	01 Sept 2025
006	Preparatory semester option included	February 2026	
		Restricted access? <i>Tick as appropriate</i> ☐ Yes ☒ No	