**Integrated Masters Degrees: guidance for new course developments**

**Definition of an Integrated Masters**

An ‘Integrated Masters degree’ is a course which combines three or four-year UG honours programme with one-year at Masters level. Students qualify with one single award which is a named award title (e.g MEng) as opposed to an BA/BSc and/or MA/MSc.

**Structure**

As detailed in the University’s [Framework for Undergraduate Rules of Assessment](https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/rules-of-assessment/roa-ug-principle-and-framework), Integrated Masters degrees at the University of Essex typically consist as follows:

* A four-year course consisting of 480 credits, including 120 credits at Level 7 in the final year of the course
* A five-year course consisting of 600 credits, including 120 credits at Level 7 in the final year of the course. This model also includes a placement year, year abroad, or foundation year as part of the undergraduate provision.
* Structures need to ensure that students are able to meet the requirements of a bachelors with honours in full, in order to meet QAA requirements and to ensure that a BA/BSc (Hons) would be available as an exit award for the course.

**Awards/Titles**

The awards for Integrated Masters degree typically take the form of M[abbreviated subject name]. The following Integrated Masters awards have already been approved by the University:

* Accounting (MAcc)
* Art History (MArtH)
* Economics (MEcon)
* Electronic Engineering (MEng)
* Engineering (MEng)
* History (MHist)
* Languages (MLang)
* Law (MLaw)
* Linguistics (MLing)
* Literary Studies (MLit)
* Management (MMan)
* Mathematics (MMath)
* Philosophy (MPhilo)
* Politics (MPol)
* Science (MSci)
* Sociology (MSoc)

Departments will need to confirm the proposed award for their Integrated Masters degree; if the award is not one of the above then the new award will need to be approved by Senate.

When the proposed degrees include a placement year, year abroad or foundation year as part of the undergraduate provision, it is anticipated that this will be included in the course title, e.g. MSci Computer Science (Including Placement Year)

**Research Component**

There should be a research component at Level 6 (in line with the UG course). In order to meet QAA requirements and the characteristics of an Integrated Masters, the final year of the Integrated Masters degree (consisting of Level 7 credits), must include research methods training and should normally include a form of research project (either individual or group projects).

A research project may not be required where the degree is based around ‘professional or practice masters degrees,’ which aim to enable graduates to qualify for entry into a particular profession, where there are PSRB requirements, or to provide development opportunities related to particular professions.

Research methods training and research projects can be included either as a separate module(s), or embedded within other modules.

**Approval Process**

Integrated Masters degrees are approved through the new course approval process. An overview of this process, further guidance and all relevant forms are available at: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/staff/academic-standards-and-quality/new-courses>.

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