

Learning Outcomes and student workload in Higher Education

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Overview

- “ Scottish context: SCOTCAT, SCQF
- “ Curriculum development, design, review, documentation
- “ Workload and LOs in ECTS
- “ Estimating workload
- “ Quality Assurance/Review
- “ Credit and Lifelong Learning

Scottish Context

- “ Dearing/Garrick . lifelong learning
- “ SCOTCAT . established system of credits and levels
- “ SCQF . comprehensive lifelong learning credit and qualifications framework
- “ All main qualifications based on learning outcomes and credit-rated

Credit & Learning Outcomes

statements of what a learner is expected to know, understand and/or be able to do at the end of a period of learning+

workload is a useful proxy measure of volume of learning . link to learning outcomes needed to assess fitq between different qualifications or programmes

Curriculum design & review

- “ Outcomes . ~~de~~-mystify learning
- “ Descriptors . level/qualification/typical award
- “ Credits . ~~notional~~ workload + outcomes
- “ All aspects of learning . ~~contact~~ hours may be less than half total workload
- “ Student input/feedback on workload
- “ Diploma Supplement - reference to NQF levels and ECTS credits

Workload & LOs in ECTS

- “ Student-centred system based on the *student workload* required to achieve programme objectives, specified in terms of *learning outcomes*.
- “ 60 credits measure the notional workload of an average full time student during one academic year. Includes time spent attending lectures, seminars, project and laboratory work, independent study, preparing for and taking examinations, etc.
- “ Credits allocated to all components of a study programme (such as modules, courses, placements, dissertation work, etc.). They reflect the quantity of work each component requires in relation to the total required for a full year of study in that programme
- “ Credits awarded only after assessment of the learning outcomes achieved

Estimating workload

- “ SCOTCAT based on weeks/academic year multiplied by approx hours/week
- “ 120 SCQF = 60 ECTS
- “ NLH estimated for all aspects of learning process, including self-study
- “ Workload part of review/approval of courses
- “ Students involved through feedback and engagement in quality management

Quality Assurance

- “ Enhancement-Led Institutional Review
(checks use of SCQF & Quality infrastructure)
- “ Quality infrastructure: Subject Benchmarks, Code of Practice, External Examiners
- “ SCQF Handbook: Credit-rating guidelines, RPL guidelines etc.
- “ ESG, ENQA, European Register
- “ EHEA Qualifications Framework

Credit for Lifelong Learning

- “ Recognition of Prior Learning . learning in workplace, voluntary work, life!
- “ Mobility between different types of education & training
- “ Transfer of credit between universities
- “ Transfer between HE and VET, schools, professional qualifications

Challenges

- “ BWSE 07, Trends V etc.
- “ Student concerns . workload/value
- “ Achieving widespread recognition
- “ Bologna reforms work as a package
- “ ECTS label?
- “ ECVET/international links