GCU Generic Award

Guidance

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Prepared By	Quality Assurance and Enhancement
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Other documents referenced	Undergraduate Assessment Regulations Taught Postgraduate Assessment Regulations
Related documents	

Version Number	Date issued	Author	Update information
V1.0	31.05.2019	Academic Quality and Development	First published version
V1.1	21.02.2022	Quality Assurance and Enhancement	Addition of SHLS Generic Awards as approved by APPC.
V1.2	18.09.2024	Quality Assurance and Enhancement	Minor terminology updates, policy reference updates and increased visibility of linkage to the existing Generic Award regulations.

GCU Generic Awards[1]

GCU Generic Award regulations provide a safety net for any student failing up to and including 40 credits on their chosen programme of study. In such circumstances, the Progression and Award Board will have the opportunity to recommend transfer to the appropriate School-based Generic Award. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the School-Based Generic Award Regulations, outlined within the Assessment Regulations.

Where a Progression and Award Board recommends that an international student should transfer to a Generic Award, the student must take advice from the GCU Visa, Immigration Support and Advice Team (VISA), as this may have implications for those on a General Student Visa (Tier 4) visa.

Academic Schools are responsible for identifying the modules which make up the credit deficit at each level.

There is no progression pathway through a Generic Award as it is intended solely for students who are up to 40 credits short of an exit award[2]. Consequently, on successful completion, students exit with a University award at that level.

Utilising the flexibility of the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) and assuming students have at least 80 credits at the level of the award, the approved credit requirements[3] to achieve a Generic Award exit point are as follows:

Exit Awards	Credit Requirements (where 40 credits have been failed)
Certificate of Higher Education **120 credit points with a minimum of 90 at Level 7**	40 SCQF Level 7 credits
Diploma of Higher Education **240 credit points with a minimum of 90 at SCQF Level 8**	20 SCQF Level 7 and 20 SCQF Level 8 credits
Scottish Bachelors Degree **360 credit points with a minimum of 60 at SCQF Level 9**	40 SCQF Level 7, 8 or 9 credits
Scottish Bachelors Degree with Honours **480 credit points with a minimum of 90 at SCQF Level 10**	20 SCQF credits at Level 7, 8, 9 or 10, and 20 SCQF Level 10 credits

Where a student has failed less than 40 credits on their chosen programme of study (i.e. 20 credits), and meets the minimum SCQF credit requirements at the level of study, it will be a matter for the Academic School to identify a replacement module, adhering to the approved credit requirements noted above.

Schools should take advice from the Department of Quality Assurance and Enhancement should a Generic Award at Masters Level be required.

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[1] To be read in conjunction with University Assessment Regulations
[2] Generic Awards should not be conflated with posthumous awards. For information related to posthumous awards, please refer to the Award and Graduation Regulations.
[3] Approved by Academic Policy Committee, March 2007

Generic Award Titles

School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment
BA/BA (Hons)/BSc/BSc (Hons) Technology (Design)
BA/BA (Hons)/BSc/BSc (Hons) Technology (Computing)
BA/BA (Hons)/BSc/BSc (Hons) Technology (Built Environment)
BA/BA (Hons)/BSc/BSc (Hons) Technology (Engineering)

Glasgow School of Business and Society
BA/BA (Hons) General Business
BA/BA (Hons) General Studies in Society
MSc General Business (PG)

School of Health and Life Sciences
BSc/BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care
BSc/BSc (Hons) Life Sciences
MSc Life Sciences (PG)
MSc Health and Social Care Studies
PgC Health and Social Care Studies
PgD Health and Social Care Studies