Definitions Lexicon

There are currently differences in the understanding of programme and module related terminology in common use, across student records systems, public-facing communications etc. There are various issues resulting from these differences, for example within Academic Codes of Practice relating to condonement, compensation and progression, and to programme modifications, but also to CMA requirements. It is, therefore, necessary to **consolidate** and **standardise** terminology used across the university.

HIERARCHY

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SUBJECT AREA** | Generic subject group, for example, accounting and finance. |
| **COURSE** | A course is the entire programme of studies required to complete a university degree (for example, BSc (Hons) Business Management and Accounting).  Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects a Student record that covers the engagement and achievement stages of the higher education lifecycle. The record includes a ‘course’ entity that is defined as a combination of subject and qualification that defines what a student is aiming for. |
| **PROGRAMME** | A programme of study is a set of modules in a specified combination of levels which meet the requirements for a particular named award in a specified subject.  Programmes are modular and based on the accumulation of credit.  This also includes differentiators such as FT and PT options, foundation years, placement periods, etc., for example, BSc (Hons) Business Management and Accounting with year abroad.  Each programme of study will have specified learning outcomes, all of which a student will have achieved on successfully completing the programme. |
| **MODULE** | Modules are self-contained, credit-rated blocks of learning and teaching which make up a programme.  Modules may be designated by the programme as core, compulsory, optional or elective, according to their importance in enabling students to achieve the learning outcomes for the programme as a whole and, where applicable, to meet professional body requirements. |
| **CORE MODULE** | This is a module that is fundamental to the degree programme and **must** be studied. It **cannot** be compensated or condoned. There may also be different restrictions applied with regard to minor/major modifications. |
| **COMPULSORY MODULE** | This is a module which **must** be studied to successfully complete a particular degree programme. It **can** be compensated or condoned, subject to regulations. |
| **OPTIONAL MODULE** | This is a module that a student **may** choose to study as part of their degree programme.  Optional modules are offered to students in order to provide an element of choice in the curriculum, and may complement compulsory modules. They are often offered from a prescribed range of modules.  Note:   * There should be no optional modules at Level 4 (unless an exemption request has been approved by EPC). * Optionality should be minimised throughout the programme. * Faculty Education and Student Experience Committee (FESEC) is the final arbiter of any disagreements regarding the level of optionality in a programme. * Levels of optionality should be clearly linked to the number of students taking the module. |
| **ELECTIVE MODULE** | This is a module that a student may choose to study as part of their degree programme. It cannot be compensated or condoned. |