

A AWARDS OF BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY

A1 The awarding powers of the University

A1.1 Bournemouth University (the University) attained the right to award taught and research degrees in 1992. Accordingly, it has the power to confer academic and honorary awards on persons who have successfully completed programmes of study offered by the University, whether at the University, or through collaborative partnerships. The University uses as its main point of reference the academic infrastructure produced by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) set out in the *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* and the *Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education* (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/>).

A1.2 Accordingly, the University has the power to:

- i confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic awards and distinctions on persons who shall have pursued programmes of study, or programmes of supervised research approved by the University, and shall have passed such examination or other assessment as may be required by the University;
- ii determine the terms and conditions for the conferment of such academic awards and distinctions;
- iii confer honorary degrees and awards on persons selected by the University according to criteria and conditions determined by the University;
- iv rescind, for good and sufficient cause, any academic award or distinction conferred;
- v validate, modify and review, on such conditions as the University may from time to time determine, programmes of study or programmes of supervised research pursued by candidates to qualify for the University's academic awards and distinctions;
- vi accept in partial fulfilment of the study and assessment requirements for awards of the University such periods of learning and such assessments as may be recognised by the University and have been successfully completed and passed by students otherwise than on programmes approved under A1.2i and A1.2v. (See *Academic Procedures* available at <http://portal.bournemouth.ac.uk/Documents>).

A2 Responsibilities of the University in respect of its awards

A2.1 Bournemouth University has the following responsibilities in fulfilling its objectives and exercising its powers relating to the overall management of academic quality and standards:

- i ensuring that its degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic awards and distinctions are consistent and comparable in academic standard with awards conferred throughout higher education in the United Kingdom, as specified in the *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications* (FHEQ). (See *Academic Procedures* at <http://portal.bournemouth.ac.uk/Documents>).

- ii ensuring that its programmes of study are of such high academic standard that for each programme regard has been paid to:
- the curriculum and syllabus including any arrangements for professional /work-based learning and experience;
 - the qualifications and experience of the staff team responsible for the delivery of the programme;
 - the facilities and learning environment;
 - the standard required for admission;
 - the quality of teaching;
 - the achievements of the students;
 - the arrangements for student assessment and for the appointment of external and internal examiners;
 - the arrangements for monitoring, sustaining and developing both the standard of student performance and the quality of learning and teaching.
- iii cooperating and collaborating with institutions, public bodies, industrial and commercial concerns, or professional bodies with a view to the advancement of the objectives of the institution.

A3 Award titles

- A3.1 The University may confer the awards listed in Appendix A. Standards covering those awards are stated in A5.
- A3.2 In accordance with the *Articles of Government* additional awards may be approved by the University which shall concurrently approve the terms and conditions governing the granting of the award.

A4 Designated sandwich awards

- A4.1 First degrees may be validated in the sandwich mode and the certificate for the award may specifically state that study was 'in the sandwich mode'. A programme of study approved as a degree or honours degree in the sandwich mode should include not less than 40 weeks of work-based experience, in addition to the period required for the award in full-time mode. Any exceptions are the result of professional body requirements and will be detailed in the relevant programme specification.

A5 The standard of awards

- A5.1 The academic standards required by the University are the same irrespective of the organisation delivering the programme.
- A5.2 The final responsibility for academic standards of programmes leading to awards of the University rests with Senate irrespective of where the programme is delivered.
- A5.3 Academic awards are defined in terms of academic standards and levels. The standard of each award (other than honorary awards) is defined in terms of the qualification

descriptors and the number and level of credits achieved by a student with reference to the FHEQ.

- A5.4 The threshold standard of any award of the University should be comparable to that of the same award at any other institution of higher education in the United Kingdom. Qualification descriptors are defined in the FHEQ; they exemplify the outcomes of the main qualifications at each level by providing clear points of reference at each level. They also demonstrate the nature of change between levels. These are used as a point of reference for all University awards.
- A5.5 The programme specification, which is approved as part of the validation process must be aligned to the FHEQ, any relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements and where appropriate the QAA Foundation Degree benchmark and/or requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRB).
- A5.6 Level 3 awards are recognised by the University in specific circumstances. In defining the academic level of Level 3 the University will utilise the descriptors published by Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (SEEC).

A6 Standard for each type of award

- A6.1 The standards of each type of award are consistent with those described by the FHEQ (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/>) except where specified. See also *Academic Procedures* at <http://portal.bournemouth.ac.uk/Documents>).

A6.2 Level C qualifications

Certificate of Higher Education; Higher National Certificate

- A6.2.1 The standard of the Certificate of Higher Education is that expected of a student who has successfully completed a programme of study suitable for the fulfilment of the general educational aims, equivalent to Level C of an Honours Degree. The programme will normally attract at least 120 Level C credits.
- A6.2.2 The holder of a Certificate of Higher Education/Higher National Certificate will have a sound knowledge of the basic concepts of a subject and will have learned how to take different approaches to solving problems. They will be able to communicate accurately, and will have the qualities needed for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility. The Certificate may be a first step towards obtaining higher level qualifications.

A6.3 Level I qualifications

Foundation Degree; Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE); Higher National Diploma

- A6.3.1 The standard of the Diploma of Higher Education/Foundation Degree/Higher National Diploma is that expected of a student who has successfully completed a programme of study, suitable for the fulfilment of the general educational aims and equivalent to Levels C and I of an Honours Degree. The programme will normally attract at least 120 Level C and 120 Level I credits.
- A6.3.2 Holders of qualifications at this level will have developed a sound understanding of the principles in their field of study, and will have learned to apply those principles more widely. Through this, they will have learned to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems. Their studies may well have had a vocational orientation, enabling them to perform effectively in their chosen field. They will have the qualities

necessary for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.

A6.3.3 In addition to the requirements above, foundation degrees are expected to comply with the Foundation Degree benchmark (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk>). The specific foundation degrees are:

- i The Foundation Degree in Arts (FdA) used for foundation degrees with a principal emphasis in art and design, the arts and humanities, media, business studies and social sciences.
- ii The Foundation Degree in Science (FdSc) used for programmes where studies are substantially based on science, technology, engineering or mathematics and their applications.

A6.4 **Other Level I qualifications**

Diploma in Professional Studies (DPS)

A6.4.1 The title Diploma in Professional Studies is reserved for programmes of study related to specific professions and is designed to build on professional qualifications or registration, together with professional experience.

A6.4.2 The standard of the Diploma in Professional Studies is that expected of a person with a relevant professional qualification and a specified period of professional experience (usually two years post-qualification/registration) who has successfully completed a programme of professional study at Levels C and I of an Honours degree. The programme will normally attract at least 120 Level C and 120 Level I credits. The specific title of the DPS shall indicate the profession to which it relates, such as:

- i Diploma in Professional Studies in Midwifery.
- ii Diploma in Professional Studies in Nursing.

A6.5 **First degrees**

Bachelor's degree

A6.5.1 The standard of the Bachelor's Degree is that expected of a student who has successfully completed a programme of study suitable for the fulfilment of the general educational aims and normally attracting at least 120 Level C, 120 Level I and 80 Level H credits. It is equivalent to an unclassified Honours Degree.

Bachelor's Degree with Honours.

A6.5.2 The standard of the Bachelor's Degree with Honours is that expected of a student who has successfully completed a programme of study suitable for the fulfilment of the general educational aims and who has demonstrated the capacity for sustained independent learning and high-quality work. The programme normally attracts at least 120 Level C, 120 Level I and 120 Level H credits.

A6.5.3 An Honours graduate will have developed an understanding of a complex body of knowledge, some of it at the current boundaries of an academic discipline. Through this, the graduate will have developed analytical techniques and problem-solving skills that can be applied in many types of employment. The graduate will be able to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions, to reach sound judgements and to communicate effectively. An Honours graduate should have the qualities needed for employment in situations

requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.

A6.5.4 The specific Bachelor's degrees and Bachelor's degrees with Honours are:

- i Bachelor of Arts (BA): used for degrees with a principal emphasis in art and design, the arts and humanities, media, business studies and social sciences.
- ii Bachelor of Engineering (BEng): reserved for programmes which provide a technologically broad education with an emphasis on engineering applications. The title is primarily used for programmes which may lead to registration with the Engineering Council.
- iii Bachelor of Laws (LLB): reserved for programmes of specialised study in law. Programmes where legal and other study are combined, and where the legal study comprises less than two-thirds of the programme, lead to BA or BSc (as appropriate to the other study).
- iv Bachelor of Science (BSc): used for programmes where studies are substantially based on science or mathematics and their applications.

A6.6 Other Level H Qualifications

Advanced Diploma (Specific to Nursing and Midwifery)

A6.6.1 The standard of the Advanced Diploma is that expected of a student who has successfully completed a programme of study suitable for the fulfilment of the general educational aims and equivalent to Levels C, I and half of Level H of an Honours Degree; the programme will normally attract at least 120 Level C, 120 Level I credits and 60 Level H credits.

Graduate Certificate (Grad Cert)

A6.6.2 The standard of the Graduate Certificate is that expected of a graduate who has successfully completed study, in a field other than that in which they took their first degree, on a programme of study normally attracting at least 40 credits at Level H.

Graduate Diploma (Grad Dip)

A6.6.3 The standard of the Graduate Diploma is that expected of a graduate who has successfully completed study in a field other than that in which they took their first degree, on a programme of study normally attracting at least 80 credits at Level H.

A6.7 Masters level (taught awards)

A6.7.1 Much of the study undertaken at Masters level will have been at, or informed by, the forefront of an academic or professional discipline. Students will have shown originality in the application of knowledge and they will understand how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research. They will be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, and they will show originality in tackling and solving problems. They will have the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative, in complex and unpredictable professional environments.

A6.7.2 There are several types of taught M level awards. They vary in terms of volume of credit not level of credit awarded.

Master of Chiropractic (MChiro)

A6.7.3 The standard of the Master of Chiropractic is that expected of a student who has successfully completed a programme of study attracting at least 120 credits at each of Levels C, I, H and M.

Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)

A6.7.4 The standard of the Postgraduate Certificate is that expected of a graduate who has successfully completed a programme of study, in a field for which prior knowledge and skills have provided an appropriate foundation and at a level demanding more advanced study than a first degree and normally attracting at least 60 credits at Level M.

Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)

A6.7.5 The standard of the Postgraduate Diploma is that expected of a graduate who has successfully completed study, in a field for which prior knowledge and skills have provided an appropriate foundation and at a level demanding more advanced and intensive study than a first degree, and on a programme of study normally attracting at least 120 M Level credits.

Masters Degree

A6.7.6 The standard of the taught Master's Degree is that expected of a graduate who has successfully completed a programme of study, in a field for which prior knowledge and skills have provided an appropriate foundation and at a level demanding more advanced and intensive study than a first degree, and which includes a compulsory element of advanced independent work/learning. The programme normally attracts at least 180 M Level credits.

A6.7.7 The specific Masters degrees are:

- i The title Master of Arts (MA) is used in art, media and design, humanities, social science and in other areas of study where a more specialised title is not appropriate.
- ii The title Master of Science (MSc) is used where studies are substantially based on science or mathematics and their applications.
- iii The title Master of Business Administration (MBA) is reserved for programmes which focus on the general principles and functions of management and the development of management skills. These may be developed in the context of a specific sector indicated in the award title. Students entering MBA programmes must have appropriate professional experience.

NB: A full list of all awards is available at appendix A.

A6.8 Programmes of research

A6.8.1 Bournemouth University awards the following degrees to candidates who successfully complete approved programmes of supervised research:

- i Master of Philosophy (MPhil);
- ii Doctor of Philosophy (PhD);
- iii Doctor of Professional Practice (DProf);
- iv Doctor of Business Administration (DBA).

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

A6.8.2 The standard of the Master of Philosophy is that expected of a graduate who has satisfactorily completed a programme of study which includes the critical investigation and evaluation of an approved topic and who has demonstrated an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field and has presented and defended a thesis, by oral examination, to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

A6.8.3 The standard of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is that expected of a graduate who has satisfactorily completed a programme of study which includes the critical investigation or evaluation of an appropriate topic(s) and who has demonstrated an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field resulting in an independent and original contribution to knowledge and has presented and defended a thesis, by oral examination, to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Doctor of Professional Practice (DProf)

A6.8.4 The standard of a DProf is that expected of a graduate who has critically investigated and evaluated an approved Professional Practice topic resulting in fundamental advance in theory and practice and demonstrated an understanding of appropriate research methods and has presented and defended a thesis, by oral examination, to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

A6.8.5 The standard of a DBA is that expected of a graduate who has critically investigated and evaluated an approved business-centred topic resulting in a fundamental advance in business performance, theory and practice and who has demonstrated an understanding of appropriate research methods and has presented and defended a thesis, by oral examination, to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Higher Doctorates

A6.8.6 The standard of the Higher Doctorate is that expected of an applicant who is a leading authority in the field of study concerned and has made an original and significant contribution to the advancement or application of knowledge or scholarship in that field. Such an applicant shall be a holder of at least seven years' standing of a first degree or a holder of at least four years' standing of a higher degree.

A6.8.7 Bournemouth University awards the Higher Doctorates of:

- i Doctor of Arts (DArt)
- ii Doctor of Design (DDes)
- iii Doctor of Education (DEd / Ed.D)
- iv Doctor of Engineering (DEng)
- v Doctor of Laws (LLD)
- vi Doctor of Letters (DLitt)
- vii Doctor of Music (DMus)
- viii Doctor of Professional Practice (DProf)
- ix Doctor of Science (DSc)
- x Doctor of Technology (DTech).

A7 Conferment of awards

- A7.1 The Senate shall confer academic awards on behalf of the University in accordance with these regulations.
- A7.2 Except for honorary academic degrees, an academic award shall be deemed to be conferred as and when the Senate has confirmed the recommendation for an award of a Board of Examiners convened, constituted and acting under approved regulations for this purpose.
- A7.3 The Board of Examiners may recommend to Senate that an Aegrotat award be conferred where there is insufficient assessment evidence to recommend the award or intermediate award for which the student is registered but where the Board is satisfied that but for illness or other valid cause the student would have reached the standard required.
- A7.4 The Vice-Chancellor of the University may confirm the recommendation of a Board of Examiners for the granting of an award and thereby authorise its conferment.
- A7.5 All recommendations of Boards of Examiners and in the case of research awards, the approved examiner, shall be reported to the Registrar who shall be responsible for referring them to the Vice-Chancellor and Senate.