

Learning and Teaching Definitions

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The University has adopted the following definitions relating to terms appearing in learning and teaching documentation. Further information about these definitions can be obtained from Education Enhancement.

Aim/Educational Aim

A term used in module and programme descriptions. It indicates the direction or orientation of a module or programme in terms of its content and sometimes its context. An aim is written in terms of level, teaching intentions and management of learning.

Assessment Criteria

Descriptions of what the learner will have to demonstrate in order that learning outcomes specific to a module have been achieved. The purpose of assessment criteria is to establish clear and unambiguous standards of achievement in respect of each learning outcome. Level descriptors are used as a guide during this process.

Credit

A quantified means of expressing equivalence of learning. Credit is awarded to a learner in recognition of the verified achievement of learning outcomes at a specified level. One credit equates to 10 notional hours of learning successfully achieved and works on the basis of achievement at threshold standard.

Learning Outcome

An expression of what a student will demonstrate on the successful completion of a module. Learning outcomes:

- are related to the level of the learning;
- indicate the intended gain in knowledge and skills that a typical student will achieve;
- should be capable of being assessed.

Level

An indicator of the relative demand, complexity and depth of learning, associated with a module or stages of a programme or of a qualification.

Level Descriptor

A generic statement describing the characteristics and contexts of learning expected at a particular level.

Modularity

A framework that allows students the opportunity to gain a proportion of credit in modules that may not be directly associated with their named programme of study. These modules may be drawn from different Colleges.

Module

A discrete learning experience that is described by explicit learning outcomes assessed at a named level. Modules may be subject to prerequisite or co-requisite conditions.

Programme (of Study)

The approved curriculum followed by a student that may be one of a number of established pathways available or may be unique to the student.¹

Programme Outcome

An expression contained within a programme specification of what a typical learner will have achieved at the end of the programme. Programme outcomes are related to the qualification level and will relate to the sum of the experience of learners on a particular programme.

Stage

The identification of the point in their studies at which students undertake a defined element of a programme.

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¹ Choice is expected to be guided through advice by appropriate academic staff and by approved co- and pre-requisites.