



Academic Regulations 1: Awards of the University

2026-2027

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Contents

Section	Content	paragraph numbers
1	Conferment of Awards	
	Authority to Confer	1-3
	Qualifications	4-11
	Degree Apprenticeship Awards	12-14
	Honorary Awards	15-17
	Aegrotat Awards	18-22
	Posthumous Awards	23-25
2	Rescinding an Award	26
3	Approval of New Qualifications	27-28
4	Dual, Double and Joint awards	29
5	Certification (Certificate/Higher Education Achievement Report)	
	Certificate	30-33
	Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)	34-40
Annex 1	Qualifications Approved by the University	

Conferment of Awards

Authority to Confer

- 1 The University derives its authority to confer awards from the provisions of the Further and Higher Education Act (1992). The University, acting through its Board of Governors, has delegated to the Vice-Chancellor the authority to confer awards on individuals recommended as eligible by Academic Council.
- 2 Awards of Kingston University will be conferred by the Vice-Chancellor as Chair of Academic Council or, through delegated authority, by a designated senior member of Academic Council.
- 3 Academic Council has provided for the establishment of authorised committees to make recommendations for the conferment of awards. These committees are:
 - Programme Assessment Boards
 - Research Degrees Committee
 - Honorary Awards Panel

Qualifications

- 4 For all qualifications, conferment requires that the following conditions are satisfied:
 - the candidate was a registered student of the University at the time of their assessment for the qualification; and
 - the candidate has completed the approved and validated course as leading to the qualification being recommended; and
 - the conferment has been recommended by the appropriate committee, acting under regulations approved by the University.
- 5 Conferment shall be for the course which the student was registered on, except for instances of academic failure or non-completion. Normally, a lower level qualification may be awarded if the candidate has fulfilled the requirements of the lower qualification.
- 6 The University operates a Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme for all qualifications within the Undergraduate Regulations (AR2), the Postgraduate Regulations (AR3) and the Degree Apprenticeship Regulations (AR10). Regulations on entry with advanced standing, Recognition of Prior Learning and the re-use of credit are set out in the relevant regulations.
- 7 The University may permit students to be assessed for credit within a course without registering for a qualification. If a student wishes to subsequently register for the qualification, rules on Recognition Prior Learning, re-use of credit and Advanced Standing Apply.

Qualification Levels

- 8 For each qualification, the University has established a benchmark definition to take account of the OfS Sector-recognised standards. The University offers courses leading to qualifications at level 4, level 5, level 6, level 7 and level 8. Further information on level descriptors is available in [Academic Guidance 1: University Level and Outcome Classification Descriptors](#).
- 9 The University does not confer level 3 awards. A statement of credit will be issued for students who exit at level 3.

Classification of Qualifications

- 10 The regulations for each generic qualification will specify whether it may be awarded with a classification. Further details are available in AR2 Undergraduate Regulations, AR3 Postgraduate Taught Regulations and AR10 Degree Apprenticeship Regulations.
- 11 A list of qualifications approved by the University is appended as Annex 1.

Degree Apprenticeship Awards

- 12 A Degree Apprenticeship award will normally only be conferred once all requirements are met, including those outside the assessment of the award. This includes the completion of an End Point Assessment where this is not integrated in the course, and achievement in all Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours, including those not assessed in the academic course.
- 13 Where all requirements of a Degree Apprenticeship award have been met, the award will be conferred with 'Degree Apprenticeship' in the degree title.
- 14 Further information is available in [Academic Regulation 10: Degree Apprenticeship Regulations](#).

Honorary Awards

- 15 The University has established an Honorary Awards Panel to consider recommendations for the conferment of honorary awards and to make recommendations to Academic Council for the inclusion of new honorary awards.
- 16 The University has approved the following honorary awards:

Award	Abbreviation
Doctor of Arts	Hon DArts
Doctor of Art and Design	Hon DAD
Doctor of Engineering	Hon DEng
Doctor of Laws	Hon LLD
Doctor of Letters	Hon DLitt
Doctor of Science	Hon DSc
Doctor of the University	Hon DUniv
Honorary Fellow	Hon Fellow

Honorary Professor	Hon Prof
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17 Further information is available in [Academic Regulation 11: Honorary Awards](#)

Aegrotat Awards

- 18 An Aegrotat award is an unclassified qualification that may be conferred for a candidate who is unable to complete their course due to serious ongoing illness, or other exceptional valid cause, and is unlikely to be able to return to the course at a later date.
- 19 The candidate will first be considered for an aegrotat award for the intended registered award. If the candidate does not meet the requirements for the aegrotat award, an appropriate exit award may be considered using credit achieved. Normally, a lower level qualification may be awarded if the candidate has fulfilled the requirements of the lower qualification.
- 20 An aegrotat award may be conferred where there is a recommendation made by Faculty and the following conditions are satisfied:
- the candidate was a registered student of the University at the time of the assessment for the aegrotat qualification; and
 - the candidate was unable to complete the course due to serious ongoing illness or other exceptional valid cause and is unlikely to be able to return to the course at a later date; and
 - the Programme Assessment Board determines that the candidate was likely to have reached the required standard for the qualification if they had been able to continue. This normally requires the successful completion of at least two thirds of the credit required for the intended registered award.
- 21 Aegrotat awards may not be available for some professionally accredited courses.
- 22 A candidate may choose to decline an aegrotat award and complete the course but cannot then claim the aegrotat in the event of subsequent failure of the full degree. The term "aegrotat" will not be recorded on the certification.

Posthumous Awards

- 23 A Posthumous award is an unclassified qualification that may be conferred following the death of a candidate. The award recognises the achievement of a student who has passed away prior to completing their qualification.
- 24 The posthumous award may be conferred where:
- the candidate was a registered student of the University at the time of passing; and
 - the Programme Assessment Board determines that the candidate was likely to have reached the required standard for the qualification. This normally requires the successful completion of at least half of the credit required for the intended registered award. In cases where the required credit threshold has not been met, exceptional cases may be approved

by the PVC Education.

25 A posthumous award can be accepted on the candidate's behalf by a parent, spouse or other appropriate individual.

Rescinding an Award

26 The Vice-Chancellor, acting on the recommendation of Academic Council, may rescind an award. An award may be rescinded if it is established that the authorised committee made its decision based on misleading or incorrect evidence. In the case of an academic qualification, the award may be rescinded if it is established that academic misconduct has taken place, or as an outcome of the Fitness to Practise Procedure.

Approval of new Qualifications

27 Academic Council will consult widely before approving a new qualification. It will consider proposals in the context of the existing University qualifications and their relationship to each other and to the qualifications of other bodies. In particular, it will consider:

- its position within the national qualifications frameworks;
- the characteristics and level of the proposed qualification that would both distinguish it from existing qualifications and relate it to them;
- the suitability of existing qualifications for the proposed course;
- the likely demand for, and recognition of, the proposed qualification by institutions, students and employers.

28 The procedures for submitting a new qualification for approval are contained in section A of the Academic Quality and Standards Handbook.

Dual, Double and Joint Awards

29 The University will consider proposals for dual, double and joint award arrangements. Further information is available in the [Academic Quality and Standards Handbook](#).

Certification (Certificate / Higher Education Achievement Report)

Certificate

30 The University shall confirm that a qualification has been conferred by the production of a certificate recording:

- the name of Kingston University
- the student's name as registered with the University
- the qualification obtained and any classification
- the approved title of the course (if any)
- if appropriate, the name of any other institution sharing responsibility for the student's course of study or research (as designated in an

institutional agreement)

- 31 The certificate shall include the University logo and shall bear the signature of the Vice-Chancellor and the Academic Registrar (Regulations, Assessment and Student Casework). The certificate for Joint Awards will also include the partner institution(s)'s logo and the signature of the partner institution(s)'s senior officer.
- 32 The certificate will include a statement that it is accompanied by a diploma supplement, which will be provided in the format of the Higher Education Achievement Report ('HEAR').
- 33 The certificate requirements apply to all awards of the University, including Dual, Double and Joint Awards.

Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)

- 34 The University shall provide all students who complete a qualification with a Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR). This incorporates the model developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES for the Diploma Supplement. It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the student named on the qualification.
- 35 Kingston University will normally produce HEAR in a digital format. Only HEARs accessed via GradIntel can be considered valid and verified. Hard copy Diploma Supplements will only be produced as exceptional cases, e.g. when a replacement for a previously published Diploma Supplement is requested.
- 36 The HEAR will include a summary transcript including the following information:
 - the holder of the qualification
 - the qualification achieved
 - the level of the qualification
 - the mode of study
 - language of delivery and assessment
 - the contents and results gained, including the marks, grades and the attempt number
 - the function of the qualification
 - additional information
 - certification of the HEAR
- 37 In the case of all collaborative provision, the HEAR will refer to:
 - information about the partner institution(s), including the location of the partner institution(s)
- 38 In the case of a double award, the HEAR will refer to:
 - the double nature of the award
 - information about the partner institution(s), including the location of the partner institution(s)

39 In the case of a joint award, the HEAR will refer to:

- the joint nature of the award
- information about the partner institution(s), including the location of the partner institution(s)

40 The HEAR shall be signed on behalf of Academic Council by the Academic Registrar (Regulations, Assessment and Student Casework).

Annex 1

Qualifications Approved by the University

- 1 For each qualification, the University has established a benchmark definition to take account of the OfS Sector-recognised standards. The University offers courses leading to qualifications at level 4, level 5, level 6, level 7 and level 8. Further information on Outcome Classification Descriptors is available in [Academic Guidance 1: University Level and Outcome Classification Descriptors](#).
- 2 The University does not confer level 3 awards. A statement of credit will be issued for students who exit at level 3.
- 3 The credit requirements and conditions for generic awards at each level are outlined in the relevant sections of this annex. Approved variants for specific awards are outlined in [AR2 Undergraduate Regulations](#), [AR3 Postgraduate Regulations](#), [AR4 Research Regulations](#) and [AR10 Degree Apprenticeship Regulations](#). Further detail for the award requirements for each course are available in the [programme specification](#).

Level 4 Qualifications

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)

- 4 This qualification requires the equivalent of one year full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
 - at least 120 credits at level 4 or above.

Level 5 Qualifications

Higher National Diploma

- 5 The University has a Licence Agreement with Pearson to deliver Higher National qualifications. This qualification typically has a vocational orientation, with a focus on enabling students to perform effectively in their chosen field. The Higher National Diploma requires the equivalent of two years full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
 - at least 120 credits at level 4 and
 - 120 credits at level 5

Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)

- 6 This qualification requires the equivalent of two years full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
 - at least 240 credits at level 4 or above
 - of which at least 120 credits must be at level 5 or above

Foundation Degree

- 7 This qualification requires the equivalent of two years full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
 - at least 240 credits at level 4 or above;
 - of which at least 120 credits must be at level 5 or above.
- 8 The University has approved a number of subject specific Foundation degrees:
 - Arts Foundation Degree (FdA)
 - Engineering Foundation Degree (FdEng)
 - Science Foundation Degree (FdSc)

Level 6 Qualifications

Bachelors Degree (Ordinary)

- 9 This qualification requires the equivalent of three years full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
 - at least 300 credits at level 4 or above
 - of which at least 180 credits must be at level 5 or above
 - and of which at least 60 credits must be at level 6 or above

Bachelors Degree with Honours

- 10 This qualification requires the equivalent of three years of full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
 - at least 360 credits at level 4 or above
 - of which at least 240 credits must be at level 5 or above
 - and of which at least 120 credits must be at level 6 or above
- 11 The University has approved the following Honours degrees:
 - Bachelor of Arts (BA Hons)
 - Bachelor of Science (BSc Hons)
- 12 The University has approved the following Honours degrees which may lead to professional registration within a discipline:
 - Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA Hons)
 - Bachelor of Engineering (BEng Hons)
 - Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons)
 - Bachelor of Midwifery (BMid)
 - Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst Hons)
- 13 The University has approved the following specific Honours degrees which are specialist to the associated discipline but are not linked to professional registration:
 - Bachelor of Music (BMus Hons)

Bachelors Degree with Honours top-up

- 14 This qualification requires the equivalent of one year full-time study. It requires the achievement of at least 120 credits at level 6 or above.

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma

- 15 The Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma require graduate level entry or its equivalent. The qualifications exceed the demands of an undergraduate qualification in terms of level, but does not meet the full level 7 learning outcomes required of postgraduate level qualifications.
- 16 The Graduate Certificate requires the equivalent of at least six months of full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
- a minimum of 60 credits at levels 6 or 7. Normally, no more than 25% of the credit should be at level 7.
- 17 The Graduate Diploma requires the equivalent of at least one year full-time study. It requires the achievement of:
- a minimum of 120 credits at levels 6 or 7. Normally, no more than 25% of the credit should be at level 7.

Level 7 Qualifications

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)

- 18 The Postgraduate Certificate requires the achievement of a minimum of 60 credits at levels 6 or 7, of which at least 45 credits must be at level 7.

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PgCertHE)

- 19 The Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education is reserved for courses preparing candidates to teach in a Higher Education setting and may lead to professional registration. The qualification requires the achievement of a minimum of 60 credits at levels 6 or 7, of which at least 45 credits must be at level 7.

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

- 20 This qualification is reserved for courses preparing students for qualified teacher status. It requires the achievement of:
- a minimum of 60 credits at level 7 and;
 - a pass in the zero credit Professional Practice module (for Qualified Teacher Status).

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)

- 21 The Postgraduate Diploma requires the achievement of a minimum of 120 credits at levels 6 or 7, of which at least 90 credits must be at level 7.

Masters Degrees

- 22 The University has a number of different types of Masters degrees at level 7.

Masters Degrees within the Undergraduate Regulations (Integrated Masters)

23 An Integrated Masters degree is an Undergraduate course that combines study at Undergraduate and Master's level and leads directly to the award of a Masters level final qualification. These qualifications require the equivalent of four years of full-time study and the achievement of:

- at least 480 credits at level 4 or above
- of which at least 360 credits must be at level 5 or above
- and of which at least 240 credits must be at level 6 or above
- and of which at least 120 credits must be at level 7

24 The University has approved the following Masters Degrees within the Undergraduate Regulations which may lead to professional registration within a discipline:

- Master of Engineering (MEng)
- Master of Chemistry (MChem)
- Master of Computing (MComp)
- Master of Environmental Science (MEnvSci)
- Master of Osteopathy (MSt)
- Master of Pharmacy (MPharm)
- Master in Science (MSci)
- Master of Architecture (MArch)

25 The University has approved the following specific Masters Degrees within the Undergraduate Regulations which are specialist to the associated discipline but are not linked to professional registration:

- Master of Pharmaceutical Science (MPharmSci)

Masters Degrees within the Postgraduate Regulations

26 Postgraduate Masters degrees require the equivalent of one year full-time study and the achievement of:

- at least 180 credits at level 6 or above, of which at least 150 credits must be at level 7.

27 The University has approved the following Postgraduate Masters degrees:

- Master of Arts (MA)
- Master of Science (MSc)

28 The title of Master of Arts (MA) shall be generally used in art and design and the humanities. The title of Master of Science (MSc) shall be generally used in technology, science or engineering and their applications. In areas where either title may be used, such as health, education, social or business studies, the title will be based on the curricular focus of the course and will reflect prevailing norms across the higher education sector.

29 The University has approved the following Postgraduate Masters degrees which may lead to professional registration within a discipline:

- Master of Architecture (MArch)
- Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)
- Master of Midwifery (MMid)
- Master of Social Work (MSW)

30 The University has approved the following Masters Degrees within the Postgraduate Taught Regulations which are specialist to the associated discipline but are not linked to professional registration:

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Fine Arts (MFA)
- Master of Laws (LLM)
- Master of Music (MMus)
- Master of Philosophical Studies (MPhilStud)
- Master of Research (MRes)
- Master of Teaching and Learning (MTL)

Masters Degrees by Research

31 The University has approved a Master of Arts and a Master of Science by research. These qualifications require the equivalent of one year of full-time study and the achievement of:

- a minimum of 180 credits at level 7

These qualifications are covered by research degree regulations (Academic Regulations 4: Research Degrees).

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

32 The Master of Philosophy is a research degree that requires the equivalent of two years of full-time study and the achievement of:

- a minimum of 360 credits at level 7

The qualification is covered by research degree regulations (see Academic Regulations 4: Research Degrees).

Level 8 Qualifications

33 The University has a number of different types of qualification at this level:

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Professional or taught Doctorates

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

34 This qualification is reserved for honours graduates who demonstrate the ability to conduct original independent research that makes a significant contribution to knowledge in their academic field. A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a supervised research degree which is equivalent to three years of full time study from initial PhD registration, or six years of part time study from initial PhD registration. The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is awarded by the University in

recognition of the successful completion of a period of supervised research and training which culminates in a thesis containing material of a standard appropriate for peer-reviewed publication, and which is presented and defended to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Professional Doctorates

35 These qualifications are reserved for students who have already successfully completed a recognised course leading to the award of a Masters Degree and who have extensive professional experience at an appropriate level. They will have satisfactorily completed a course that has required them to make a significant contribution to the enhancement of professional practice through the development and application of theoretical frameworks. Where the qualification is credit rated, students will be expected to achieve a minimum of 540 credits, including at least 360 at credit level 8.

36 The University has approved the following Doctorate degrees:

- Doctor of Biomedical Science (DBMS)
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- Doctor of Occupational & Business Psychology (DOBPpsych)

APPENDIX 1**Policy/Regulation Detail Information**

Policy/Regulation owner	Academic Registrar (RASC)
Policy/Regulation Department owner	Academic Registry
Committee(s) responsible for review and approval	Regulatory Framework Committee to Academic Council
Version number	2027-2027.1
Periodic review frequency	Every six years
Last review date	2025-2026
Next review date	2031-2032