

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Extract from Report from the Masters Framework Working Party
(1367b/2008, UEC 9 April 2009)

6. Recommendations

1. That the University adopt as the common framework for graduate coursework in the University.

- (a) That graduate qualifications are based on student achievement of learning outcomes and objectives commensurate with the level of the qualification.
- (b) That a Graduate Certificate normally consists of 24 units or half a year full-time equivalent to be completed at graduate level.
- (c) That a Graduate Diploma normally consists of 48 units or 1.0 full-time equivalent year duration to be completed at graduate level. If there is variation from this structure eg 36 units as is currently offered in some Colleges, the reasons for such structures should be made explicit.
- (d) That a Master degree normally requires:
 - (i) 96 units plus a three year Bachelor degree (3+2 model), or
 - (ii) 48 units after
 - a three year Bachelor degree with or without relevant workplace learning/experience depending on the program and the desired student learning outcomes; or
 - a four year Bachelor degree or successful completion of four years of tertiary study (4+1 model).

Thus the duration (units) of an ANU coursework master degree is based on the credentials of the student and the nature of the academic program, that is whether it be the acquisition of new skills and knowledge in a new area or professional updating or reorientation. It could also be linked to the type and amount of work experience of the student, noting the University's policy in relation to the recognition of prior learning.

2. That all master degrees should be structured to include an optional pathway to higher degree research. For example, this could consist of a research option pathway (within the program duration) or an additional 24 to 48 unit research project. The latter could lead to a master degree with Honours.

3. That future graduate coursework proposals be consistent with this proposal except where there are compelling reasons not to, such as professional registration requirements or national and international best practice.

4. That Colleges examine their current graduate coursework offerings for consistency with the framework and except where there are compelling reasons not to, make their graduate coursework program consistent with this framework. This might be done as part of a program review process.

5. That program descriptions and outlines lay out clearly the program entry requirements and pathways, including possible exit points.

6. That the University develop web-based materials which explain the framework structure of coursework master programs.