

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Report from the Masters Framework Working Party

1. Establishment of the review

In April 2008 the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) established a working party with representatives from all ANU Colleges to review the graduate coursework structures within the University, specifically to

- identify existing graduate coursework structures and how these are used within the University;
- recommend a common framework to be adopted across the University for graduate coursework programs; and
- identify pathways from graduate coursework to higher degree research.

As it consists entirely of research, the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) was not considered in the context of this review.

A list of members of the working party is at [Appendix A](#).

The working party met three times: in April and August 2008; and January 2009. Working party members exchanged information on the various graduate coursework programs offered by their Colleges and discussions focussed on identifying the differences in the nature and structure of these programs. A number of iterations of the document were circulated and commented on electronically.

2. The international, Australian and ANU contexts of graduate coursework

In undertaking the review the working party noted the position of graduate coursework within international and national contexts and the operating environment of the ANU.

The International context

The Bologna process aims to create a European Higher Education Area by 2010. A key strategy to achieve this objective is to enable greater compatibility and comparability of systems of higher education. A key objective is the adoption of a system based on two main cycles, undergraduate and postgraduate, with access to the second cycle requiring successful completion of first cycle studies, lasting a minimum of three years. The second cycle should lead to the master and /or doctorate degree.

In the United States, master degrees generally take two years to complete, but this can be shorter or longer, depending on the structure of the program and the prior preparation of the student. Master programs in law for example in the USA and UK are almost invariably one year in length. Master degrees may be terminal professional qualifications or second degrees which may or may not lead to PhD studies.

There is no single model for the structure of graduate studies in Asia. At NUS, master degrees are designed to prepare students for the practice of a profession or to master a discipline prior to undertaking the PhD. Master degrees at NUS are generally 1.5 to 2 years in length, though some programs are shorter. NUS offers some Graduate Diplomas which are terminal qualifications that provide limited professional training in a niche area. Master degrees at the University of Tokyo also are generally two years in length.

The Australian context: the Australian Quality Framework (AQF)

The Australian Qualifications Framework (<http://www.aqf.edu.au/aqfqual.htm>) articulates a series of national qualifications encompassing schools, VET and Higher Education. Under these guidelines Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas are viewed as professionally oriented programs with the Graduate Certificate of six months and the Graduate Diploma of 12 months duration.

Master programs have been framed as either Coursework, Research or Professional. As a general guide Masters require two years of study post a 3 year Bachelor degree and one year post a Bachelor-Honours degree or four year Bachelor degree. The framework also articulates a pathway with nested component Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas – viewed as both entry and exit points. Since the commencement of this review the Government has announced its intention to review and clarify the AQF and the inconsistency of its application in the Australian Higher Education sector.

The ANU context

Graduate coursework education at the ANU takes place within the context of the University's educational planning and governance arrangements and the academic standards which the University expects its students to attain. These are set out in detail in the document *Defining Graduate Coursework at ANU* at [Appendix B](#).

In 2005 the University undertook a review of graduate coursework which was more wide-ranging than the current review and thus considered marketing and recruitment; academic matters such as curriculum, pedagogy and assessment; growth areas and areas from which the University should disengage; and academic structures. The recommendations of the 2005 review included a standard template for coursework master programs, based on a CBE model. This template delineated different student entry points dependent on area of previous study. Students from non-cognate areas needed to undertake a 4 course Graduate Certificate prior to entry with a further 4 courses allowing award of a conversion Masters. For students coming from a cognate area the model differentiated between pass and credit award students in what was needed to gain entry to the conversion and Advanced model. At that time there was no overt provision for RPL, especially workplace experience.

A copy of the template framework recommended by the 2005 review is at [Appendix C](#).

3. Current graduate coursework structures and their purpose

Influences on graduate coursework

The working party identified four main factors influencing the structure of graduate coursework programs. These are:

- the expertise, work experience and academic background of the incoming student (eg performance in previous award programs and relation of previous study to graduate program);
- disciplinary norms and standards;
- professional accreditation requirements; and
- positioning of the award within the market.

In relation to this final point, there is often a task of balancing academic standards and market forces. The international student market illustrates this balance, with many universities offering one year full-time Master programs to attract international students. At the same time the requirements for graduate skilled migration require a program of two years duration full-time (92 weeks) – a major influence of international student choice.

Coursework master degrees

Coursework master degrees at the ANU have the following characteristics:

- The length of programs varies between eight courses (48 units, normally one year full-time equivalent) to 16 courses (96 units, normally two years full-time equivalent).
- Programs can consist entirely of coursework or a combination of coursework and research.
- Programs tend to be one of three types

Specialist and professional programs

- To provide students with greater depth or breadth of expertise in a professional area (eg Law)
- To enable students to meet the requirements for professional registration (such as the Master of Clinical Psychology and Master of Accounting and Master of Professional Accounting)

Conversion programs

- To enable students to acquire expertise in a discipline or professional area, other than that of their undergraduate studies

Research programs

- To enable students to deepen or broaden their expertise in a discipline area, with those programs placing greater emphasis on research generally being pathways into PhD programs

Program length, structure and purpose are sometimes linked: eg M.Anthropology - 1 year; MA (Anthropology) 2 years, with the distinction between the two awards being the inclusion of a research component in the latter. In contrast both the M Business = 1year and M Business Administration = 2 years are both 100% coursework. There are also Master degrees of 72 units (normally 1.5 year's duration) such as the MA (Strategic Affairs) which combines coursework and research and a double master of 1.5 years duration in the M Diplomacy/M International Affairs.

Graduate Diplomas

At ANU Graduate Diplomas are of either 36 or 48 units and between 0.75 and 1 year's duration. Under the AQF guidelines, the typical requirement for the Graduate Diploma is twelve months of full-time study. At ANU, Graduate Diplomas can be the pathway for Bachelor graduates to enter a non-cognate master degree (CAP; CASS) or they can be 'terminal' qualifications (Music; Law; Science; Commerce). Graduate Diplomas can be used to filter programs for international students whose progression depends satisfactory performance (COS; CASS). The Graduate Diploma can also be an exit point for students who enrol in a master program but do not complete their studies.

The distinction between the 48 unit Master and 48 unit Graduate Diploma is based on expectations of student learning outcomes. Specifically, students completing awards at the Master degree and Graduate Diploma level would have a level of achievement and depth of knowledge commensurate

with the University's expectations of students at these levels. Programs can also be distinguished by their entry requirements and many 12 months Master programs require students to have completed an Honours degree or four-year undergraduate degree in a cognate discipline; students entering a 12 months Graduate Diploma will often have a three year degree, possibly in a non-cognate area.

Graduate Certificates

Consistent with the AQF guidelines, Graduate Certificates at the ANU comprise 24 units or one semester of full-time equivalent study. The requirement for entry into a Graduate Certificate is normally a Bachelor degree.

In the Colleges of Asia and the Pacific (Crawford School) Business and Economics and Science Graduate Certificates are a point of entry into postgraduate study, particularly for students with a background in a non-cognate academic area or where there are doubts about a student's capacity to undertake a Master program. Students successfully completing the Graduate Certificate can articulate into related Graduate Diploma and Master Degree. The Graduate Certificate also provides an exit point for students, including those who initially enrol with the intention of completing Graduate Diplomas or Master degrees.

One Graduate Certificate, the Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law and Practice, satisfies the requirements for professional registration. Students who complete this qualification are eligible for registration as migration agents.

The Graduate Certificate in Music Performance is an 'outlier'. It comprises 48 units, but taken over two semesters part-time. The Graduate Diploma in Music is also 48 units.

Where there is doubt about a student's capacity to undertake a master program, the student may be enrolled in a Graduate Certificate or Diploma which allows the student to demonstrate his/her academic potential and/ or develop disciplinary understanding.

4. A common framework for graduate coursework

Given these variations in the structure of graduate coursework across the University, it can be a difficult task to provide clear, simple and consistent advice to students about program entry and requirements. This task would be facilitated by a common framework with the flexibility to accommodate the various structures used in graduate coursework programs and the varying academic backgrounds of students seeking to enter graduate coursework programs.

Key elements in such a framework are entry and exit points and pathways through award structures and the desired graduate skills, standards and learning outcomes.

The normal expectation for eligibility to undertake a graduate coursework program at ANU is a Bachelor degree. In some instances, particularly in more specialised programs, in CBE for example, there is an additional requirement for a demonstrated high level of academic performance in the relevant undergraduate program.

Recently RPL pathways into graduate coursework programs have been developed and endorsed by the UEC. These are presented in [Appendix D](#). In brief these allow consideration for entry on the basis of a portfolio of non degree materials including VET qualifications and workplace experience and training.

4.1 Principles

- (i) Students entering with a **Bachelor degree** seeking to undertake studies in a **new discipline area** would complete a Master degree of 48 to 96 units (normally one or two years full-time equivalent study), with two year programs likely to have possible exits at the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma level. The final semester of a two-year program might comprise coursework or a research project or a combination of the two. Students intending to undertake a research degree would be required to undertake the research project to meet the Higher Degree Research entry requirements.
- (ii) Students with a **Bachelor degree** in a **related discipline** would normally be expected to complete the Master program in 1.0 to 1.5 years though this may vary according to the student's academic background and performance in the program.

Students with an **honours degree** or a **four year undergraduate degree** in a related discipline could complete a master program in one year.

The working party also identified a structure which consisted of two semesters of courses and one to two semesters of research which might lead to acceptance into a PhD program.

The working party noted that some graduate coursework programs are tied to professional accreditation requirements eg Graduate Diploma in Migration Law. These should remain as they are.

Graduate Studies Select

This program consists of one year full-time equivalent of courses leading to the award of Master of Studies. This master program does not lead to specialist skills, professional accreditation or higher degree research, but has a flexibility which allows students to acquire general skills across a broad range of disciplines. Depending on the courses selected, it can provide the academic grounding for students to enter more specialised master programs.

Program duration

Academic program requirements in the University generally assume a candidate will complete a specified number of academic units over a specified period of time. Units are linked to the successful completion of courses. The University wishes to break the link between duration of candidature and academic units by allowing students to be given credit provided they can demonstrate that they have acquired the skills and knowledge appropriate to the course or program. In order for this to happen, course and program learning outcomes and objectives will need to be clearly articulated.

5 Pathways into Doctoral Research Programs

Students seeking entry to a doctoral research program must demonstrate the capacity to undertake research. This is most often done through an honours degree or the completion of a research project during a graduate coursework program. The common structure above offers scope for students to undertake a research project during the course of their program, with academic areas having the scope to determine the size (in terms of units) of the research project. Two pathways are possible: a one semester project within a coursework program, usually a 'capstone'; or a one or two semester research project.

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.

APPENDIX A

Membership of the working party

Professor Elizabeth Deane (Chair)

Dr Barbara van Leeuwen (CoS)

Dr Kylie Message (CASS)

Dr Anna Cowan (CMHS)

Dr Chris Johnson (CECS)

Dr Alex Clarke (CBE)

Mr Gary Tamsitt/ Professor Don Rothwell (Law)

Dr Rob Ayson (CAP)

APPENDIX B

Defining graduate coursework at ANU

1. *ANU by 2010* expresses ANU's intention to set the standard in education, and stresses the importance of College plans embracing innovation and flexibility in our educational programs, linking strategically across the ANU campus. These Guiding Principles set out the fixed points required to set educational standards, promote flexibility, enable innovation, and link across the campus.
2. The Guiding Principles
 - a. constrain minimally and shapes College autonomy in the design and delivery of Graduate Coursework;
 - b. recognise that ANU students often study campus-wide, and have a reasonable expectation of common experiences in the Colleges; and
 - c. anchor the academic quality of ANU graduate coursework.
3. Graduate Coursework is defined by the expectation that students are sophisticated learners, having attained the standards of learners who have successfully completed an undergraduate award equivalent to that at a good Australian university. Teachers and fellow students in ANU Graduate Coursework are entitled to know that all students in the class have reached this level of academic attainment. The ANU expects graduate students to undertake additional training if it is found that they have not attained the academic level implied by this criterion, including additional development of English language skills.
4. The ANU may admit students to graduate coursework by recognising appropriate prior learning (RPL) that has taken place outside formal undergraduate coursework. The university will take steps to ensure that students admitted in this way are well supported, including advice on their prospects of successful completion.
5. ANU Graduate Coursework leads to the Awards of Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master, reflecting the extent of studies. The Awards relate to Programs of study that support students who aspire to a range of different intentions in their graduate coursework studies: extending and deepening their earlier undergraduate or graduate studies, branching out into new and broader professional studies, or pursuing a selection of studies responding to their changing appetite.
6. As an educationally intensive research institute, ANU places particular emphasis on research as a component of all education. Many Graduate Coursework programs offer opportunities for students to undertake research training and research. Graduate Coursework represent an important pathway into the ANU's research Awards such as the MPhil and particularly the PhD.
7. Programs and Courses are developed by Colleges consistently with approved College plans. College plans will normally include many of the following considerations:
 - a. Commitments to review, create and delete programs and courses systematically, in response to changing opportunities, and to capitalise on the research strengths of the College. The commitments will include opportunities to harmonise the College's programs and courses with this Master Plan where differences exist;

Criteria including metrics to evaluate the outcomes of the College graduate coursework offerings, and plans to respond to the evaluation;

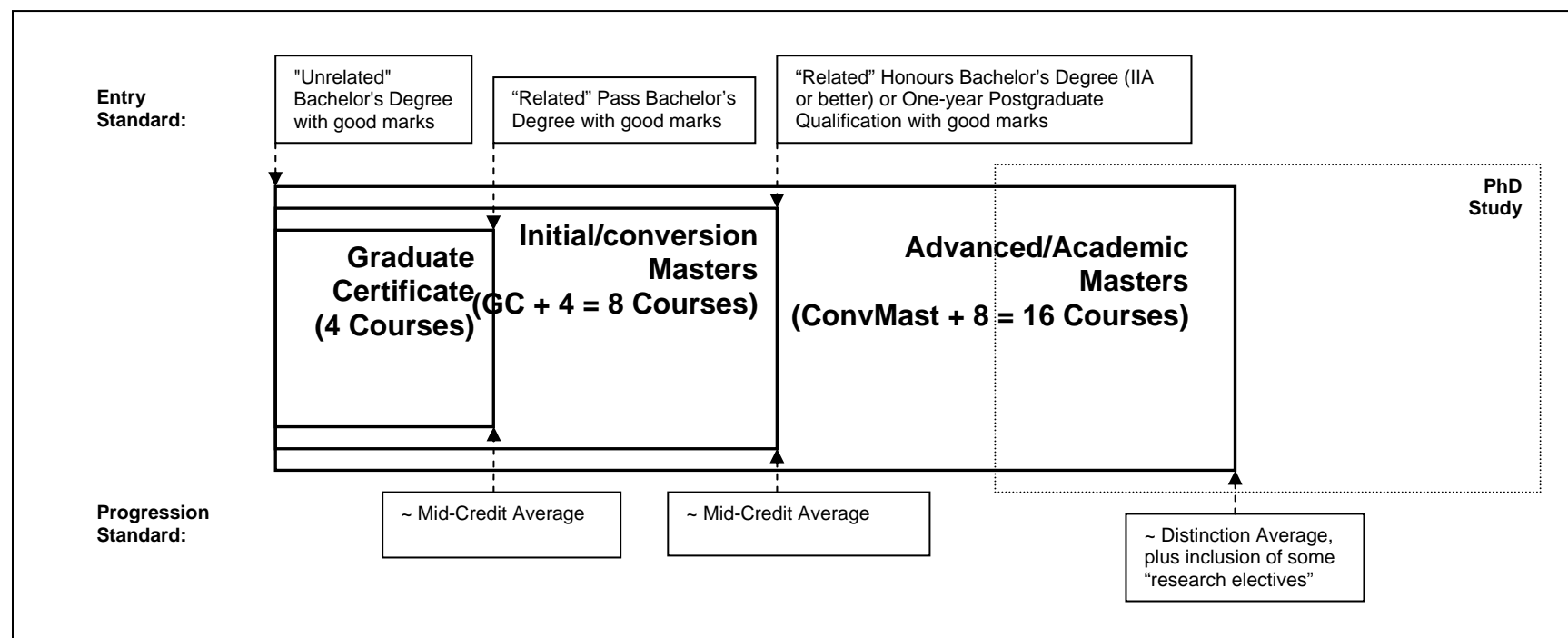
- b. Targets for commencement and load, relating to forecasts of revenue and predicted financial outcomes; and related plans to implement marketing and sales activities;
- c. Plans for new initiatives, such as enhancement of flexible learning opportunities, opening opportunities for research staff to engage in graduate teaching, and exploration of cross-College cooperation.

8. Colleges are responsible for setting out Program and Course objectives and for specifying the pattern(s) of Courses that build a Program. Within a Program, Courses often appear in sequences, specified through Pre-requisites, that build up to coherent, deeper studies in the subject. New Programs and Courses are presented in a standard format for approval by the University Education Committee. The Dean of the College is responsible for all aspects of the Programs and Courses offered by the College, including delivery and academic quality.
9. Eligibility for an Award is determined by the Program rules and the Pre-requisite requirements of Course Sequences within the Program.
10. The ANU offers a single campus-wide graduate coursework Program known as the Graduate Studies Program designed for students who wish to select Courses that do not lie within the approved study sequences for any College Program. The Graduate Studies Program leads to the Award of Master of Studies (and a suite of related awards) and is supervised by the Board of Studies.
11. The ANU specifies the Unit value of every Course. A student who successfully completes a Course is credited with the Unit value.
12. Although the ANU Unit is assigned a time equivalent, Graduate Coursework learning at ANU is not tied to fixed durations and fixed teaching periods; Colleges are encouraged to maximise the flexibility of Courses, including flexibility with respect to time and place of delivery.

Appendix C

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK DEGREE STRUCTURES

"Standard" Commerce/Statistics/Actuarial Studies/Finance/Economics Programs:



- NOTES:
1. Not all programs have Graduate Certificate Options.
 2. Statistics Program does not have "Conversion" Masters *per se*, but has two consecutive Certificates which can both be taken out to form an analog of the one-year Master option.
 3. Additional Standing is possible at each stage depending on the relevance and excellence of the previous study.
 4. Economics Program has Graduate Diploma Instead of "Conversion" Masters. Also, PhD study requires essentially the whole "Advanced" Masters.

Appendix D

Graduate Studies Program 7990X: Criteria for Admission and the Determination of Credit (Status) (at 19 August 2008)

Section 1 – Admission

Guiding principles:

A student admitted to GSS who subsequently seeks to transfer to another ANU College-based Award program will be reassessed for eligibility for that Award at the time of application, by the relevant ANU College.

Provisional admission to GSS will require the successful completion of at least two *transitional* courses (12 units) at pass level or better before admission is confirmed.

The time limit for completion of the Master of Studies is 12 years. Sub-rule 5.2(1) of the *Graduate Coursework Awards Rules* (GCAR) allows for time limits to be extended in reasonable circumstances.

International applicants from non-English speaking backgrounds must also meet the University's minimum English language requirements for admission.

Admission: University Award or an AQF award	A. Admission to GSS Program	B. Admission to GSS Course
Higher Education Awards at Bachelor, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Master and Doctorate level	A Bachelor or Higher award accredited by a recognised university will normally satisfy the requirements for admission to GSS. The complete academic history of an applicant will be reviewed. The ANU may elect to provisionally admit an applicant who reports an exclusion from a course or program.	Admission eligibility to any course in the GSS is a matter for the ANU Colleges offering the course, taking account of published pre-requisites, co-requisites and incompatibilities.
AQF Vocational Awards at Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, and Graduate Vocational levels. AQF Higher Education Awards at sub-Bachelor levels (Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree)	<p>ANU recognises AQF Vocational Awards as a basis for admission to the GSS, provided that there is also demonstration of preparation relevant to graduate studies (e.g. workplace experience; community participation; self-directed study; para-professional activities).</p> <p>Preparation is recognised in the following framework:</p> <p>(a) Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree: minimum of two years of relevant experience</p> <p>(b) Diploma: minimum of four years of relevant experience</p> <p>ANU may admit applicants with the above qualifications and preparation to the GSS. Where there is doubt about the relevance of preparation, provisional admission will be adopted.</p> <p>ANU may admit a student with an AQF Vocational Award who does not have the specified level of preparation through the Recognition of Prior Learning pathway (see below)</p>	The relevant ANU College or area is responsible at course level for individual student progression in a sequence of study. Students are advised that if they do not meet the College requirements they may continue in the program of study, but not necessarily in the courses of their choice.

Higher Education Graduate Courses	Successful completion of at least two Graduate courses (12 units ANU equivalent) accredited by a recognised university will qualify a candidate for admission to the GSS.	
Admission: Recognition of Prior Learning	A. Admission to GSS	B. Admission to GSS Course
<p>AQF Vocational Awards at Certificate I-IV level</p> <p>Other AQF Vocational Awards and Higher Education Awards without the required evidence of preparation (see Section 1)</p> <p>Formal learning including courses delivered by an RTO</p> <p>Informal learning</p> <p>These categories of learning are not in themselves an adequate basis for ANU to be confident that the applicant is likely to successfully complete graduate studies at ANU. All of these educational experiences will be evaluated by ANU under the GSS RPL framework</p>	<p>Admission based on RPL will normally be <i>provisional</i>.</p> <p>International applicants are not eligible for provisional admission.</p> <p>Students who seek individual admission to the GSS based on RPL will provide evidence of capacity and experience that would lead the ANU to accept that they may successfully complete the GSS award. Potential students may be required to undertake an interview and/or to sit for an entry test, and the ANU may charge a fee for this evaluation.</p> <p>Students may participate in GSS courses as part of a group formed (e.g.) by their employer. In this case, ANU may admit such students to the GSS without the level of documentation required for normal admission. Such students will be admitted provisionally. ANU will convert provisional admission to unqualified admission on receipt of the documentation required for admission on the basis of AQF Award (see above).</p>	<p>Admission eligibility to any course in the GSS is a matter for the ANU Colleges offering the course, taking account of published pre-requisites, co-requisites and incompatibilities.</p> <p>The richness of GSS offerings, combined with the existence of <i>transitional</i> courses ensures that every student admitted to the GSS (including those with provisional admission) will be eligible for a sequence of courses leading, at least, to a Certificate of Graduate Studies (i.e. 24 units of <i>transitional</i> courses).</p>

Section 2 – Credit (status)

<p>Guiding principles:</p> <p>(a) Division 2.2 of the Graduate Coursework Awards Rules, sub-Rules 2.7(1) to 2.7(6) will apply.</p> <p>(b) Credit (status) means recognition of a course or other relevant graduate work undertaken at the University or at a similar institution towards a student's academic program.</p> <p>(c) Credit (status) may be granted for not more than half of the award programs requirements or if the course is relevant to the academic program concerned and is undertaken at the University with the approval of the Delegated Authority for more than half of the program's requirements.</p> <p>(d) Credit (status) may be granted under sub-rule 2.7(4) for graduate work completed within 7 years before admission to candidature. The maximum duration for studies is up to 7 years for credit (status) plus 12 years enrolment in the GSS making 19 years.</p> <p>(e) Students undertaking the GSS may not apply through ANU for cross-institutional study with another provider. Students may undertake non-ANU courses and apply for Credit (status) on a case-by-case basis.</p>		
Credit: Higher Education and AQF	A. Credit (status): unspecified course/s	B. Credit (status): specified course/s

Courses and Awards		
<p>Graduate Award from a recognised University</p> <p>AQF Vocational Graduate Award</p> <p>Incomplete AQF Higher Education Graduate Awards</p> <p>Graduate Courses completed at a recognised University</p> <p>AQF Vocational Graduate Courses</p>	<p>Up to 12 units of unspecified credit can be given at <i>transitional</i> level for successfully completed Awards or Courses. Unspecified credit is available whether or not an equivalent course exists at ANU and is based on the ANU's evaluation of the case submitted by the applicant.</p> <p>The Delegated Authority may determine that the credit be categorised at one of the higher levels of advanced or specialist, following appropriate consultation, and depending on the field of study.</p>	<p>Consistent with sub-rule 2.7(3): Delegated Authorities will assess AQF Awards and/or Courses for specified credit (status) based on the case submitted by the applicant and which specifies the correspondence between the prior course and that for which credit is sought; and determine the course classification (<i>transitional, specialist or advanced</i>) in accordance with the following framework:</p> <p>(a) Certificate of Graduate Studies:</p> <p>Up to 12 units for specified credit at transitional level</p> <p>(b) Diploma of Graduate Studies (up to 18 units): Up to 18 units for specified credit at transitional level; or, up to 12 units for specified credit at transitional level and 6 units (maximum) for specified credit at advanced/specialist level</p> <p>(c) Master of Studies (up to 24 units): Up to 24 units for specified credit at transitional level; or a combination of units for specified credit at transitional and advanced/specialist level, provided that no more than 12 units (maximum) is granted at advanced/specialist level</p> <p>Note: The Delegated Authority may grant credit (status) for more than half of the program's requirements in respect of study undertaken at ANU, and must take account of any previous ANU awards made on the basis of that study to ensure that unreasonable double-counting does not occur.</p>
<p>Program Transfer into GSS Current enrolment in an ANU graduate award (includes approved leave of absence)</p>	<p>Up to 100% of courses completed towards an ANU graduate certificate, graduate diploma or master award may be transferred into the GSS program with marks and grades, and appropriate classifications (<i>transitional, specialist, advanced</i>) having been determined by the relevant Colleges. Credit (status) to be granted on transfer to the Graduate Studies Program from a PhD will be determined by the relevant ANU College Dean.</p>	
<p>Credit: Recognition of Prior Learning</p>	<p>A. Credit (status): unspecified course/s</p>	<p>B. Credit (status): specified course/s</p>

<p>AQF Vocational Awards at Certificate I-IV level</p> <p>Other AQF Vocational Awards and Higher Education Awards without the required evidence of preparation (see Section 1)</p> <p>Formal learning including courses delivered by an RTO</p> <p>Informal learning</p>	<p>No credit (status) will be offered for unassessed learning.</p>	<p>Students wishing to receive credit (status) for a specified GSS course to recognise informal studies, or courses offered by RTOs, or for formal studies at the AQF Certificate level must first identify an ANU course with content corresponding to that already completed. The student will need to formally enrol in the course and pay the relevant fee. The Course Authority can grant credit (status) upon satisfactory assessment against the course learning outcomes.</p> <p>No more than 25% of specified credit (status) can be granted in this category. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 units for the Certificate of Graduate Studies 9 units for the Diploma of Graduate Studies 12 units for the Master of Studies
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Table 1 List of AQF Awards summarised in the AQF Implementation Handbook	
VET Sector training awards	Certificate I Certificate II Certificate III Certificate IV
VET Sector higher education awards	Diploma Advanced Diploma Vocational Graduate Certificate Vocational Graduate Diploma
Degree awards	Associate Degree Bachelor Degree Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Masters Degree Doctoral Degree

acronyms

AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
AQF Awards	See Table 1
GSS	Graduate Studies Select
Informal and non-formal learning	Knowledge gained generally, work experience and/or life experiences
RPL	Recognised prior learning
RTO	Registered Training Organisation
VET	Vocational Education and Training

Definitions (taken from AQF Implementation Handbook and ANU Rules)

Award means a professional doctorate, Master degree, Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate, or an award under the Graduate Studies Program, mentioned in the Schedule (and *graduate award* has a corresponding meaning)

Note: that the Graduate Studies Program awards are ungraded: Pass/Fail for Certificate of Graduate Studies; Pass/Fail for the Diploma of Graduate Studies and Satisfactory/Fail for the Master of Studies degree.

Course means a subject of scholarly study taught:

- (a) in a connected series of classes or demonstrations; or
- (b) by means of practical work, including the production by candidates of essays or theses or case studies or the attendance and participation by candidates in seminars or workshops;

Note: ‘**undergraduate courses**’ as referred to in the *Graduate Coursework Awards Rules* (see subrule 2.7(6) regarding status and subrule 2.15(4) regarding courses undertaken for an award.) with regard to the Graduate Studies Program refers to those courses in the 1000-4000 ANU coded series. These courses are classified as “transitional”. Further, it is expected that students undertaking these courses do so only after consultation and in agreement with the relevant ANU College. Enrolment in an undergraduate course coded in the 1000-4000 series would appear as a course enrolment in the Graduate Studies Program and not as an undergraduate enrolment requiring credit (status).

Credit transfer assesses the initial course or subject that the individual is using to claim access to, or the award of credit in, the destination course to determine the extent to which it is equivalent to the required learning outcomes, competency outcomes, or standards in a qualification. This may include credit transfer based on formal learning that is outside the AQF framework.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is ‘an assessment process that assesses the individual’s non-formal and informal learning to determine the extent to which that individual has achieved the required learning outcomes, competency outcomes, or standards for entry to, and/or partial or total completion of, a qualification’.

Credit (status) means recognition of a course or other relevant graduate work undertaken at the University or at a similar institution towards a student’s program, and includes advanced standing and recognition of prior learning.