

The Academic Regulations Appendix 2: Approval of New Award Titles

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Edge Hill
University

The Academic Regulations

Appendix 2: Approval of New Award Titles

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Summary

Appendix 2 of the Academic Regulations describes the University's processes for approving new award types and awards for its Taught Degrees¹. These include: *Award Types*, e.g. 'Bachelor's Degree with Honours'; *Target Awards* on which students register, e.g. 'BA (Hons)'; and *Named Awards* e.g. 'BA (Hons) **English**', including named Alternative (Exit) awards. The guidance will be of use to academic departments and Faculties developing new taught degree awards for Institutional approval and describes the specific requirements for each level of award approval via the relevant Academic Board committees.

Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
Award Type	Describes the types of Taught Degree available at Edge Hill University. For example, Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree .
Target Award	Indicates the designation of a specific award within the Award Type. For example, BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), MA, MSc .
Named Award	Indicates the subject discipline of an award. For example, BA (Hons) English or MA History and Culture .

Purpose

This Appendix provides guidance to academic departments and Faculties on the University's processes for approving Taught Degree Award Types and the individual Awards that reside within them.

¹ Separate arrangements for the approval of Research Degrees are described within the [Research Degree Regulations](#).

Regulations

1. Award Type

Definition:

Award Types - **e.g. Bachelor's Degree; Master's Degree** - are defined by a series of benchmarks relating to the general level of knowledge and skills required to register for the award, and the qualification and study levels required to achieve the award². The Regulations describe the current approved Award Types for the University's Taught Degrees and their associated attributes³.

Approval:

The University's Award Types are comprehensive and consistent with those offered across the UK higher education sector. Addition of a new Award Type to the Regulations is granted by the Academic Board on receipt of a recommendation from the Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC), via its minutes.

Where this is necessary, the proposing Faculty are asked to seek initial approval from the Regulations Review Sub-Committee (RRSC)⁴ of the Learning and Teaching Committee through submission of a paper proposal, describing:

- The rationale for the addition of the new Award Type to the University's Academic Regulations.
- Its provenance within UK higher education, typically through reference to the national *Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-awarding Bodies* (FHEQ, QAA 2014⁵) and evidence of its use by other degree awarding bodies.
- The FHEQ level of the Award Type.

In its consideration of the proposal, the RRSC will consider:

- The requirements for progression and the award of credit including condonement of failed credit.
- Award classification.
- Award certification.

² See section B1.2 of the Academic Regulations at <http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/governance/strategies-policies/>.

³ Academic Regulations section B3.

⁴ Research Degree awards are described in the [Research Degree Regulations](#) (section N2) and new Award Types are considered for approval by the Research Degrees Sub-Committee which makes a recommendation to Academic Board through its minutes. For all committee Terms of Reference see Quality Management Handbook Chapter 8 at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/files/08-academic-governance.pdf>.

⁵ <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks>.

- Professional body requirements (where applicable).

2. Target Award

Definition:

A Target Award⁶ on which students register at the commencement of their studies indicates the award's specific designation within the Award Type, **e.g. (for Bachelor's Degree) BA (Hons), BSc (Hons); (for Master's Degree) MA, MSc**. The Regulations describe the University's current approved Target Awards and their associated attributes⁷.

Approval:

A new Target Award is likely to be associated with a specific programme development. A rationale for the Target Award will be included in the Application for Development Consent⁸ which is produced by the proposing Faculty for consideration by the Academic Planning Committee (APC). The rationale should indicate the proposed Target Award's provenance within UK higher education, typically through reference to the national FHEQ and evidence of its use by other degree awarding bodies. Addition of a new Target Award to the Regulations is by the Academic Board on receipt of a recommendation from the APC, via its minutes.

3. Named Award

Definition:

Programmes constitute Named Awards - **e.g. BA (Hons) English, MA History and Culture** - which consist of specified combinations of subject discipline modules that allow students to meet the overall award requirements in terms of learning volume (credits), level and subject specificity. Most programmes also contain Named Alternative/ Exit Awards⁹. The Regulations list all of the University's current approved Named Award Titles¹⁰.

Approval:

The proposing Faculty produces an Application for Development Consent which is received for consideration and approval by the APC. On approval,

⁶ See Academic Regulations section B5.1.

⁷ Academic Regulations sections B2 & B3.

⁸ See Quality Management Handbook Chapter 4 at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/files/04-programme-and-module-approval-and-modification.pdf>.

⁹ Academic Regulations section B6.

¹⁰ Academic Regulations Appendix 3.

the proposal proceeds to Institutional validation¹¹ where the rationale for the Named Award(s) is tested through academic peer scrutiny that includes appropriate subject externality. Final approval of Named Awards is by the Academic Quality Enhancement Committee and is reported to the Academic Board via the AQEC minutes.

All of the above processes must have been completed before students may be enrolled on a programme of study, and delivery commences.

Key to Relevant Documents

This policy refers to the following documents, which you may find useful.

- The Academic Regulations
- The Research Degree Regulations
- Quality Management Handbook

¹¹ See Quality Management Handbook Chapter 4 at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/files/04-programme-and-module-approval-and-modification.pdf>.

End matter

Title	Appendix 2: Approval of New Award Titles
Policy Owner	Head of Academic Governance and Quality Assurance
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