

The Academic Regulations 2018/19
Appendices
Appendix 2 – Approval of New Award Titles

APPROVAL OF NEW AWARD TITLES

This brief Appendix to the Academic Regulations outlines Edge Hill University's processes for approving the following categories of qualification award:

1. Award Type

Definition:

Awards Types, **e.g. Honours Degree, Integrated Masters, Masters Degree etc.**, 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 award¹. The regulations describe the University's current approved Award Types and their associated attributes².

Approval:

The University's Award Types are comprehensive and consistent with those offered across the UK higher education sector and the need to add a new Award Type to the regulations will be rare. Where this is necessary the proposing Faculty will seek approval via the Regulations Review Sub-Committee (RRSC)³ of the Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC) through submission of a paper proposal to RRSC 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 2014⁴) and evidence of its use by other degree awarding bodies.
- The FHEQ level of the Award Type.

In recommending approval of a new Award Type to Academic Board (via LTC) the RRSC will consider:

- The requirements for progression and the award of credit including condonement of failed credit
- Award classification
- Award certification
- Professional body requirements (where applicable).

¹ See section B1.2 of the Academic Regulations at <http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/governance/strategies-policies/>.

² Academic Regulations section B3.

³ A sub-committee of the Learning and Teaching Committee. Research Degree awards are described in the [Research Degree Regulations](#) (section N2) and new Award Types are considered for approval by the Graduate School Board of Studies (GSBOS) 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>.

⁴ <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>.

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Addition of a new Award Type to the regulations is by the Academic Board on receipt of a recommendation from the LTC via its minutes.

2. Target Award

Definition:

A Target Award⁵, **e.g. BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), MComp (Hons), MA, MSc etc.**, is the designation within an Award Type for which students register at the commencement of their studies. The regulations describe the University's current approved Target Awards and their associated attributes⁶.

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 Consent⁷ which is produced by the proposing Faculty for consideration by the Academic Planning Committee (APC, see also below). 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, MComp (Hons) Software Application Development, MA History and Culture etc.** These consist of specified combinations of modules validated for the Named Award that allow students to meet the overall award requirements in terms of credits, level and subject specificity. In addition to Target Awards, most programmes also contain Named Alternative/ Exit Awards⁸. The regulations list all of the University's current approved Named Award Titles⁹.

Approval:

The proposing Faculty produces an Application for Development Consent which is received for consideration by APC. On approval the proposal proceeds to institutional validation where the rationale for the Named Award(s) is tested through academic peer

⁵ See Academic Regulations section B5.1.

⁶ Academic Regulations sections B2 & B3.

⁷ See Quality Management Handbook Chapter 4 at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/files/04-programme-and-module-approval-and-modification.pdf>.

⁸ Academic Regulations section B6.

⁹ Academic Regulations Appendix 3.

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scrutiny that includes appropriate externality¹⁰. Final approval of the proposal including the Named Award(s) is by the Academic Quality Enhancement Committee and 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 commence.

¹⁰ See Quality Management Handbook Chapter 4 at <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/documents/files/04-programme-and-module-approval-and-modification.pdf>.