



NOTICE 3

**ECTS UPDATE JANUARY 2010**

This is the third update of the introduction of ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) in the academic year 2009/10 - see previous two notices below.

To ensure that the introduction of ECTS has a neutral effect on your academic record (QCA) the University may make adjustments to the factor weighting on your transcript – check the categories below to find out how this affects you.

**Categories for ALL students (undergraduate and postgraduate)**

1. **Students in Year 1 of a programme:** The programme is fully ECTS compliant and **no adjustments** are required.
2. **Students in Year 2 on a 3-year Part 2 undergraduate programme (i.e. Year 1 is Part 1 – and Years 2, 3, & 4 – is Part 2):** Part 2 of the programme is fully ECTS compliant and **no adjustments** are required.
3. **Students in Year 3 on a 3-year Part 2 undergraduate programme:** You have completed Year 2 with old UL credits. The weighting factor in year 3 and 4 is changed from 2 to 1 to neutralise the effect of ECTS credits.
4. **Students in Year 4 on a 3-year Part 2 undergraduate programme:** You have completed Year 2 and 3 with old UL credits. The weighting factor in year 4 is changed from 2 to 1 to neutralise the effect of ECTS credits.
5. **Year 2 students on a 2-year part 1 undergraduate programme:** You have completed year 1 with old UL credits. The Year 1 weighting factor is changed to 2 to neutralise the effect of ECTS credits.
6. **Year 3 students in a 2-year part 2 undergraduate programme:** Part 2 of the programme is fully ECTS compliant and **no adjustments** are required.
7. **Year 4 students in a 2-year part 2 undergraduate programme:** You have completed year 3 with old UL credits. The weighting factor in year 3 is changed from 1 to 2 to neutralise the effect of ECTS credits.
8. **Students on all other programmes that started prior to 2009/0 and are finishing with ECTS credits:** The weighting factor for the years taken before 2009/0 is changed from 1 to 2 to neutralise the effect of ECTS credits.



## NOTICE 1

### Issued on the Student Portal Monday Week 5 – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

Dear student

The University will move towards adopting the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in Academic Year 2009-2010.

ECTS is a system that has been adopted across Europe and most Irish universities have adopted it at this stage. In ECTS, credits describe the student workload only, in terms of the time required by the average student to achieve the stated learning outcomes of the programme or unit of study. This places the student at the centre of the process.

There are many advantages associated with the ECTS system and, in particular, for basing credit on student workload:

- it improves the comparability and compatibility of study programmes
- it makes study programmes more transparent
- it allows for more flexibility and diversity of pathways
- it makes it easier to construct well-balanced programmes
- it promotes the feasibility of programmes in terms of student workload
- it enhances the quality of programmes
- it promotes student mobility and facilitates the recognition of periods of studies taken elsewhere successfully
- it promotes and facilitates lifelong learning
- it facilitates the recognition of different types of learning (informal, non-formal, formal, distance learning, vocational education and training, etc.)
- it helps to encourage wider participation in higher education.

Eventually all UL programmes will be ECTS-compliant. That means that undergraduate programmes will (in the main) involve 60 ECTS credits of work per year; postgraduate programmes will vary between 60 and 90 ECTS credits per year, depending on whether those programmes entail a summer semester.

At this stage UL modules have been converted to ECTS credits. The decision has been taken to weigh UL modules in multiples of 3 ECTS credits: in practice most, but not all, modules will be worth either 6 or 9 ECTS credits.

We are moving to full ECTS-compliance on a phased basis across the University. All *incoming* students will register for courses that are fully-ECTS compliant (i.e. that have 60 credits per year for an undergraduate programme and 60 or 90 credits for a postgraduate programme). *Current* students (i.e. those entering 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year) will follow the identical programme to the one they started on, with the subject matter remaining the same. In these circumstances the credits may exceed 60 for the year



depending on the number of modules taken. The principal difference is that those modules will be have the new ECTS credits attached (i.e. 3, 6, 9, 12 etc).

**If you are an existing BBS/BBS & Languages student, please note that the BBS programme will move completely to ECTS compliance in September 09/10 i.e. all years of the existing programme have been converted to ECTS. In so doing, a small number of structural/module adjustments have been made to your programme.**

**When you pre-register for AY2009-2010 you will notice these small changes and the new ECTS credit weightings attached to the modules on your programme.**

The QCA calculation will not be affected since the relative weight of the modules you are taking will be the same. In order to maintain this relative weight some modules **may have** credits other than units of 3, 6, 9 etc:-

It is also important to note that, where relevant, the professional accreditation attached to your programme will be unaffected.

The ultimate objective underpinning the ECTS project is to enhance the student experience by ensuring greater transparency and flexibility in our programmes.

Professor Paul McCutcheon  
Vice President Academic and Registrar



NOTICE 2

**ECTS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Background**

The University of Limerick has adopted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) from Academic Year 2009-2010 onward - all modules now have [ECTS credits](#).

**Effect**

In the changeover from UL credits to ECTS, it is important to note the following:

1. The adoption of ECTS does NOT affect the QCA calculation
2. The relative weighting (factor weighting) on a course has not been changed.

However there will be a period of **transition** for students who enrolled on their programme **pre AY 2009/10** i.e. they will have a combination of UL and ECTS credits on their transcript. To ensure that this move to ECTS has a neutral effect on the QCA, there will be some adjustments to the factor weighting on the transcript record to maintain the relativity of module credits.

**Transition**

Students will be managed as follows depending on the structure of their programme:

1. **Undergraduate Programmes starting Part 2 in 2009/10.** There is no change (as the QCA calculator will be using ECTS credits for all of Part 2).
2. **Undergraduate Programmes with 3 Years in Part 2.** This will affect all students in Year 3 and 4 only in 2009/10 and onwards. These programmes will have the weighting of years 3 and 4 changed from 2 to 1, which will maintain the relativity of module credits.
3. **Undergraduate Programmes with 2 years Part 1 and 2.** This will affect:
  - (a) second year students going into year 2 of Part 1 in 2009/10, These programmes will have the weighting of year 1 (2008/09) retrospectively changed from 1 to 2 to neutralise the effect of ECTS credits.
  - (b) fourth year students going into year 2 of Part 2 in 2009/10. These programmes will have their weighting of year 3 (2008/09) retrospectively changed from 1 to 2 in to neutralise the effect of ECTS credits.
4. **All other programmes that do not have a Part number but have to finish their programme in ECTS currency regardless of duration.** These programmes traditionally had a factor weight of 1 for all semesters. Students on these programmes will have a weighting of 2 applied retrospectively in 2008/09 so that the effect of ECTS credits in 2009/10 will be neutralised.