

Understanding the qualifications framework



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This table provides an overview of the three stages which make up the OU Qualifications Framework

Undergraduate		
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
<p>Completion of this stage equates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ a certificate of higher education ▶ the completion of the first year at a campus-based university. 	<p>Completion of this stage equates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ a foundation degree or diploma of higher education ▶ the completion of the second year at a campus-based university. 	<p>Completion of this stage equates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ an honours degree ▶ the completion of the third year at a campus-based university.

On the next page, you will see how modules, levels and credits fit into each stage.

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This table provides details on modules, levels and credits for each stage of the OU Qualifications Framework

Undergraduate		
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Students will need 120 credits to complete Stage 1.	Students will need an additional 120 credits to complete Stage 2.	Students will need an additional 120 credits to complete Stage 3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Completion of each stage will involve studying more than one module, and could take more than one year to complete. Students are able to study at their own pace. ▶ Each module will be set at a particular level. This indicates how complex it is, or how deep the learning is. ▶ Each module will also be measured by the number of credits that can be built up by completing it. Typically, modules will offer either 30 or 60 credits. ▶ Students will need to complete 1 – 2 compulsory modules, in addition to a choice of core modules to make up the 120 credits required for each stage. 		
<p>The module levels will normally be set at Level 1. However, students may be also be required, or given the option, to complete, some modules which are set at Level 2.</p> <p>Students will accumulate 120 credits, and will be ready to proceed to Stage 2.</p>	<p>The module levels will normally be set at Level 2. However, students may be also be required, or given the option, to complete, some modules which are set at Level 1.</p> <p>Students will accumulate an additional 120 credits, bringing their total to 240 (made up of credits gained at Stages 1 and 2), and will be ready to proceed to Stage 3.</p>	<p>The module levels will be set at Level 3.</p> <p>Students will accumulate an additional 120 points, bringing their total to 360 credits (made up of the credits gained for all the three stages). They have now achieved their honours degree.</p>