For interim HEARS, these fields will indicate: ‘Programme is not yet completed’
Module marks and progress decisions are displayed here.

Registration dates for each academic year are provided.
Dissertation titles are displayed here.

The PG grading scheme is displayed here for students on PGT programmes.

The date your award was certified will also be displayed here.

Details of any programme accreditations are displayed here.
Any prizes, achievements and placements are displayed here.
INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description of Higher Education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

In the United Kingdom (UK), Higher Education (HE) is a devolved matter, with political oversight provided by the UK Government and Parliament (England), the Scottish Government and Parliament (Scotland), the Welsh Government and Parliament (Wales), and the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly (Northern Ireland). HE provision is offered by many different types of institution that are active in teaching, research, and scholarship. The term includes all publicly funded universities and other HE institutions, alternative HE providers that offer HE courses but do not receive annual public funding, and those further education colleges in England and Wales which offer HE level courses.

Degree Awarding Powers and University Title

The power to award degrees is regulated by law in the UK. Those organisations granted the power to award HE degrees are referred to as ‘Recognised Bodies’, and a full list of these is published by the UK Government. It is an offence for an organisation to purport to award, or to offer a UK degree, unless it is authorised to do so. Degree-awarding bodies often work with other providers that do not have degree awarding powers to deliver provision which leads to a qualification of the degree-awarding body. The List of Bodies Order confirms the providers that do not have the powers to award their own degrees, but offer programmes that lead to a degree of a Recognised Body (see https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised).

Qualifications

There are two parallel frameworks for HE qualifications of UK degree-awarding bodies, one that applies to Scotland and one that operates in the rest of the UK.

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)
- The Framework for Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions in Scotland (FQHEIS)

These frameworks are the principal national reference points for academic standards in UK HE. They meet the expectations of the Bologna Declaration and thus align with A Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA).

Quality Assurance

Academic standards are established and maintained by HE institutions themselves, using an extensive and sophisticated range of shared quality assurance approaches and structures. Standards and quality in institutions are underpinned by the use of external examiners, standards agreed and recognised by the sector, by the activities of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), and in professional areas by relevant professional, statutory and regulatory bodies. The sector standards are overseen by the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment, formed from partner organisations, providers and national HE regulators.

A cornerstone of quality arrangements across all four nations is the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, which was revised in 2018. The Quality Code articulates fundamental principles that apply to HE quality across the UK, irrespective of changing national contexts. It incorporates Expectations and Core Practices which are applicable to all providers in the UK, and Common Practices which only apply to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and can be accessed at https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code.

All institutions that possess degree-awarding powers of any kind must undergo quality assurance review activity as required by the relevant government:

England

The Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA) drives the regulatory and legal requirements of HE in England. The legislation can be found at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/29/contents/enacted. This Act established the Office for Students (OfS) and gave it responsibility for regulating the English HE sector. Its primary focus is the student interest in its duty as a market regulator. The OfS is responsible for risk-based monitoring of indicators relating to the baseline quality and standards of provision. It maintains the Register of HE providers in England, and implemented a regulatory framework in February 2018. https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/improving-student-success/regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/

Degree-awarding bodies in England must be registered with the OfS and meet all ongoing conditions of registration in order to retain degree-awarding powers. The OES has express powers to revoke degree-awarding powers for HE providers in England if conditions of registration are not maintained. The QAA is the designated body responsible for carrying out the quality and standards assessment functions for English HE, as set out in Section 23 of the HERA. Details of how the QAA conducts Quality and Standards Reviews on behalf of the OfS can be found at https://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education/types-of-review/quality-and-standards-review.

Northern Ireland

Funding for HE is directly provided by the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is currently operating under the QAA’s 2016 Higher Education Review method, with the expectation of introducing an enhancement-led model as part of any future reforms.

Scotland

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC), a non-departmental public body, is the strategic body responsible for funding Scotland’s teaching and learning provision and research. Scotland takes an enhancement-led approach to quality assurance with its Quality Enhancement Framework (QEF), which focuses on the whole student experience and its enhancement rather than on quality assurance.
This is standard text that is included on all HEAR documents that are produced nationally.