

<b>PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION</b>	 <b>Newcastle University</b>
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<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	Master of Science Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	Master of Science in Renewable Energy Postgraduate Diploma in Renewable Energy Postgraduate Certificate in Renewable Energy
<b>5</b>	<b>UCAS/Programme Code</b>	5122F/P 3401F/P 3034F/P
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	IMarEST; IMeche: IET; Energy Institute
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	n/a
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	M
<b>9</b>	<b>Date written/ revised</b>	December 2007

<b>10</b>	<b>Programme Aims</b>
<p>The aim of the MSc in Renewable Energy Flexible Learning (Reflex) is to provide high quality, and flexibly delivered, postgraduate training in renewable energy. The programme is suitable for graduates from a range of engineering and related disciplines and has been specifically designed to meet the needs of an expanding renewable energy industry in the UK and beyond,</p> <p>Reflex provides training in relevant aspects of mechanical, electrical, chemical, and marine and offshore engineering, and integrates this with the development of an understanding of management and policy issues, in order to produce graduates with a mix of skills which are tailored to the renewable energy technology industry.</p> <p>The programme aims to provide a qualification that meets Level M of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.</p>	

<b>11</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
<p>The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the areas listed below. Students on the MSc will achieve all the outcomes, while students on the Diploma and Certificate courses will achieve a proportion of the outcomes, relevant to the number of credits taken.</p>	
<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>A1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of current worldwide energy usage and its impact on climate.</p> <p>A2 Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the origins and distribution of different renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, wave, tidal and bioenergy).</p> <p>A3 Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the storage/conversion and integration of these renewable energy sources into existing systems.</p> <p>A4 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the operation and control principles of electrical power distribution networks and a basic knowledge and understanding of the structure of such networks and the roles of different energy sources in the provision of a national electricity supply.</p>	

A5 Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of a number of key non technical issues including policy, economics, system modelling, environmental issues and energy management.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Knowledge and understanding of A1 – A5 is generally taught via formal lectures, distance learning/self guided material and case studies, supplemented by seminars and tutorials. Students are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding by independent reading, for which they are given guidance in the distance learning/self guided material, use of the internet and discussing the subjects with their industry based colleagues and/or other students as well as teaching staff. The use of design exercises during the intensive schools and assessments and application after the intensive school also enable the student to learn and apply their knowledge to their area of personal interest.

**Assessment Strategy**

Knowledge and understanding are assessed via unseen written examination, course assignments and the project (MSc and PG Diploma students). For A1 and A2 this is supplemented by performance in design exercises, where appropriate.

**Intellectual Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 Evaluate current research and methodologies.
- B2 Demonstrate originality in identifying and considering problems.
- B3 Produce and critically appraise engineering solutions.
- B4 Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively.
- B5 Make sound judgments in the absence of complete data.
- B6 Review options and make decisions while considering a range of issues including technical, financial, environmental and policy.
- B7 Collate, analyse and evaluate data.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Intellectual skills are taught primarily through design classes, case studies and seminars. Development of these skills is particularly linked to industrial applications such as group and individual design exercises, post school assignments and, for MSc and PG Diploma, the final project.

**Assessment Strategy**

Intellectual skills are assessed by post school assignments, design exercises and presentations (where applicable).

**Practical Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1 Demonstrate a critical awareness of theoretical design concepts and their practical implementation within renewable energy systems.

C2 Use appropriate software packages and IT skills for modelling and simulation of renewable energy systems.

C3 Quantify resource potential and determine the appropriate renewable energy resource at a given site.

C4 Analyse the energy capture potential for solar, wind & hydro resources.

C5 Demonstrate practical measuring and auditing skills.

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Practical skills are highly relevant in this programme. Lectures and design classes are a key element to teaching practical skills. Design exercises during the modules and work based application as part of the post school study are the key methods for enabling the students to obtain and improve these important skills. In particular, design exercises require the student to apply theoretical work in a practical way, use a variety of software and organise and manage the design process.

#### **Assessment Strategy**

Practical skills C1 and C2 are essentially assessed via design exercises (where appropriate) and course assignments. Theoretical design concepts and practical implementation (C1) is also assessed via the unseen written examination.

#### **Transferable/Key Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to demonstrate:

D1 Initiative and personal responsibility.

D2 The ability to work independently for continuing professional development.

D3 The ability to solve problems.

D4 The ability to communicate effectively.

D5 Time and resource planning and management.

D6 The ability to identify IT needs and to use appropriate IT tools.

D7 The ability to use the Library and other information sources appropriately.

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

The key transferable skills are demonstrated in seminars and through the study skills information in the student handbook. This information is particularly important for the distance learning/self guided element of the programme. Expertise in these skills is developed by presentations (D4, D6), design exercises (D1, D2, D6), and assignments (D1, D2, D4, D6).

Problem solving ability (D3) is demonstrated in the exams and assignments for all modules. The distance learning material for all modules required that the students use information sources appropriately (D7), and the Project dissertation in particular requires this skill, which is introduced at the Induction Session. The distance learning aspect of this programme requires the students to manage their time effectively (D5) and to plan their resource and work load management.

The actual completion of the programme, including the distance learning/self guided pack (using a web based system), will, in itself, significantly develop key skills (D1, D2, D6). Many students will combine this study with commitments at work and at home.

## Assessment Strategy

Communication skills (D4) are the most assessed key skills. Assessment includes design exercises and course assignments. Initiative & personal responsibility (D1) are particularly assessed in the project work, though the distance learning method requires students to use their initiative and take responsibility for their independent study. The ability to work independently (D2) is assessed throughout by pre-school & post-school assignments and the exam. Use of IT skills (D6) is not directly assessed but students will need to be able to achieve this learning outcome in order to access the distance learning/self guided material and prepare assignments. The other skills (time management and lone working) are not formally assessed in the programme.

## 12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

### Basic structure of the programme

Duration of the course

The programme is delivered as a modular programme. Students may complete the programme in either full or part time mode.

### **Master of Science                      180 credits**

The minimum duration for the MSc is 1 year and the maximum duration is 5 years. All 12 taught modules are compulsory for the MSc, together with a 60 credit project:-

\*Resources

Energy Generation & Conversion  
Electrical Generation Systems  
Grid Systems  
Mechanical Power Transmission  
Wind & Hydro Energy Technology  
Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Technology  
Biomass & Waste Technology  
Policy, Politics & Ethics  
Marine & Offshore Devices  
Marine & Offshore Structures & Systems  
Energy Management

*\*compulsory module for the Diploma & PG Certificate.*

Each taught module is a 10 credit module and this equates to 100 hours study time.

### **Postgraduate Diploma              120 credits**

The minimum duration for the PG Diploma is 1 year and the maximum duration is 5 years. The compulsory module 'Resources' and 8 others must be studied from the list above together with a 30 credit project.

### **Postgraduate Certificate          60 credits**

The minimum duration for the PG Certificate is 6 months and the maximum duration is 3 years.

The compulsory module and 5 others must be studied from the list above.

There are no fixed stages for the programme.

The programme is designed for students working full time in industry and therefore needs to be as flexible as possible. Students choose which modules to complete each year.

<p><b>Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)</b></p> <p>The programme has a number of key features, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifically designed and developed to meet the needs of the renewable energy industry – a new and expanding industry which is supported by UK government and European Union policies.</li> <li>• Available in a full time and flexible part-time mode thereby offering maximum flexibility to students including providing students who work with the opportunity to study whilst staying in work. Modules are delivered by a combination of intensive schools and distance learning/self guided material, adhering to the guidelines in the Distance Learning Handbook produced by Newcastle University.</li> <li>• Programme involving specialist expertise from the both universities of Newcastle and Northumbria.</li> <li>• Distance learning material available via a web based IT system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme regulations (link to on-line version)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/">http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/</a></p>

<p><b>13 Criteria for admission</b></p> <p><i>Entry qualifications</i>  <u>A-Level Subjects and Grades:</u></p> <p>Maths/Science subjects preferred</p> <p><u>Undergraduate Degree:</u></p> <p>Bachelors Degree with Honours in an engineering-related, or cognate subject (e.g. marine, civil, electrical, mechanical or environmental engineering, applied Maths, or Physics (dependent on course content)). Class 2.2 or above.</p> <p><i>Admissions policy/selection tools</i></p> <p>All applicants will be considered based on their academic qualifications and their relevant technical industrial experience.</p> <p>All admissions will be undertaken in accordance with the equal opportunities policy set out in the Degree Programme Handbook.</p> <p><i>Non-standard Entry Requirements</i>  Applicants who do not meet the standard entry qualifications will be asked to submit a CV detailing academic qualifications and industrial experience. This will be reviewed by the Degree Programme Director on a case by case basis. Those not meeting entry standard levels may be advised on how the appropriate standard required can be achieved. The candidate will be informed of the outcome in writing.</p> <p><i>Additional Requirements</i></p> <p><i>Level of English Language capability</i></p> <p>IELTS Level 6  TOEFL 550</p>
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<p><b>14 Support for Student Learning</b></p> <p><i>Induction</i>  Students are encouraged to attend a two-day Reflex induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to the University's principle support services and information about the programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. Students will also</p>
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be given guidance on the project and IT literacy / Research Methods training. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/arrival/jan/index.phtml>)

#### *Study skills support*

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

Numeracy support is available through Maths Aid. Further details are available at:

[http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/news\\_details.php?news\\_id=159](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/news_details.php?news_id=159) Help with academic writing is available from the Writing Centre. Details can be obtained from [Alicia.Cresswell@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Alicia.Cresswell@ncl.ac.uk)

#### *Academic support*

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

#### *Pastoral support*

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. Details of the personal tutor system can be found at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/tutor.phtml>

In addition the University offers a range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team, the Mature Student Support Officer, and a Childcare Support Officer, see

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/welfare/index.phtml>

Reflex operates a Buddy System whereby new students are put in touch with existing students for informal peer support.

#### *Support for students with disabilities*

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies. For further details see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/disability-support/>

#### *Learning resources*

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities, see

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/facilities/index.phtml>

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. This is administered by INTO Newcastle University Centre on behalf of Newcastle University. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The INTO Newcastle University Centre houses a range of resources which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange. See <http://ncl.ac.uk/langcen/index.htm>

### **15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

#### *Module reviews*

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Liaison Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the

Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

*Programme reviews*

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

*External Examiner reports*

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

*Student evaluations*

All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies.

*Mechanisms for gaining student feedback*

Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Liaison Committee and the Board of Studies.

*Faculty and University Review Mechanisms*

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process, see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal\\_subject\\_review/index.php](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal_subject_review/index.php)

*Accreditation reports*

Reflex is accredited by:  
IMarEST; Energy Institute; IMechE and IET.

*Additional mechanisms*

## 16 Regulation of assessment

*Pass mark*

The pass mark is 50 (Postgraduate programmes)

*Course requirements*

Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/tpmdepr.pdf>) and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/tpmdeprexamconv.pdf>). Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40 is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

*Common Marking Scheme*

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

**Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes**

<50	Fail
50-59	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit
70 or above	Pass with Distinction

**Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes**

<50	Fail
50 or above	Pass

*Role of the External Examiner*

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:

- See and approve examination papers
- Moderate examination and coursework marking
- Attend the Board of Examiners
- Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus

The School Brochure (contact [enquiries@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ncl.ac.uk))

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/>)

The Degree Programme Handbook <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/reflex/docs/Handbook.pdf>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.



## Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D
SPG8001	Compulsory for MSc, Diploma & PG Cert	1, 2, 4, 5	1,6,7	3,	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8002	Compulsory for MSc	1, 3, 5	1,6,7		1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8003	Compulsory for MSc	1, 2, 5	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1,2	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8004	Compulsory for MSc	1, 2, 4, 5	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1,2	1,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8005	Compulsory for MSc	1	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8006	Compulsory for MSc	1,2,3	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1	1,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8007	Compulsory for MSc	1	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1,2	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8008	Compulsory for MSc	1	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8009	Compulsory for MSc	1,5	2,4,5,6,7		1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8010	Compulsory for MSc	1	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1	1,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8011	Compulsory for MSc	1	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	1,2	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
SPG8012	Compulsory for MSc	3,5	1,2,3,6,7	4,5	1,2,3,4,5,6,7