

C2.3 Programme Specification

Postgraduate Open Degree

Awarding Institution	University of Gibraltar									
Teaching Location	Europa Point Campus, Gibraltar									
Programme Title	Postgraduate Open Degree									
Final Award	Masters (Open)									
Level of Qualification¹	Level 7									
Mode of Delivery	FULL-TIME ☐ PART-TIME ☒									
Minimum and Maximum Registration Period	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Minimum registration</th><th>Maximum registration</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Full-time</td><td>X</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>Part-time</td><td>2 years</td><td>5 years</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Minimum registration	Maximum registration	Full-time	X	X	Part-time	2 years	5 years
	Minimum registration	Maximum registration								
Full-time	X	X								
Part-time	2 years	5 years								
Recognition by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	None.									
External reference points	The programme has been aligned with the UK QAA Masters Degree Characteristics. https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement8019abbe03dc611ba4caff140043ed24.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81_1_2 https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/UK-Quality-Code-for-Higher-Education-2013-18 https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf Lifelong Learning Act [UK 2023] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lifelong-learning-entitlement-lle-overview/lifelong-learning-entitlement-overview#:~:text=The%20Lifelong%20Learning%20Entitlement%20(%20LLE,flexibly%20over%20their%20working%20lives. Benchmarked against: https://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/qualifications/f81									

¹ UK Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

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Entry Requirements	A minimum of a second-class Undergraduate Honours degree. At least a good level of secondary-school Maths and English (GCSE, Grade C, Grade 5, or equivalent). Proven ICT skills in word-processing, database management, email and Internet are a requirement. Students must also be able to communicate their ideas effectively in writing, in discussions and media presentations. ENIC documentation must be provided for overseas qualifications to show comparability). Non-standard Entry Requirements: • Alternate entry into the Postgraduate Open Degree can be achieved through suitably documented extensive work experience relevant to the modules being selected by the prospective candidates. These instances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
English Language Requirements	If English is not the student's first language they must have one of the following qualifications as evidence of English language skills: • IELTS: 6.5 with 5.5 minimum in each skill • Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Grade C • Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): Grade B • Pearson Test of English (Academic): 60 with 51 in each component • IBT TOEFL: 90 with no subtest less than 17
Faculty/Department	School of Education
Date of Initial Approval	
Date last reviewed	
<i>In the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of this Programme Specification and the provisions of the current University of Gibraltar Academic Regulations contained within the published Quality Handbook, the provisions of the current Academic Regulations shall prevail.</i>	

1. Programme Outline

The Postgraduate Open Degree is designed to provide participants with the flexibility and freedom to build a programme of study specific to their personal interests and/or professional needs. It draws on the concepts of lifelong learning and continuous professional development, where individuals use education as a constant throughout their life rather than as an event confined to the achievement of one award early on in life. The programme looks to encourage those who may not wish to embark on a traditional, time-intensive 1 or 2 year programme to see the possibility of spreading their learning across interdisciplinary fields as per their interests or deepen their skills and knowledge around their professional disciplines.

The programme will draw upon a range of modules and micro-credentials currently delivered at the University of Gibraltar at postgraduate level [please see examples in Appendix A] and students will be able to select from these, building up to a 180 credit award at Level 7. Students will have the option to undertake the final 60 credits as a thesis and must then add the research studies module for an extra 15 credits.

2. Programme Aim/s

The aims of this programme are:

- to open up the access to higher education at a postgraduate level by providing a highly flexible format for the programme;
- to provide participants with greater freedom in the range of modules and micro-credentials that they might enrol which allows for a more personalised tailoring of learning;
- to enable participants to develop their personal capabilities as determined by their own understanding of their needs and interests;
- to develop the academic skills of participants.

3. Programme Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the programme the student will be able to:

A. Knowledge & Understanding	• demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of the module content as per each undertaken module's module descriptor's learning outcomes.
B. Intellectual Skills	• critically analyse issues raised within each module, drawing on evidence from theory, policy, research and practice; • critically evaluate the relationship between theories and professional practice (where applicable); • apply theories and concepts to a range of real-world contexts; • synthesise and lucidly evaluate alternative views to commonly accepted perspectives; • reflect critically on their skills, knowledge and understanding to support the development of critical thinking and understanding of the personal and professional self.
C. Practical Skills	• evidence/demonstrate their ability to handle ideas and scrutinize information in critical, evaluative and analytical ways; • plan and carry out complex projects e.g. independent research projects; • understand the significance and limitations of theory and research.
D. Transferable Skills	• express, present and defend ideas clearly and unambiguously in writing and through the spoken word; • actively listen and respond appropriately to the ideas of others when working cooperatively or collaboratively; • take responsibility for their learning and continuous personal development; • show sensitivity and respect for diverse values and beliefs and a professional commitment to ethical practices; • be systematic and methodical when working on projects, when problem-solving or when developing new processes/policies.

4. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

The assessment focus throughout is at a level 7 standard. Assessment methods reflect the theoretical and practical approaches of the modules.

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Knowledge and understanding of the principles of assessment for learning are reflected in the approaches to assessment on the taught programme.

The assessment methods comprise both formative and summative assessment. The formative assessment is designed to assess student's progress and to serve as feedback to both students and lecturers. The formative assessment methods include prompt feedback on course work, individual and group feedback on participatory exercises, student presentations and case studies, as well as reflective papers. It will thus progress the students' learning and provide an opportunity to feed forward into future summative

assessments. The aim of the summative assessment is to determine whether the student has met the relevant module learning outcomes, which in turn contribute to the overall programme learning outcomes. Feedback on formative and summative assessments will be delivered in a timely manner (typically within 20 working days) and will assist students to improve in future assessments.

Students will engage with independent and group study in a supportive framework of teaching and learning. This is presented in a variety of formats, from in-class exercises, extended essays, seminar presentations, and project work, appropriate to the level of study and the particular content of each module in the programme. Participatory learning will form the common core of all teaching and learning activities facilitating opportunities for students to engage in collaborative critical discussions and to receive peer and tutor feedback.

Modules and micro-credentials at the University of Gibraltar are all designed to include a wide variety of assessment strategies so as to allow students the best opportunities to demonstrate their learning and progress. Therefore, assessment may be carried out using methods such as:

- Commentaries
- Research-based assignments
- Presentations (individual and group)
- Case study analysis
- Videos
- Podcasts
- Reports
- Reflective Logs
- Strategic Plans
- Summative essays

5. Programme content and structure

Level 7

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester	Compulsory or Optional
As per each chosen module.	Students will select from the modules and micro-credentials on offer at UoG at Postgraduate level (see current example list in Appendix A).	• The credit value of modules undertaken will be as per each module's descriptor. Total credits: 180. • The total 180 credits can be accrued either from an accumulation of 15/30 credit modules to sum 180 credits or through an accumulation of 15/30 credits to 120 credits plus a 60 credit thesis module. • All modules undertaken are optional to each student unless they take up the choice of carrying out a final thesis for 60 credits upon which they must carry out the Research Studies module for 15 credits.		

- When in the academic year the modules are undertaken will depend on when the modules are being offered by the different Schools.

6. Variation/s to the Academic Regulations: Taught Programmes

None.

7. Programme credits and intermediate Awards (exit points)

Award	Credits	Credit level (FHEQ)
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits	7
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits	7
Master's Degree	180 credits	7

8. Career and Study Opportunities

The underlying rationale for this postgraduate degree is that students will be able to curate their own Masters to suit their own personal interests or advance their skills and knowledge base within their professional lives. By providing the opportunity for students to create a bespoke programme the potential of widening the scope of career advancement or new opportunities could be far-reaching.

All modules offered on this programme belong to validated postgraduate degrees which, while being planned and developed, will have had input from relevant industry experts and from employers in the relevant fields. This, then, lends weight to the value modules chosen for career related purposes can have.

9. Programme Map (full-time)

Students will have a maximum of 5 years in which to complete the Postgraduate Open Degree.

How they determine the spread and intensity of the modules is up to them and their particular circumstances.

It is envisaged that students would take on one module per semester but this is not a requirement.

10. Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Assessment of learning outcomes will be as per each chosen module's "Knowledge and Understanding" and "Skills" learning outcomes as found within the module descriptors.

Department	Semester 1	Semester 2
Education	MMED71505 - Perspectives on Curriculum and Policy	MMED71507 - Understanding Research in Education
Health	MCHC73001 - Enabling teaching, learning and assessment for practice	- MCHC73002 - Leadership and Management Skills in Contemporary Healthcare - MCHC73005 - Research Skills - MCHC73003 - Work based learning in contemporary healthcare (<i>30 credit module could be reduce to 15</i>)
Marine & Environment	Prerequisite modules: - MESCC73001 - Ecology, Conservation & Environmental Management - MMSCC71501 - Marine Biology, Ecosystems and Conservation - MMSCC71502 - Oceanographic Processes	- MMSCC71506 - Climate Change Adaptation - MMSCC71504 - Coastal Zone Management: Area-based Marine tools - MMSCC71507 - Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction - MMSCC71505 - Marine Ecosystems and Sustainability - MMSCC71503 - Research Skills and Methods
Business	- MACC71501 - Accounting and Reporting - MIST71501 - Managing New Technologies - MMGT71501 - Managing People - MMKT71501 - Marketing Management	- MLAW51501 - Business Law - MMGT71504 - Comparative Management - MLAW71502 - Compliance Leadership - MMGT71502 - Leadership and Managing Change - MFIN71501 - Managerial Finance - MMGT71503 - Strategic Decision-Making

APPENDIX A

