

CREDIT TRANSFER TOWARDS THE BSc Honours Natural Sciences Essential Information

Please retain for the duration of your studies with
The Open University



IMPORTANT NOTE: You should read this document in conjunction with the University regulations for this qualification: <http://www3.open.ac.uk/our-student-policies/qualregs.htm>

You will need to complete at least 360 credits, as shown in the table below, in order to be eligible for this qualification. The right-hand column of this table shows the components of this qualification towards which credit transfer can be awarded in recognition of study you have undertaken elsewhere.

Degree component and credits required	Type and amount of credit transfer available towards this component, if any
Compulsory Level 1 module (60 credits) S103	60 credits of module exemption
Level 1 residential school (10 credits) SXR103	10 credits of module exemption
Compulsory Level 2 module (30 credits) S250	30 credits of module exemption
'S' modules at Level 2 (70 credits)	70 credits of general credit exemption
Level 2 residential school (10 credits) SXR207	10 credits of module exemption
120 credits of Level 3 modules	No credit
Free choice	60 credits
Maximum credit transfer available towards this OU qualification	240 credits

What credit transfer will I be awarded ?

Please note: credit transfer is awarded in the context of the particular qualification towards which you are claiming it. This means that you may be able to get credit transfer against a specific Open University (OU) module or component in some OU qualifications but not in others.

We award credit in units of 5 credits, up to the maximum shown in the table above. If your previous study amounts to more than this limit, we will select those credits that will give you the most beneficial award.

Whatever your award of credit transfer, you will have to include within your degree at least 120 credits from suitable OU modules. These OU modules must be at level 3.

We can award credit for postgraduate study but you will only be allowed to count a maximum of 90 credits of postgraduate study towards this degree whether from transferred credit, OU modules, or a combination of the two.

When we have completed the assessment of your application for credit transfer, we will send you an email to let you know that the outcome, your *Credit Transfer Award*, is showing on your Studenthome page: <http://www.open.ac.uk/students> . You will then be able to view and download this document.

Types of credit transfer

There are two types of credit transfer: **module exemption** and **general credit exemption**. The table on page 1 shows which type/s can count towards this qualification and the outcome of your credit transfer application will be displayed on your *Credit Transfer Award* document.

Module exemption: means that you have been exempted from a particular OU module in recognition of your previous study. Your prior study must be at, or equivalent to, the UK academic level of the OU module/s you are being exempted from, and considered to be broadly in-line with the learning outcomes of your chosen OU qualification. Your *Credit Transfer Award* will specify which OU module/s you have been exempted from studying towards your chosen OU qualification.

General credit exemption: means that you have been exempted from studying the specified amount of credit at the given academic level towards this OU qualification. This type of credit transfer is awarded if your previous study is at, or equivalent to, the UK academic level of the OU module/s concerned and is considered relevant to this OU qualification in terms of subject and/or skills development. This type of credit transfer differs from module exemption in that it does not exempt you from any particular OU module/s. Your *Credit Transfer Award* will indicate the number of credits you have been exempted from, and at what level/s, towards specific components of the qualification.

1971 rule

The University now awards credit only for study undertaken from 1971 onwards. If you already have an award of credit for pre-1971 study it will not be taken away. If you seek a reassessment of your award, either because you have undertaken additional study or if you want to take advantage of subsequent policy changes, you may not be able to gain any additional credit but your award will not be reduced.

Please note: if the OU qualification you are studying towards has time limits, these will be detailed in a paragraph headed "Time limits" (above this paragraph) and will take precedence over the 1971 rule.

The Unique Study rule

For each OU qualification, you must include an amount of OU study that is unique to that particular qualification (OU credit which has not previously been counted towards another OU qualification). The proportion of unique study required is normally one-third: for details of the unique study required for this specific qualification, please refer to the qualification regulations.

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/our-student-policies/qualregs.htm>

If you require a version of these notes in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact us

This guide has been prepared by the Credit Transfer Centre
The Open University, PO Box 80, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AS

Tel: 01908 653077 Fax: 01908 654918
E-mail: credit-transfer@open.ac.uk Website: www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this publication may change in the light of altered regulations, policy or other constraints.