

MASSEY UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS POLICY

Section	Academic
Contact	Office of Academic Quality, Reporting and Assurance
Last Review	October 2022
Next Review	October 2027
Approval	C23/13

Purpose:

To assure the design, approval, implementation, delivery, and review of all qualifications and micro-credentials at Massey University.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

All qualifications will be developed in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including meaningful partnership, consultation, and consideration of Kaupapa Māori. The needs of Māori students and scholars will be accommodated.

Policy:

Qualifications are conferred by the University on persons who have completed an approved programme of study. Qualifications that offer a coherent educational experience are central to the overall quality of teaching and learning at the University. The Qualifications Policy assures that all qualifications at Massey University adhere to the requirements set across the qualification lifecycle (i.e., design, approval, implementation, delivery, and review), through the following objectives:

- To maximise consistency, enhance portability, and reduce variation wherever possible and appropriate.
- To promote transparency, reduce complexity, ensure that all necessary information is available to support effective decision-making, and standardise practices where appropriate.
- To utilise staff effort efficiently and improve student success.

The design, approval, implementation, delivery, and review of qualifications offered by Massey University will be assured through:

1. Adherence to the following general principles:
 - a. **Coherence**
Qualifications will be supported by qualification-specific regulations which ensure programmes of study are meaningful, well-structured, have internal coherence, and that requirements, expectations, and outcomes are transparent. Any change processes should be outcome focussed. Frequent change should be avoided.
 - b. **Consistency**
Qualifications will be subject to University-wide enrolment and general regulations to ensure consistency, portability, and simplicity across the University. Terminology will be clearly defined and used consistently to facilitate translation of internal documents for third parties.

- c. **Relevance**
Within this context qualification design and review will ensure qualifications are aligned to the needs and expectations of student cohorts (including international students), industry and professional bodies, are respected by peers and contribute to the University's role as critic and conscience of society.
 - d. **Efficiency**
Qualifications will provide for defined pathways to completion, which are straightforward for students to understand and follow and which minimise duplication of resource and activity. Qualification regulations (where appropriate) will include specific requirements for entry, time limits for completion, and alternative exit qualifications to encourage student progression and completion.
 - e. **Integrity**
Qualifications offered by the University will primarily be NZQF levels 5-8 (undergraduate and graduate) and 8-10 (postgraduate), or be offered for the purposes of matriculation or professional development. Programmes of study will be research-informed and with clearly articulated learning and teaching outcomes. All qualifications will be subject to regular and ongoing academic review.
 - f. **Sustainability**
Qualifications will be designed to be financially, academically, and administratively sustainable and implementable, with adequate and appropriate resources, along with policies to ensure that Intellectual Property is appropriately retained.
 - g. **Equity**
Qualifications of a similar type and level offered across the University will have parity with regard to admission, progression, and workload expectations. Qualifications may be offered in partnership with other institutions of similar standing, and the University may formalise admission with advanced standing through articulation agreements with partner institutions where desirable and equitable. Accessibility and equity of access will be a defining feature.
2. Offering of qualifications in accordance with the Massey University Qualifications Framework, which outlines how the University will incorporate the principles outlined in this policy into deliverable qualifications.
 3. Alignment with the strategic directions of the University as articulated in the University's Strategic Plan.

Definitions

As used in this policy **portability** relates to the ability to appropriately transfer credits completed into, between and from qualifications (both complete and partially completed), the ability to progress into higher level study (either within Massey or at an alternative institution) from a qualification, the relevance of the qualification and the skills and attributes of graduates to relevant sectors in the workplace, and the recognition of the qualification by peers and professional bodies in New Zealand and abroad.

Definitions for terms used in the Qualifications Policy and Qualifications Framework and relating to qualifications are located in the University Calendar.

For the purposes of this Policy, the principles applied to qualifications will also apply to micro-credentials.

Micro-credential has been defined by NZQA and adopted by CUAP as:

- certifying the achievement of a specific set of skills and knowledge
- having a statement of purpose and clear learning outcomes

- having demonstrable support from relevant industries, employers, or communities
- having a credit value from 5 to 40 credits (*inclusive*)
- typically not duplicating current quality assured learning already approved.

Audience

All staff and students

Relevant legislation

Consumer Guarantees Act 1993
Fair Trading Act 1986
Education and Training Act 2020

Legal compliance

Consumer Guarantees Act 1993: Qualifications provided by the University must be of the nature and quality generally expected of similar qualifications, and prepare students for relevant careers where the student makes their intention known (s29).

Fair Trading Act 1986: Qualifications provided by the University must not be represented in a manner that is misleading or deceptive as to their nature, characteristics, suitability for a purpose, quality, or approval or accreditation status or allow such to be reasonably inferred (s13).

Education and Training Act 2020:

Related procedures / documents:

Massey University Qualifications Framework
Qualification Review Policy and Procedures
Equivalence Policy
Equity of Access to Educational Opportunities Policy
Treaty of Waitangi Policy
Institutional Partnerships Policy

Document Management Control:

Authorised by: Provost
Approved by: Provost
Date issued: August 2011
Last review: October 2022
Next review: October 2027