

Appendix 2.1.3a

Definition of Relevant Degree for entry to the Graduate Diploma pathway

The Graduate Diploma pathway within the PQF may be accessed by graduates holding relevant honours degrees who are able to demonstrate the potential to complete the pathway's academic and vocational qualification programmes within 15 months.

The definition of what constitutes a relevant honours degree for this purpose will form part of the framework of probation qualifications that the Secretary of State is required to publish. The policy responsibility for the definition rests with the Probation Qualifications Assurance Board (the 'Assurance Board'). The Assurance Board has a duty to ensure that the definition is reviewed and updated as appropriate on a regular basis.

The Graduate Diploma pathway necessitates the contracted H.E. Providers approving entry to a Graduate Diploma programme which is equivalent to the third year of their honours degree programme. H.E. Providers' internal validation mechanisms require entry to their Graduate Diploma being conditional on specific evidence of prior relevant academic study and qualification.

The two key factors in this are the relevance and the currency of academic understanding and achievement. This means that Graduate Diploma entrants must be able to demonstrate that they have satisfactorily covered the core curriculum in Parts 1 & 2 of the PQF Degree programme and that their knowledge is up to date.

There is no existing or potential capacity within the NOMS PQF structure for individual cases to be reviewed to determine whether a potential Graduate Diploma applicant exceptionally can be deemed to have a relevant honours degree. This means that relevance will be determined solely by the subject and currency of the degree.

Where subjects not specified here are mostly, but not fully, relevant there may be the potential for H.E. Providers to review the content and possibly top up any deficits with additional modules. However, it is for individual H.E. Providers to offer this provision as they see fit.

The Assurance Board on behalf of the Secretary of State has defined the following single honours degree subjects as relevant qualifications for the purposes of conferring eligibility to apply for entry to the Graduate Diploma pathway:

- Criminology
- Criminal Justice
- Community Justice
- Police Studies