



19 February 2024

European Credit and Transfer System (ECTS) at UTM

1.0 Background to the ECTS

The European Credit and Transfer System (ECTS), also referred to as the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, is a tool of the European Higher Education Area for making studies and courses more transparent. It is the credit system adopted by European universities and by other higher education institutions around the world. It helps with the mobility of students and in the recognition of their qualifications. ECTS credits represent learning based on defined learning outcomes and their associated workload.

With the implementation of the ECTS for a 12 weeks semester, the focus is on notional hours (NH) in lieu of direct contact hours. In this context a module carrying 6 credits would have 150 notional hours. A notional hour is the learning time taken by an average student to gain knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve the specified learning outcomes associated to the module. Details of activities associated to the notional hours is available in the Module Information and Plan (MIP) and mainly include the following:

- (i) **Directed Learning** (Contact Hours): Lectures, Tutorials, Practicals, Workshops. Seminars, etc
- (ii) **Self-Directed Study**: Self-study, Reading, Assignments, Projects
- (iii) **Assessment**: Formative and Summative Assessments, including Viva, Tests and Final Exams

2.0 Implementation of the ECTS System for a 12 weeks semester

- i. There should be typically 60 ECTS credits for each level of study which has to be adjusted to accommodate dissertation. On average there will be 10 modules per level and 1500 hours of learning.
- ii. One module will carry 150 hours of learning.
- iii. Directed learning shall be of 36 hours of delivery which could be any combination of face to face, blended, online, seminar, workshop or joint session;

- iv. In general, at most 6 sessions (out of 12) shall be on face to face, whereas the other sessions shall be on online mode. Modules on 100% online delivery will be encouraged;
- v. Face to face sessions shall primarily be for practical and/or tutorial sessions;
- vi. Self-learning shall be split into self-study, reading, researching and assignment/project works and shall be of 106 hours duration;
- vii. Formative and Summative assessments shall be 8 hours.
- viii. For Undergraduate Programme:
 - a. 180 Credits will be required to earn a 3-year degree.
 - b. Dissertation/Projects at Undergraduate level will be of 12 credits.
- ix. For Post-Graduate Programme:
 - a. 30 credits will be required to earn a Postgraduate Certificate.
 - b. 60 credits will be required to earn a Postgraduate Diploma.
 - c. 90 credits will be required to earn a Masters Degree.
 - d. Dissertation/Projects at Postgraduate level will be of 18 credits.
- x. Work placement will carry 6 credits and it was proposed to carry out work placement during semester break.

3.0 Quick Reference

Component	Credits
Certificate	60
Diploma	120
BSc (Hons)/BA (Hons)	180
BEng (Hons)	240
PG Cert	30
PG Dip	60
MSc	90
Work-Placement	6
UG Project/Dissertation	12
PG Project/Dissertation	18