

Non-Accredited Degree Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

Documentation

What is the difference between a transcript and a module descriptor?

A transcript is an academic record or statement of learning which clearly records all the modules and subjects you have studied as part of your course. It should show the grades achieved for each module, how many credits were accrued and any relevant exemptions. A module descriptor details the curriculum and the learning outcomes for each of the modules you studied.

Why do I need to send module descriptors?

The module descriptors are an integral part of the assessment process which is to determine whether the subjects you have studied are equivalent to an IBMS accredited degree in biomedical science. They are the evidence upon which the assessment outcome is based. If they are not provided an assessment cannot be carried out.

How detailed do module descriptors need to be?

The module descriptors should contain the curriculum detail and the learning outcomes for every module listed as a pass on your degree transcript. Insufficient information within the module descriptors would lead to a less accurate assessment of your studies. It is the candidate's responsibility to provide sufficient evidence of the breadth and depth of the subjects they have studied.

Can my degree transcript be used for evidence instead of the module descriptors?

No, the degree transcript only details the modules studied and if they were passed or failed. The module descriptors detail the curriculum and the learning outcomes for each module; this information is imperative for an accurate assessment. As part of the initial acceptance, the module descriptors are matched against the degree transcript to ensure the correct information is provided. Our assessors are looking for evidence that subject areas have been studied, assessed, and passed. Therefore, the more information they have allows them to more accurately identify where the requirements have been met.

Why does my university need to authenticate the module descriptors?

Authentication by the university ensures the information provided is a true and accurate representation of the subjects studied.

Can I include details of failed modules?

No, only modules that you have passed should be included with the module descriptors in Part B. we cannot accept failed modules; we can only accept ones that you have studied, been assessed on and passed.

Why does a module descriptor need to be relevant to my year of study?

The university continually updates its modules and if you include modules that are not from your year of study then this is not an accurate reflection of your learning and a true assessment cannot be made.

Will it affect my assessment if I cannot provide detailed module descriptors?

Yes. If you are unable to provide evidence of what you have studied, we will ask you to complete the information contained within the module descriptors is used to assess the curriculum content of the degree you have undertaken. Without the relevant information, an accurate assessment of the degree cannot be carried out.

Research Projects

What is the difference between a literature review and a research project?

A literature review is a summary of academic literature from other sources.

A research project is a period of independent study where you will demonstrate the application of the following skills: experimentation, report writing, data generation, interpretation and presentation of data using scientific convention, including application of SI units and other units used in biomedical science. We will accept a work-based project provided there is evidence of professional supervision and internal assessment confirming that the project was at an honours level and meets the required criteria in the Application Guidance document.

Why can't I use my literature review as evidence?

As previously mentioned, a literature review is a summary of academic literature from other sources; it does not demonstrate the same skills achieved by completion of a research project and because of this a literature review cannot be used as part of the degree assessment.

Qualifications

I do not have a BSc Hons degree. I have studied a foundation degree HND/HNC. Can this still be assessed?

No. The minimum qualification required to register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) is a BSc (Hons) degree or equivalent.

I have a BSc degree (non-honours) in biomedical science and an MSc degree, which should I submit for assessment?

You should submit both for assessment. We assessment is to determine if you have studied the equivalent of an accredited biomedical science degree. This can be evidenced from more than one qualification. The MSc also shows you have achieved the minimum academic level that is required and will have completed a research project. The BSc could evidence you have studies biomedical science subjects.

Can I have an BSc and an MSc assessed at the same time?

Yes. You should submit any relevant qualifications that evidence you have studies subjects related to biomedical science. The charge is the same regardless of the qualifications you submit.

I am currently in my third year of a biomedical science degree that is not accredited by the IBMS. Can I submit for assessment now?

No. The assessment is based on the qualification awarded and modules that have been completed.

Please note that all overseas qualification applications must include an assessment against UK ENIC¹ www.enic.org.uk the UK National Information Centre for global qualifications and skills. to provide a comparison to UK qualifications.

I have degree from overseas. Why do I need a UK ENIC Letter?

A UK ENIC letter advises us what level of qualification your degree is equivalent to in the UK.

Please note: Following the UK's leaving the EU, the former UK NARIC recognition agency function changes from a NARIC (which is an EU-only title) to an ENIC (the wider European title for national recognition agencies) in order to meet the UK's continuing treaty obligations under the [Lisbon Recognition Convention](https://ec.europa.eu/enic/).

¹ Following the UK's leaving the EU, the former UK NARIC recognition agency function changes from a NARIC (which is an EU-only title) to an ENIC (the wider European title for national recognition agencies) in order to meet the UK's continuing treaty obligations under the [Lisbon Recognition Convention](https://ec.europa.eu/enic/).

Assessment Outcomes

Will the degree assessment make my existing degree accredited?

No. Your existing degree title and grade will remain the same. What you will have is an assessment outcome to state you have studied the equivalent of an IBMS accredited degree or you require supplementary education which, when completed and successfully passed, can be added onto your existing degree, and be considered equivalent to an IBMS accredited degree. This will enable you to meet the academic requirements for HCPC registration.

The assessment outcome identified a deficiency in subjects I have already studied. Can I appeal against this decision?

Yes. It is possible the information you provided as insufficient for the assessors to identify if you have met the curriculum requirements for equivalence. There are two options:

- 1) resubmit the original documents with the subject areas highlighted to show where you feel you have covered the subject areas, or
- 2) Provide additional information (e.g., a module handbook with a more detailed description of the curriculum, or a letter from you tutor).

The assessment outcome has identified I need to complete supplementary education. What do I do?

You will be required to make their own arrangements for this directly with the programme leader at a university offering an IBMS accredited degree. If they can help, they will advise you which modules will be required to address the shortfall. This will vary between universities depending on the structure of the degree. If a large amount of supplementary education is required, the candidate may be advised to consider recognition of prior learning to enable them to enrol on an accredited degree programme.

My assessment outcome letter has a five-year limit that has expired. Why is this?

When we assess your qualification, we do this against the regulatory standards applicable at the time and the QAA subject benchmark statement that applies to IBMS accredited degrees. The subject areas of these may change over time, and we must make sure your qualification is assessed against the standards that apply at the time of your assessment. The outcome letter has a five-year time limit to allow you time to complete your professional training and to allow for changes do standards during this time.

My assessment outcome letter has a five-year limit that has expired. What do I do?

You need to contact the IBMS so that we can check whether you're the regulatory standards have changes since your assessment outcome letter was issued. If they have, we will need to check whether your qualifications still meet current regulatory standards. Sometimes this means a shortfall is identified that requires additional supplementary education.

Appeals

Can I appeal my degree assessment outcome after 8 weeks of receipt?

We assess appeals received no later than 8 weeks after the outcome letter. Additional information is requested to support the appeal and should be submitted as outlined in the outcome letter for the assessment.

Can I submit the same material used in my initial assessment in the appeal?

No, appeals are conducted on additional material provided for the assessment.

How many times can I appeal an outcome for my initial assessment?

Each applicant is offered one appeal for their assessment.