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Technical Annex

Credit conversion between the UK and Malaysia



About this document

This document is designed to support credit conversion and the use of Ecctis' [UK-Malaysia Credit Conversion Calculator](#) by institutions looking to establish UK transnational education (TNE) arrangements in Malaysia.

This document encompasses both quick start guidance on [how to use the calculator](#) as well as supporting context on the [policy](#) and [methodological considerations](#) for credit transfer to support clarity and transparency of the conversion formula. This context – including key differences in governance, credit frameworks, programme requirements, and recognition of prior learning policies – is essential to understand how academic credits can be transferred and converted between the two systems. It also introduces a structured credit conversion methodology for comparing programme volumes and learning outcomes.

[Case studies](#) illustrate how this approach can be applied across Bachelor and Master's degrees in real programme contexts.

Credit systems in Malaysia and the UK

Credit systems are central to modern higher education. They provide a measurable way of recording student learning and study volumes, and can enable comparison across national and international frameworks, strengthening TNE partnerships and international student mobility.

Both the UK and Malaysia prioritise learning outcomes within their education systems and have outcomes-based national qualification frameworks along with credit systems that define the notional hours required to achieve those outcomes. While these hours reflect the workload of a typical full-time student, the actual time required to achieve specific learning outcomes will naturally vary between individuals.

Credits

The Malaysian credit system is built on the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF)¹, which allocates 40 notional hours to one MQF credit and 40 MQF credits for one year of full-time study. Typical module sizes range from two to four MQF credits.

Malaysia has established national guidelines for its credit accumulation and transfer system, which include principles for recognising and transferring credits across programmes and institutions, including those achieved through TNE provision.

In the UK, most institutions use the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) or the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) credit points in Scotland². These link credit to qualification levels and learning outcomes at relevant levels of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) used for EWNI and SCQF in Scotland, supporting national consistency and framework alignment. Both the CATS and SCQF systems define credit based on 10 notional learning hours to one credit and 120 credits for one year of full-time study. The typical UK module size is 10-20, sometimes 30, credits.

¹MQF (2025) Malaysian Qualifications Framework/new/mqf.cfm#gsc.tab=0 and

[https://www.mqa.gov.my/new/document/2024/new/MQF%20\(2024\).pdf](https://www.mqa.gov.my/new/document/2024/new/MQF%20(2024).pdf).

²QAA (2024). *The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies*. Available at:

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/the-frameworks-for-higher-education-qualifications-of-uk-degree-awarding-bodies-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=3562b281_11.

Some UK institutions continue to use or reference the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), particularly for mobility or joint programmes, with one year of full-time study corresponding to 60 ECTS credits for all higher education programmes. The established equivalence of one UK credit to 0.5 ECTS credit provides a transparent basis for cross-border academic recognition.

Bachelor degree credit

In Malaysia, Bachelor degrees are aligned to level 6 of the MQF and should align with national standards for undergraduate degrees³. They are typically three to four years in duration and require a minimum of 120 MQF credits or more, depending on programme design, with a standard annual volume of 40 MQF credits for full-time study. These degrees generally include a combination of general studies (mandatory part for all programmes), core modules (often include industrial training in the last year), electives, and often a final project or dissertation. Some regulated professional programmes may require five years of study due to additional competency requirements and are subject to oversight by specialised professional boards.

Recognised Diploma programmes (90 MQF Level 4 credits) or Advanced Diploma programmes (40 MQF Level 5 credits) may be granted one to two years of advanced standing with credit transfer toward the Bachelor degree, subject to programme requirements.

In the UK, a standard full-time Bachelor honours degree is aligned to level 6 of the FHEQ and comprises 360 CATS credits over three years, or level 10 of the SCQF and 480 SCQF credits over four years in Scottish higher education system.

Note: For the purpose of this document, CATS and SCQF credits will be referred to collectively as UK credits.

The typical annual load of 120 UK credits corresponds to levels 4 to 6 of the FHEQ and levels 7 to 10 of the SCQF. Although Bachelor degrees in the UK can be either three or four years in duration, the three-year model remains the most common nationally and this model is widely used in TNE partnerships. While four-year Bachelor programmes are typical in Scotland, universities there often admit students from outside Scotland directly into the second year of a four-year programme by granting advanced standing.

In cases when the ECTS credit system used or referenced, a standard full-time three-year Bachelor honours degree comprises 180 ECTS credits.

³MQA (2025). *Standards for undergraduate programmes 2025 edition*. Available at: [https://www2.mqa.gov.my/qad/v2/pekeliling/2025/Standards%20for%20Undergraduate%20Programme%20V15_removed%20\(1\).pdf](https://www2.mqa.gov.my/qad/v2/pekeliling/2025/Standards%20for%20Undergraduate%20Programme%20V15_removed%20(1).pdf).

Master's degrees

Master's degrees in Malaysia are positioned at level 7 of the MQF and should align with national postgraduate standards⁴. Programmes typically require one to three years of study beyond the Bachelor degree, reflecting variations in degree type, mode of study, and programme design.

Malaysian universities offer three types of Master's programmes: coursework, research or mixed. Coursework and mixed-mode programmes carry a minimum requirement of 40 MQF credits⁵ – typically one year of full-time study. Research-based Master's programmes are heavily centred on research and thesis and don't have assigned credits.

In the UK, most full-time Master's degrees take one to two years to complete with 120 to 240 CATS / SCQF credits and are aligned to level 7 of the FHEQ and level 11 of the SCQF. There are two main types of Master's degrees: taught and research programmes. Taught Master's degrees generally take one year of full-time study with 180 CATS / SCQF credits, while research Master's often take up to two years full-time study, depending on the scope of research and dissertation and may have more credits. In cases when the ECTS credit system used or referenced, a standard full-time Master's degree comprises 60-120 ECTS credits.

Credit transfer rules and governance

When developing TNE partnerships it is important to understand how differences in educational governance of credit systems and credit transfer policies influence the transferability, comparability and recognition of programmes and learning outcomes across countries.

As such this section focuses principally on Malaysian credit transfer practices noting the overarching goal of the guide to support UK institutions looking to establish TNE arrangements in Malaysia.

Nonetheless some supporting context on UK credit transfer principles and practice is provided for context for those considering articulation arrangements for Malaysian qualifications coming into the UK.

⁴ MQA (2021). *Standards: Master's and Doctoral degree*. Available at: <https://www2.mqa.gov.my/qad/v2/2021/new/Final%20MDD%202021%20-%20upload%20v2.pdf>.

⁵ MQA (2024). *Malaysian Qualifications Framework MQF) Second Edition (Art. 84)*. Available at: [https://www.mqa.gov.my/new/document/2024/new/MQF%20\(2024\).pdf](https://www.mqa.gov.my/new/document/2024/new/MQF%20(2024).pdf).

Establishing principles of institution-to-institution credit transfer in advance enables TNE partnerships to operate more effectively by ensuring that all parties have a shared understanding of, and criteria for, recognising and transferring credits and grades, and the necessary documentation – such as course syllabi and supporting evidence.

Credit transfer practices in Malaysia are regulated by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and aligned to the MQF. Credit transfer can occur in two main forms:

- horizontal transfer between programmes at the same MQF level (e.g., Bachelor to Bachelor) ⁶
- vertical transfer from a lower level to a higher level (e.g., Diploma to Bachelor), generally capped at 30% of the total programme credits. This may also include micro-credentials and other further education courses that comprise part of an accredited programme.

The MQA has set national rules and criteria for credit recognition and transfer across programmes and qualification levels for all higher education institutions. These apply equally to domestic and international students and require:

- Evidence of accreditation
- Minimum passing grades for credits eligible for transfer
- Credit value and curriculum equivalence, commonly defined as an 80% or greater match between modules.

The criteria also apply to TNE programmes. Institutions can apply their own additional frameworks and rules on top⁷.

As stated in the main guide on TNE arrangements produced by Ecctis, it is essential when developing TNE programmes to account for the fixed national programme standards that Malaysian higher education institutions are required to implement.

⁶MQA (2019). *FAQs: About MQA*. Available at: https://www.mqa.gov.my/new/faq_mqa.cfm#gsc.tab=0.

⁷For instance, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (n.d.) *Credit transfer guidelines*. Available at: https://amo.uthm.edu.my/images/UPPP/Credit_Transfer_Guidelines.pdf; Segi College Sarawak (n.d.) *Credit transfer*. Available at: <https://colleges.segi.edu.my/sarawak/credit-transfer/>; Monash University (2026) *How to transfer university credit in Malaysia without losing time or money*. Available at: <https://www.monash.edu.my/news-and-events/trending/transfer-university-credit-malaysia> [All accessed March 2026].

‘Mata Pelajaran Umum (MPU) – compulsory modules and credit transfer

Of note is the national requirement for ‘Mata Pelajaran Umum (MPU)’, compulsory modules that have to be studied in Malaysia, though with possible variations for national and international students.

These MPU modules typically include courses related to philosophy, values and history, broadening knowledge about Malaysia (including local language studies for international students), soft skills and community-minded skills development. In contrast, the UK undergraduate degrees are highly subject-focused and do not normally include general education modules.

UK awarding institutions may, however, choose to reflect these modules in the overall credit structure (alongside the MQF credit recorded locally), for example by assigning an equivalent UK credit value in programme documentation and/or transcripts (e.g., 40 UK credits across the MPU component at the University of Reading Malaysia)⁸.

For comparative context only, higher education institutions in the UK have considerable autonomy in how they use and transfer credits, established institutional policies and regulations can vary significantly between institutions. While they commonly accept credits from recognised institutions and programmes, they may impose limits on the credit levels and the number of credits that can be recognised. Furthermore, transferred or recognised credits generally do not contribute to the final award classification⁹; and in many cases, only grades awarded by the final institution appear on the transcript and determine the final degree classification. Some UK institutions require students to complete their final year, including any dissertation or thesis components, at the receiving institution.

Some institutions, particularly those with well-established TNE partnerships, have developed specific policies and mechanisms for inbound module transfer and grade conversion.

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⁸ University of Reading Malaysia (n.d.). *General Studies/ Mata Pelajaran Umum*. Available at: <https://www.reading.edu.my/current-students/general-studies-mpu> [Accessed March 2026].

⁹ QAA (n.d.) *Achieving credit transfer at scale: An analysis of UK university policies*. Available at: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/news/achieving-credit-transfer-at-scale-an-analysis-of-uk-university-policies.pdf?sfvrsn=75f9bd81_10.

Methodology

Both the UK and Malaysia prioritise learning outcomes in programme design and framework alignment, defining credits and programme volume through notional learning hours and associated learning activities. This shared approach provides a basis for developing a credit-conversion formula by directly comparing programme study volumes allocated in both countries to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

Malaysian Bachelor degrees are benchmarked against UK Bachelor (Honours) degrees, and Malaysian Master's degrees are benchmarked against UK Master's degrees. This alignment indicates that programmes in both countries are designed to achieve comparable learning outcomes at corresponding levels, thereby supporting the direct transfer of credits between them.

	UK	Malaysia
Degree	FHEQ ¹⁰ / SCQF ¹¹ level	MQF ¹²
Bachelor	Year 1 - level 4 / 7	level 6
	Year 2 - level 5 / 8	
	Year 3 - level 6 / 9-10	
Master's	level 7 / 11	level 7

Drawing on this approach, the proposed credit conversion method considers the following parameters:

- Applies to recognised Bachelor and Master's degree programmes, excluding research-based Master's degrees
- Enables illustrative conversion both ways between the UK and MQF credits
- Establishes a methodology grounded in total programme volume and the comparability of learning outcomes, irrespective of programme duration.

The methodology may also be applied to relevant micro-credentials, standalone modules, or other programmes or further education courses that form part of an accredited degree programme.

¹⁰ Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

¹¹ Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.

¹² Malaysian Qualifications Framework.

Credit conversion formula

The credit conversion methodology is designed to facilitate the transfer of academic credits between Bachelor or Master's degree programmes in the UK and Malaysia. The model may be applied in two ways: a generic credit conversion approach and a programme-specific credit conversion approach.

The generic credit conversion provides broad comparability between the two credit frameworks and is suitable for comparing general programme structures at national or system levels.

The programme-specific credit conversion is required when assessing individual programmes delivered under TNE partnerships, dual-degree structures or other collaborative provision. This approach enables a more precise evaluation of credit volumes to ensure more accurate comparison and alignment.

Generic credit conversion

The 'generic' approach is based on using the minimum or typical total credit volume required for a programme at a given level in each country, e.g. Bachelor or Master's degree:

Generic credit conversion formula for Bachelor degrees

Conversion	Formula	Credit conversion factor
MQF → UK	MQF credits × (360 ÷ 120)	×3
UK → MQF	UK credits × (120 ÷ 360)	÷3

Generic credit conversion formula for Master degrees

Conversion	Formula	Credit conversion factor
MQF → UK	$\text{MQF credits} \times$ $(\text{180 UK credits} \div \text{40 MQF credits}) =$ $\text{UK credits for transfer}$	$\times 4.5$ $(\text{factor} = \text{180 UK credit} \div \text{40 MQF credits})$
UK → MQF	$\text{UK credits} \times$ $(\text{40 MQF credits} \div \text{180 UK credits}) =$ $\text{MQF credits for transfer}$	$\div 4.5$ $(\text{factor} = \text{40 MQF credits} \div \text{180 UK credits})$

Examples

- If a Malaysian Bachelor programme transfers 40 MQF credits to a UK **three**-year Bachelor degree, the conversion factor will be '3'. It is calculated based on 360 UK credits as follows: Factor = (120 UK credits x 3 years) ÷ 120 MQF credits. Credit transfer calculation in this case is as follows:

$$40 \times 3 = 120 \text{ UK credits can be transferred to a three-year Bachelor degree.}$$
- If a Malaysian Bachelor programme transfers 40 MQF credits to a UK **four**-year Bachelor degree, the conversion factor will be '4'. It is calculated based on 480 UK credits as follows: Factor = (120 UK credits x 4 years) ÷ 120 MQF credits. Credit transfer calculation in this case is as follows:

$$40 \times 4 = 160 \text{ UK credits can be transferred to a four-year Bachelor degree.}$$
- If a UK Master's degree student is transferring 60 UK credits to a Malaysian institution:

$$60 \times 0.22 \approx 13 \text{ MQF credits can be transferred.}$$

Programme-specific credit conversion

The 'programme-specific' approach is based on using the actual total credit volume of a particular programme in each country. It therefore offers a more tailored conversion that reflects the unique structure and credit requirements of an individual programme:

Programme-specific credit conversion formula

Conversion	Formula	Credit conversion factor
MQF → UK	$\text{MQF credits} \times (\text{UK credits total} \div \text{MQF credits total})$	Varies (factor = CATS total ÷ MQF total)
UK → MQF	$\text{UK credits} \times (\text{MQF credits total} \div \text{UK credits total})$	Varies (factor = MQF credits total ÷ UK credits total)

Example

If a UK Bachelor programme transfers 240 UK credits into the Malaysian programme. For credit conversion we need total programme volumes for both sending and receiving institutions.

- Total programme volume of the UK programme: 360 UK credits.
Total programme volume of the receiving Malaysian Bachelor degree programme: 136 MQF credits.
- Calculation of credits for transfer can be done by two ways:
 - Calculate credit conversion factor first:

$$136 \text{ MQF} \div 360 \text{ UK} \approx 0.378$$

And do credit calculations as follows:

$$240 \times 0.378 = 90.7 \approx 91 \text{ MQF credits can be transferred}$$

- Or use the combined formula for credit calculations as follows: $240 \times (136 \text{ MQF} \div 360 \text{ UK}) = 90.7 \approx 91 \text{ MQF credits can be transferred.}$

Using the Calculator

Before you begin

To use the tool effectively, you will need to have the following information:

- Context of the credit transfer (generic or programme-specific)
- Total credits for sending and receiving institutions/programmes
- Module names and types of modules (optional) and the number of credits to be transferred

Step 1: Choose conversion context from the dropdown

Select one:

- **‘Generic’**

This option uses standard or typical credit volumes:

- Bachelor degree: 120 MQF credits = 360 UK credits
- Master’s degree: 40 MQF credits = 180 UK credits

Or

- **‘Programme-specific’**

This option uses the actual total programme credits of both programmes. You should use this option when transferring between specific degree programmes where credit requirements differ from the minimum or typical volumes.

Generic conversion is appropriate when comparing general programme structures at system levels so you may wish to use this at an early stage for looking at how your typical programmes may compare.

Programme-specific credit conversion is recommended when looking to compare individual programmes delivered under TNE partnership agreements or dual-degree structures as this should provide more accurate comparison and alignment.

The selection made here will determine the conversion formula used.

Step 2: Select country you are transferring to/from

- UK → If you have are a UK institution looking to compare UK credits to Malaysian credits
- Malaysia → If you are looking to establish how MQF credits, for instance of a prospective partner programme, might compare to UK credits.

The calculator will automatically load the correct credit system and conversion type.

Step 3: Choose programme level

- Bachelor degree
- Master's degree

Step 4: Add programme credit totals (if applicable)

For 'generic' credit comparisons, this field will be greyed out as it uses a standard credit value.

If you selected a 'programme-specific' conversion, you should enter both the:

- Total credits of the sending programme
- Total credits of the receiving programme

The appropriate conversion factor will be generated based on:

$$\text{Sending credits} \times \left(\frac{\text{Receiving total credits}}{\text{Sending total credits}} \right)$$

Step 5: Fill in the table with modules and their original credit value

(if you would like to see credit conversion for separate years or modules):

1. Select year of study (optional)
2. Enter modules for transfer (optional)
3. Select module types (optional)
4. Add the number of credits for each module.

The converted credits will automatically appear: The total volume of credits for transfer will appear, along with the recommended transfer credits. Always ensure the final transferred credit volume aligns with institutional and regulatory requirements (e.g., maximum allowable transfer credits).

Case studies

The following case studies summarise the structure of Bachelor and Master's degree programmes offered in Malaysia and the UK and present examples of programme-specific credit conversion calculations based on total programme credit volumes within real programme contexts. These examples illustrate the potential credit transfer based on the overall volume of the respective programme, rather than a direct mapping of module content.

Note: These case studies are indicative worked examples to support planning and discussion. Credit recognition and the application of converted credits (e.g. entry point, minimum residence requirements and whether grades transfer) remain subject to institutional policies and relevant regulatory requirements.

How to use the case studies

This section provides a range of case studies. Which one(s) are relevant to you will depend on:

- whether credits are being transferred from Malaysia to the UK system or from the UK to Malaysia
- the qualification level involved, such as Bachelor or Master's level study.

Some case studies show conversion based on annual programme volume, which is typically used for advanced standing decisions, or a conversion based on selected modules when specific learning outcomes need to be mapped.

Use case	Go to...
You have a Malaysian Bachelor programme and need UK conversion examples	Case studies of Malaysian Bachelor degrees and their conversion to the UK system
You have a UK Bachelor programme and need Malaysian (MQF) conversion examples	Case studies of the UK Bachelor degrees and their conversion to the Malaysian system
You have a Malaysian Master's programme and need UK conversion examples	Case studies of Malaysian Master's degrees and their conversion to the UK system
You have a UK Master's programme and need Malaysian (MQF) conversion example	Case studies of the UK Master's degrees and their conversion to the Malaysian system

Case studies of Malaysian Bachelor degrees and their conversion to the UK system

Malaysian Bachelor programmes are required to include a minimum of 120 MQF credits, with a standard annual load of 40 MQF credits for full-time study, although many programmes exceed this baseline.

The following examples draw on undergraduate programmes in related fields in Malaysia and the UK to illustrate how MQF credits may be converted into the UK credits. For consistency, the calculations use a total volume of 360 UK credits (i.e., a typical UK Bachelor (Honours) degree), as these are the most common nationally.

Case Study 1 (Malaysia Bachelor → UK degree)

Bachelor of Economics (Honours)	Credit allocation
<i>University of Putra Malaysia¹³</i>	
Compulsory (general) modules (may include mandatory university modules)	21
Core modules	59
Final year project	0
Industrial training	8
Elective	33
Credit total	121
Credit allocation per each year:	
Year 1	40
Year 2	36
Year 3	37
Year 4 / Semester 1	8

¹³ Universiti Putra Malaysia (2025). *Undergraduate study programme handbook*. Available at: https://econ.upm.edu.my/upload/dokumen/20251014113835Sekolah_Perniagaan_Ekonomi_2025_2026.pdf (page 6). [Accessed March 2026].

The following credit conversion calculation illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the Bachelor of Economics (Hon) at University of Putra Malaysia (121 MQF credits) to a similarly-focussed UK Bachelor degree ¹⁴:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	40 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BSc in Economics ÷ 121 MQF credits of Bachelor of Economics)	119 UK credits
Year 2	36 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BSc in Economics ÷ 121 MQF credits of Bachelor of Economics)	107 UK credits
Year 3	37 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BSc in Economics ÷ 121 MQF credits of Bachelor of Economics)	110 UK credits
Year 4	8 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BSc in Economics ÷ 121 MQF credits of Bachelor of Economics)	24 UK credits
Total		360 UK credits

¹⁴With reference to the UK BSc in Economics offered by the University of Birmingham, described later in Case Study 4.

Case Study 2 (Malaysia Bachelor → UK degree)

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Honours)		Credit allocation
<i>Open University Malaysia¹⁵</i>		
Compulsory (general) modules (may include mandatory university modules)		27
Core modules		81
Final year project		0
Industrial training		0
Elective		12
Credit total		120
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		25
Year 2		29
Year 3		27
Year 4		27
Year 5 / Semester 1		12

The following credit conversion example illustrates the potential transfer of 120 MQF to a similarly-focused UK Bachelor degree¹⁶:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	25 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BBA (Hon) ÷ 120 MQF credits of BBA)	75 UK credits
Year 2	29 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BBA (Hon) ÷ 120 MQF credits of BBA)	87 UK credits
Year 3	27 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BBA (Hon) credits ÷ 120 MQF credits of BBA)	81 UK credits
Year 4	27 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BBA (Hon) ÷ 120 MQF credits of BBA)	81 UK credits
Year 5	12 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BBA (Hon) ÷ 120 MQF credits of BBA)	36 UK credits
Total		360 UK credits

¹⁵ Open University Malaysia (n.d.). *Bachelor of Business Administration with Honours*. Available at: <https://www.oum.edu.my/programmes-offered-at-oum/undergraduate/bachelor-of-business-administration-with-honours/> [Accessed March 2026].

¹⁶ With reference to the UK BBA (Hon) offered by Coventry University, described later in Case Study 5.

Case Study 3 (Malaysia Bachelor → UK degree)

Bachelor of Linguistics (Honours)		Credit allocation
<i>University Malaya</i> ¹⁷		
Compulsory (general) modules (may include mandatory university modules)		23
Core modules		81
Final year project		0
Industrial training		0
Elective		21
Credit total		125
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		36
Year 2		37
Year 3		38
Year 4 / Semester 1		14

The following credit conversion example illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the exemplar 125 MQF credits to a similarly-focused UK Bachelor degree¹⁸:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	36 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BA (Hon) in Linguistics ÷ 125 MQF credits of Bachelor of Linguistics (Hon))	104 UK credits
Year 2	37 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BA (Hon) in Linguistics ÷ 125 MQF credits of Bachelor of Linguistics (Hon))	106.5 UK credits
Year 3	38 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BA (Hon) in Linguistics ÷ 125 MQF credits of Bachelor of Linguistics (Hon))	109.5 UK credits
Year 4	14 MQF credits x (360 UK credits of BA (Hon) in Linguistics ÷ 125 MQF credits of Bachelor of Linguistics (Hon))	40 UK credits
Total		360 UK credits

¹⁷ StudyMalaysia.com (n.d.) *University of Malaya Bachelor of Language & Linguistics (English)*. Available at: <https://studymalaysia.com/what/course/UM/0055451/> [Accessed March 2026].

¹⁸ With reference to the UK BA (Hon) in Linguistics offered by University College London, described in Case Study 6.

Case studies of UK Bachelor degrees and their conversion to the Malaysian system

Bachelor degree programmes in the UK typically comprise 360 UK credits. The following case studies illustrate the calculation of credit conversion from UK to MQF credits, using the total programme volumes of comparable Malaysian Bachelor degree programmes in related fields used in the previous section.

Case study 4 (UK Bachelor → Malaysia)

Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Economics		Credit allocation
<i>University of Birmingham</i> ¹⁹		
Core modules		180
Optional modules		140
Dissertation		40
Credit total		360
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		120
Year 2		120
Year 3		120

The following credit conversion calculation illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the UK BSc in Economics to a similarly-focussed Malaysian degree²⁰:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	120 UK credits x (121 MQF credits of Bachelor of Economics ÷ 360 UK credits of BSc in Economics)	40 MQF credits
Year 2	120 UK credits x (121 MQF credits of Bachelor of Economics ÷ 360 UK credits of BSc in Economics)	40 MQF credits
Year 3	120 UK credits x (121 MQF credits of Bachelor of Economics ÷ 360 UK credits of BSc in Economics)	40 MQF credits
Total		120 MQF credits

¹⁹ University of Birmingham (n.d.) *Economics BSc*. Available at: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/subjects/economics-courses/economics-bsc> [Accessed March 2026].

²⁰ With reference to the earlier case study from the University of Putra Malaysia (121 MQF credits), Case Study 1.

Case study 5 (UK Bachelor → Malaysia)

Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) (Honours)		Credit allocation
<i>Coventry University</i> ²¹		
Core modules		360
Optional modules		-
Dissertation		-
Credit total		360
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		120
Year 2		120
Year 3		120

The following credit conversion example illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the UK BBA (Hon) to a similarly-focussed Malaysian degree²²:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	120 UK credits x (120 MQF credits of BBA ÷ 360 UK credits of BBA)	40 MQF credits
Year 2	120 UK credits x (120 MQF credits of BBA ÷ 360 UK credits of BBA)	40 MQF credits
Year 3	120 UK credits x (120 MQF credits of BBA ÷ 360 UK credits of BBA)	40 MQF credits
Total		120 MQF credits

²¹ Coventry University (n.d.) *Business Administration BBA (Hons)*. Available at: <https://www.coventry.ac.uk/course-structure/ug/fbl/business-administration-bba-hons/> [Accessed March 2026].

²² With reference to the 120-MQF credit from the Open University Malaysia, presented in Case Study 2.

Case Study 6 (UK Bachelor → Malaysia Case)

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Linguistic (Honours)		Credit allocation
<i>University College London²³</i>		
Core modules		120
Optional modules		210
Essay / Project		30
Credit total		360
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		120
Year 2		120
Year 3		120

The following credit conversion example illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the UK BA (Hon) in Linguistics to a similarly-focused Malaysian Bachelor degree²⁴:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	120 UK credits x (125 MQF credits of Bachelor of Linguistics (Hon) ÷ 360 UK credits of BA (Hon) in Linguistics)	41.6 MQF credits
Year 2	120 UK credits x (125 MQF credits of Bachelor of Linguistics (Hon) ÷ 360 UK credits of BA (Hon) in Linguistics)	41.6 MQF credits
Year 3	120 UK credits x (125 MQF credits of Bachelor of Linguistics (Hon) ÷ 360 UK credits of BA (Hon) in Linguistics)	41.6 MQF credits
Total		125 MQF credits (rounded)

²³ UCL (n.d.) *Linguistics BA – course start September 2027*. Available at: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/study/prospective-students/undergraduate/courses/linguistics-ba>. [Accessed March 2026].

²⁴ With reference to the 125-MQF credit programme at the University of Malaya, described in Case Study 3.

Case studies of Malaysian Master's degrees and their conversion to the UK system

Master's programmes in Malaysia comprise minimum 40 MQF credits, though many exceed this minimum.

The following examples illustrate calculations of credit conversion from MQF to UK credits for Master's degree programmes offered by Malaysian universities. The calculations are based on the total programme volume of a comparable UK Master's degree in a related field.

Case Study 7 (Malaysia Master → UK Master's degree)

Master of Education (MEd) <i>University of Technology Malaysia</i> ²⁵		Credit allocation
University modules		3
Core modules		20
Research		10
Elective		12
Credit total		45
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		30
Year 2 / Semester 1		15

The following credit conversion example illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the Master of Education programme at the University of Technology Malaysia to a similarly-focussed UK Master's programme²⁶:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	30 MQF credits x (120 UK credits of Education MA ÷ 45 MQF credits of MEd)	80 UK credits
Year 2	15 MQF credits x (120 UK credits of Education MA ÷ 45 MQF credits of MEd)	40 UK credits
Total		120 UK credits

²⁵ Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (n.d.). *Master of Education (Curriculum and Instruction) (MHPC) – Taught Course*. Available at: <https://fest.utm.my/mhpc/> [Accessed March 2026].

²⁶ With reference to the Education MA from University of Birmingham, presented in Case Study 10.

Case study 8 (Malaysia Master → UK Master's degree)

Master of Business Administration (MBA)		Credit allocation
<i>University of Malaya</i> ²⁷		
Core compulsory modules		18
Core concentration & Elective		21
Research		7
Credit total		46
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		30
Year 2 / Semester 1		16

The following credit conversion calculation illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the MBA to a similarly-focused, 180-credit UK MBA²⁸:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Year	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Year 1	30 MQF credits x (180 UK credits of MBA ÷ 46 MQF credits of MBA)	117 UK credits
Year 2	16 MQF credits x (180 UK credits of MBA ÷ 46 MQF credits of MBA)	63 UK credits
Total		180 UK credits

²⁷ Universiti Malaya (2025). *MBA Master of Business Administration 2025/2026*. Available at: <https://fpe.um.edu.my/FPE/Mini%20Handbook/20252026/Master%20of%20Business%20Administration%20Handbook%20%202025%202026%20latest%206.34pm.pdf>

²⁸ With reference to the University of Kingston MBA, presented in Case Study 11.

Case study 9 (Malaysia Master → UK Master's degree)

Master of Science (MSc) in Biomedical Engineering		Credit allocation
<i>University of Technology Malaysia²⁹</i>		
University modules		3
Core modules		15
Research		15
Elective		12
Credit total		45
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		34
Year 2 / Semester 1		11

The following credit conversion calculation illustrates the potential transfer of core and elective modules from the MSc in Biomedical Engineering to a similarly-focussed UK 180-credit MSc in Biomedical Engineering³⁰:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Modules	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Core and elective	27 MQF credits x (180 UK credits of MSc in Biomedical Engineering ÷ 45 MQF credits of MSc in Biomedical Engineering)	108 UK credits
Total		108 UK credits

²⁹ Universiti Teknologi Malaya Department of Biomedical Engineering & Health Sciences (n.d.) *Program structures and curriculum: Master of Science*. Available at: <https://fke.utm.my/biomedical/program-structures-and-curriculum-master-of-science/> [Accessed March 2026].

³⁰ With reference to the MSc from the University of Southampton presented in Case Study 12.

Case studies of the UK Master's degrees and their conversion to the Malaysian system

Most Master's degree programmes in the UK comprise 180 UK credits, although variations in total credit volume do exist. The following examples illustrate how UK credits are converted to MQF credits for Master's degree programmes offered by UK universities. These calculations are based on the total programme volume of a comparable Malaysian Master's degree in a related field, as outlined in the previous section.

Case study 10 (UK Master's degree → Malaysian Master's degree)

Master of Arts in Education (Education MA) <i>University of Birmingham</i> ³¹	Credit allocation
Core modules	40
Elective	20
Dissertation	60
Credit total	120
Credit allocation per each year:	
Year 1	120

The following credit-conversion example demonstrates the potential transfer of core and elective modules from the Education MA at the University of Birmingham, which has a total volume of 120 UK credits, to a comparable Malaysian programme³²:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Modules	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Core and elective	60 UK credits x (45 MQF credits of MEd ÷ 120 UK credits of Education MA)	22.5 MQF credits
Total		22.5 MQF credits

³¹ University of Birmingham (n.d.) *Education MA*. Available at: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/subjects/teacher-education-courses/education-ma> [Accessed March 2026].

³² With reference to the 45-MQF credit MEd programme at the University of Technology Malaysia, described in Case Study 7.

Case study 11 (UK Master's degree → Malaysian Master's degree)

Master of Business Administration (MBA)		Credit allocation
<i>Kingston University</i> ³³		
Core modules		150
Elective		30
Research		-
Credit total		180
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		180

The following credit conversion example illustrates the potential transfer of credits from the MBA to a comparable Malaysian MBA³⁴:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Modules	Calculations	Credits for transfer
All	180 UK credits x (46 MQF credits of MBA ÷ 180 UK credits of MBA)	46 MQF credits
Total		46 MQF credits

³³ Kingston University (n.d.) *Master of Business Administration*. Available at: <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/master-of-business-administration-mba> [Accessed March 2026] and *The Kingston MBA (Full time): Indicative timetable*. Available at: https://assets.kingston.ac.uk/m/13e3f7322af0f401/original/2025_MBA-timetable_BSS-25-339-M.pdf

³⁴ With reference to the 46-MQF credit MBA at the University of Malaya, described in Case Study 8.

Case study 12 (UK Master's degree → Malaysian Master's degree)

Master of Science (MSc) in Biomedical Engineering		Credit allocation
<i>University of Southampton</i> ³⁵		
Core modules		45
Elective		75
Research		60
Credit total		180
Credit allocation per each year:		
Year 1		180

The following credit conversion example illustrates the potential transfer of credits for core and elective modules from the MSc in Biomedical Engineering to a comparable MSc from Malaysia³⁶:

Calculation of credit conversion		
Modules	Calculations	Credits for transfer
Core and elective	120 UK credits x (45 MQF credits of MSc in Biomedical Engineering ÷ 180 UK credits of MSc in Biomedical Engineering)	30 MQF credits
Total		30 MQF credits

³⁵ University of Southampton (n.d.) *Biomedical Engineering (MSc)*. Available at: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/courses/biomedical-engineering-masters-msc#about>. [Accessed March 2026].

³⁶ With reference to the MSc in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Technology Malaysia, described in Case Study 9.

