

Abbreviations for University Qualifications - Procedures



/about/policies-and-procedures/abbreviations-for-university-qualifications-procedures

1. Purpose of procedures

1.1 These procedures establish a consistent approach to the titles and abbreviations for university qualifications as part of curriculum accreditation and approval processes. The intent is to also guide the allocation and style of post nominals for use by graduates of University of the Sunshine Coast award programs.

2. Scope and application

2.1 Non-award programs are not covered by these procedures.

2. Definitions

Please refer to the University's Glossary of Terms for policies and procedures. Terms and definitions identified below are specific to these procedures and are critical to its effectiveness:

The Curriculum Support Unit refers to the relevant staff within the Centre for Support and Advancement of Learning and Teaching (CSALT) who are responsible for supporting and facilitating the program accreditation and course approval process.

Post nominals are the letters placed after a person's name to indicate education qualifications, title of office, decoration or honour.

3. Abbreviations for University Qualifications

3.1. A register of abbreviations for university qualifications will be maintained by the Curriculum Support Unit as part of its accreditation documentation.

3.2. The register contains the program code, the official name of a qualification awarded for a program (including a higher degree by research), together with its official abbreviation, approved either as part of accreditation or as a subsequent change to the original name.

3.3. The register will be updated following the accreditation of any new program or any approved change to the original name.

3.4. The Curriculum Support Unit advises Student Services and Engagement of any new program proposals or any approved change to an existing program name together with the official abbreviation for input into the University's student information system PeopleSoft.

3.5 An alphabetical list of the standard abbreviated form of each word used in official abbreviations to date is maintained by the Curriculum Support Unit.

3.6 The following protocols must be observed when determining award abbreviations:

(a) where an Australian professional or academic body or similar has specified that a particular abbreviation should be used, that abbreviation should be adopted;

(b) the abbreviation for a new qualification must be consistent with any similar abbreviation included in the abbreviations lists, unless special conventions such as in (a) above apply; and

(c) where no precedent can be found, an abbreviation should be adopted that minimises potential confusion for students, employers and others, and reflects general use of abbreviations used for words in the qualification.

4. Use of post nominals

4.1 Post nominals are to be consistent with the register of abbreviations for university qualifications maintained by the Curriculum Support Unit.

4.2 Professional qualifications or memberships are placed after academic qualifications, eg BA PhD Sunshine Coast, MACS (Snr).

4.3 The university qualifications are to be indicated in the order that they have been conferred.

4.4 The preferred abbreviation for the University is 'Sunshine Coast', not USC, and may be placed after the award abbreviation in italics.

4.5 No post nominals are prescribed for Honorary Awards.

4.6 For jointly conferred academic awards, agreements with the other institutions are to be in place for the use of appropriate post nominals.

APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

DESIGNATED OFFICER

Director, Centre for Support and Advancement of Learning and Teaching

FIRST APPROVED

23 June 2009

LAST AMENDED

4 September 2019

REVIEW DATE

4 September 2024

STATUS

Active

5. Titles and abbreviations of award programs

5.1 Title and abbreviations used for award programs are to be consistent with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

AQF LEVEL	QUALIFICATION TYPE	ABBREVIATION	EXAMPLES
Certificate IV	Cert		
Diploma	Dip	Diploma in Languages	DipLang
Advanced Diploma	AdvDip		
Associate Degree	AssocDeg	Associate Degree in Science	AssocDegSc
Bachelor Degree	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Business	BA/BBus	
	Bachelor of Laws	LLB	
Bachelor Honours Degree	B ... (Hons)	Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) (Honours)	BEng(Mech)(Hons)
Graduate Certificate	GradCert	Graduate Certificate in Management	GradCertMgt
Graduate Diploma	GradDip	Graduate Diploma in Psychology	GradDipPsych
Masters Degree (Coursework)	Master of Education	MEd	
Masters Degree (Research)	Master of Creative Arts	MCA	
	Master of Business by Research	MBusResearch	
Masters Degree (Extended)	M*		
10	Doctoral Degree	Doctor of Philosophy	PhD
		Doctor of Creative Arts	DCA

Bachelor of Law uses LLB, by convention.

* AQF specifies the following exceptions for Extended Masters:

i The use of the title 'Juris Doctor' is permitted for a Masters Degree (Extended) for legal practice.

ii. The use of the title 'Doctor of ...' is permitted for a Masters Degree (Extended) for five professions only: medical practice; physiotherapy; dentistry; optometry and veterinary practice.

Appendices

(Staff access only – Available from the Staff Intranet MyUSC):

Appendix 1 - Register of abbreviations for university qualifications

Appendix 2 - Alphabetical list of the standard abbreviated form of words used in official abbreviations

END

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Higher Degree by Research Program Accreditation - Academic Policy

Higher Degree by Research Program Accreditation - Procedures

Program Accreditation and Course Approval - Governing Policy

Program Accreditation, Change and Discontinuation - Procedures

LINKED DOCUMENTS

Program Accreditation and Course Approval - Governing Policy

RELATED LEGISLATION / STANDARDS

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Act 2011 (Cth)

Australian Qualifications Framework

usc.edu.au/policy