

ACADEMIC BOARD – MEETING 4/02 (23 MAY 2002)

RELATION BETWEEN CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS AND MASTERS COURSES

Principles of Selection

All Selection is subject to the Principles of Selection:

1. The University is committed to maintaining high international academic standards in its courses.
2. The University will select from those students likely to succeed in its courses.

CERTIFICATES-DIPLOMAS

Differential Entry Requirements

Certificates provide entry pathways into Diplomas and also Masters degrees. Usually, Certificate courses have entry requirements that are less demanding than entry requirements into Diplomas and Masters courses.

For example, Postgraduate Certificate entry requirements frequently stipulate only an undergraduate degree, while the Postgraduate Diploma requires an undergraduate degree at a particular level and x years of documented relevant work experience.

These different entry requirements do not pose a problem when Graduate or Postgraduate Certificates are terminating qualifications or when Graduate and Postgraduate Certificates are an entry pathway without credit into the Graduate or Postgraduate Diploma. However, when there is credit towards the Diploma for subjects completed in the Certificate, some applicants with a Certificate may not meet the full entry requirements to the Diploma.

Academic Levels in Certificate and Diploma

In cases where the subjects in the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma and Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate are at the same academic level, entry requirements must ensure that all applicants have the same likelihood of success and that the high academic standards of the University are maintained. Entry requirements into the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate and Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma may be different. However, Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate students are expected to have the same likelihood of passing the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma subjects, although their level of achievement in the subjects may be different from that of Diploma students.

Graduate Certificates and Diplomas

Graduate Certificates and Diplomas are designed for students without appropriate prior degrees. It is possible to articulate to a Graduate Diploma from a Graduate Certificate, with or without credit.

Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas

Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas require an appropriate degree as an entry path. It is possible to articulate to a Postgraduate Diploma from a Postgraduate Certificate with or without credit.

Transfer from Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificates to Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diplomas

Certificate students may transfer credits to the Diploma when:

1. the entry requirements of the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate and the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma are the same or
2. the entry requirements of the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate and the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma differ, but the individual Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate student meets the entry requirements for a Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma or
3. the entry requirements of the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate and the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma differ, but the individual Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate student has performed at a specified high level (which must be above Pass) in the Certificate.

For students permitted to transfer, up to 50 points in the Graduate (or Postgraduate) Certificate course may be credited towards a Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diploma (as detailed below), but the subjects so credited must be at Diploma level.

Postgraduate Certificate to Postgraduate Diploma

For transfer from a Postgraduate Certificate under any of the three paths listed above, an applicant must complete at least 50 points after enrolling in the Postgraduate Diploma. Up to 50 points may be credited from the Postgraduate Certificate, provided the credited subjects are at least at fourth year level. For the awarding of a degree or diploma, a person must be associated with the University for 1 year.

Graduate Certificate to Graduate Diploma

For transfer from a Graduate Certificate under any of the three paths listed above, an applicant must complete at least 50 points after enrolling in the Graduate Diploma degree. Up to 50 points may be credited from the Graduate Certificate, provided the credited subjects are at Graduate Diploma level. For the awarding of a degree or diploma, a person must be associated with the University for 1 year.

There is no transfer with credit from a Graduate Certificate to a Postgraduate Diploma. However, a Graduate Certificate may form a pathway into a Postgraduate Diploma.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA-MASTERS

Differential Entry Requirements

Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diplomas provide entry pathways into Masters degrees. Usually, entry requirements for Graduate (or Postgraduate) Diplomas are less demanding than entry requirements into Masters courses.

These different entry requirements will not pose a problem when Diplomas are terminating qualifications.

Academic Levels in Diploma and Masters

In cases where Diploma students can enrol in Masters level subjects, entry requirements must ensure that applicants have the same likelihood of success and that the high academic standards of the University are maintained. Entry requirements may be different. However, Diploma students are expected to have the same likelihood of passing Master level subjects, although their level of achievement in the subject may differ from that of Masters students. Normally, Diploma students would undertake pre-Master level subjects as a prerequisite for enrolling in Master level subjects in the Diploma.

Graduate Diploma and Postgraduate Diplomas

The Graduate Diplomas are designed for students without appropriate prior degrees. Postgraduate Diplomas require an appropriate degree as an entry path. Both a Graduate Diploma and a Postgraduate Diploma provide entry paths into a Masters degree. It is not possible to transfer credit from a Graduate Diploma to a Masters.

Transfer from Postgraduate Diploma to Masters

Postgraduate Diploma students may transfer to the Masters when:

1. the entry requirements of the Postgraduate Diploma and the Masters are the same or
2. the entry requirements of the Postgraduate Diploma and the Masters differ, but the individual Postgraduate Diploma student meets the entry requirements for a Masters or
3. the entry requirements of the Postgraduate Diploma and the Masters differ, but the individual Postgraduate Diploma student has performed at a specified high level (which must be above Pass) in the Postgraduate Diploma.

For students permitted to transfer, a number of subjects in the Postgraduate Diploma course may be credited towards a Masters (as detailed below), but the subjects so credited must be at Masters level.

Postgraduate Diploma to Masters

For transfer from a Postgraduate Diploma under any of the three paths listed above, an applicant must complete at least 50 points after enrolling in the Masters degree. Up to 50 points may be credited from the Postgraduate Diploma, provided the credited subjects are at Masters level.

For the awarding of a Masters degree, a person must be associated with the University for 1 year and at least 100 points of Masters level subjects must be completed.

Graduate Diploma to Masters

The Graduate Diploma is a pathway into a Masters degree. An applicant with a Graduate Diploma must complete at least 150 points in the Masters degree, of which 100 must be at Masters level.

Professor Stephen Nicholas
Chair, Selection Procedures Committee
9 May 2002