

## Credit System for Taught Graduate Programmes

The University of the West Indies needs to develop an agreed credit system for its taught graduate programmes, and for the taught components of its research graduate programmes, which standardizes the basic requirements for different programmes across disciplines and Campuses. The principal advantages of this include:

- It provides a clear statement of the differences in work requirements for our different categories of taught graduate programmes, thereby facilitating intra-University consistency.
- It provides guidance to students and staff on the time and effort expected to be devoted to different categories of programmes.
- It allows us to ensure that the work requirements of our different categories of graduate programmes are consistent with international standards and are in a currency understood by all.
- It facilitates the development of a credit-based fee structure for our graduate programmes.
- It allows standardization of the minimum and maximum course loads allowed in our research graduate programs.

The proposed system is based on the formula that 1 credit is equivalent to 12 lecture contact hours, 24 hours of laboratory work, supervised field assignments, seminars or formal group discussions, or 48 hours of non-supervised research work.

Based on the above formula, it is proposed that the credit range for Graduate Diploma Programmes be 20-25 credits and the credit range for Taught Masters Programmes be 35-45 credits. Proposals for programmes with credit weightings outside of these ranges can be considered for approval by the Board for Graduate Studies and Research, but the proposals must be accompanied by a clear rationale supporting the need for the exemption.

It is proposed that a minimum of 6 credits and maximum of 12 credits should be taken through courses in M.Phil. programmes, and a minimum of 9 credits and a maximum of 18 credits should be taken through courses in Ph.D. programmes, when students enter such programmes directly from a Bachelors degree.

When students upgrade from M.Phil. to Ph.D., their M.Phil. course requirements will be deemed to have satisfied the course requirements for the Ph.D.

When students enter either the M.Phil or Ph.D. degree already holding a taught Masters degree, they will typically be exempt from the course requirements of the research degree. However, such students may be asked, by the Faculty in which they are registering and with the approval of the Board for Graduate Studies and Research, to take additional course credits, if such courses are deemed necessary to provide a specific knowledge-base or skill required for the proposed research degree.