Policy on construction of optional unit selection rules in programme structures

Policy Scope and Aims

This policy applies to the definition of taught programmes, with the key principle of providing a consistent and positive student experience. The policy aims to:

- Support informed student choice
- Enable translation of programme structures for automatic validation of student optional unit selection in an online process
- Support timetabling so that choice is viable

Policy

4.1 Optional unit selection rules should be simple and clear, to support well informed choice.

4.2 Where there is more than one defined route through the programme which dictates mandatory units and optional unit lists, the programme should be structured with pathways.

4.3 Lists of optional units should be specified within the structure

4.4 Lists of optional units and rules governing choice should apply to a single year e.g. selection from a list must be made within year 1 not deferred to year 2.

4.5 Rules governing optional unit selection from a list should be defined by the number of credit points to be selected from the list. This provides clarity and consistency across programmes and departments.

4.6 Where there is selection from more than one list to be made, the relationships between the selection lists should be clearly expressed using AND / OR.

    Select 60 credits points from list A
    OR
    Select 60 credit points from list B

    Select 40 credit points from list A
    AND
    Select 20 credit points from list B

4.7 Where a selection is to be made from a group of lists, and a variable number of credit points can be selected from each list, the overall amount of credit points to be selected should be indicated first, followed by the maximum / minimum for each list and the AND/ OR criteria.

    Select 60 credit points from the following group:
    Select a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 60 credit points from list A
    AND
    Select a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 20 credit points from list B

4.8 It is recommended that selection rules are as simple as possible, but combinations of rules may be required. There should be no more than 2 levels of subgroupings.
e.g.

Select 60 credit points from list A

OR

Select 20 credits points from list B

AND

Select 40 credit points from list C

OR

Select 40 credit points from list D

4.9 It is recommended that there are no more than three optional unit selection lists and associated rules within a stage.

4.10 Pre-requisites, co-requisites

For any unit, schools may continue to define the following:

- Pre-requisite units (must be taken before the unit in question)
- Co-requisite units (must be taken together with the unit in question)

These rules apply across all programmes.