

The MQ Model:
Micro-credentials and Continuing
Professional Development Curriculum
Architecture Principles
(Final Working Paper Draft)

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Principle 1: Nomenclature

- 1.1 Programs will henceforth be known as “Courses”.

Principle 2: Stewardship of Micro-courses

- 2.1 All credit-bearing micro-courses are “owned” by Academic Senate on behalf of the University. Individual faculties/offices, however, act as stewards for individual micro-courses on behalf of Academic Senate. They are responsible for the design, delivery, review, and innovation of micro-courses in compliance with University policies and procedures.
- 2.2 Micro-courses can be terminating qualifications at 20cp or engage with the suite of formal AQF awards.

Principle 3: Micro-units

- 3.1 Students will not be required to enrol in a course of study to complete a micro-unit(s).
- 3.2 All units are aligned to the 10 credit point (150 hours of activity) system for postgraduate units but they are offered in smaller credit point sizes.
- 3.3 The volume of learning in a micro-credential unit can range from units of 15 hours (1cp) to 75 hours (5cp).

Principle 4: Recognition of study

- 4.1 Students will be able to claim recognition of their studies (Certificate of Attainment for a Unit(s), micro-course, or designated AQF award) when they meet the volume of learning requirements.

Principle 5: Earned Access

- 5.1 Course authorities may permit open access to their suite of micro-units. Successful performance in the first 20 cp of micro-units would “earn access” to continue studying with the prospect of claiming a designated AQF award.

Principle 6: Micro-unit design principles

- 6.1 Micro-units will usually be flexible blended learning offerings that can cater to fully online students but also take advantage of short intensive on-campus study opportunities.
- 6.2 Regardless of their size all micro-units must have a commensurate assessment requirement.

6.3 In the unit approval process the time-on-task for students will be explicitly stated.

Principle 7: International Student Enrolment

7.1 Micro-units and micro-courses may be available to offshore international students.

Principle 8: Micro-Course Semester System

8.1 The DVC(A) will approve standardised study periods for micro-units and courses.

Principle 10: Micro-Course Governance

10.1 Micro-units will be approved at the faculty/office level.

10.2 Academic Senate will approve micro-units and micro-courses delivered outside faculties.

10.3 Micro-courses (20cp) will be approved at the faculty level.

10.4 New micro-units and micro-courses will be tabled at ASQC.

10.5 The Office of the DVCA will be advised of new micro-courses.

10.6 AQF programs utilising micro-credentials will be approved through the current shared governance structures.