

Report on the alignment of the awards made by Open University in Ireland with the National Framework of Qualifications

Recommendation

HETAC should recommend to the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland that the awards of Open University (OU), made in Ireland, should be aligned with the National Framework of Qualifications, to specific award-types in respect of certain identified awards, or in accordance with level in respect of other awards, as outlined in Appendix 1. The structure of the OU awards (award-type descriptors) are in Appendix 2.

Suggested Conditions of Alignment

1. OU may refer to the specified qualifications as being aligned with the specified levels of the National Framework of Qualifications in Ireland (the Framework) and recognised as such by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI).
2. The specified awards and not the component parts are aligned to the Framework.
3. OU shall provide Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) with annual statistics in respect of numbers achieving the awards to which the alignment applies and numbers registering for higher education modules which may lead to such awards, by a date to be agreed.
4. OU shall advise HETAC of any external quality assurance review to which it is subject to, including the quality institutional audit, collaborative provision and overseas audits. It shall also advise HETAC of the outcome of such audits.
5. OU shall advise the HETAC of any material change to its Quality Assurance Procedures; which will impact on any aspect of the provision of the awards to which the alignment applies.
6. OU shall implement the procedures determined by the NQAI in respect of access, transfer and progression and RPL.
7. OU shall advise HETAC of any new awards which are approved for provision in Ireland.

Introduction

The Open University applied to the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (the Qualifications Authority) to have the awards that it makes in Ireland aligned with the National Framework of Qualifications (the Framework). This alignment is enabled through the policies and criteria for the inclusion in, or alignment with, the National Framework of Qualifications (Framework) of the awards of certain awarding bodies which were adopted by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland in July 2006 (*Policies and Criteria for the Inclusion in, or Alignment with, the National Framework of Qualifications of the Awards of Certain Awarding Bodies*). These policies are designed to enable the recognition of awards, or learning outcomes associated with awards, of certain awarding bodies which are not already recognised through the Framework. In its policy, the Qualifications Authority identified three different types of bodies to which the policy applies. These are:

- a. Irish bodies which make awards on a statutory basis where the awards are not yet in the Framework and where the awards cannot be withdrawn;
- b. Irish bodies which do not make awards on a statutory basis but which recognise the attainment by learners of learning outcomes in a formal way associated with the legal regulation of the operation of a profession, or of a professional title by such bodies;
- c. Certain bodies from outside the state which make awards in Ireland.

Inclusion in and alignment with the Framework of awards and learning outcomes of these bodies can be through Framework award-types and their descriptors, or at a level in the Framework on an overall best-fit basis. Awards which may be considered for recognition through the Framework must have quality assurance procedures relating to the award and also relating to programmes leading to the awards.

International Awards

International Awards, or Group C awards, as identified in the policy are defined as awards made by national awarding bodies from other jurisdictions that have a status in law, or are otherwise recognised as having authority to make awards that have national recognition in their host jurisdiction and whose awards are included in national frameworks or, where such a framework is not in place, in an equivalent national tool for relating qualifications to each other, where such awards are made following the successful completion of programmes by learners in Ireland. Awards which fall within this category can be aligned with the Framework. The alignment of the awards of UK bodies will be undertaken in the context of the cross-referencing of the Irish Framework with UK Frameworks agreed with UK regulatory authorities in 2005 (*Qualifications can cross boundaries – a rough guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland*).

Under the policy, the applicant body under category C applies to the Qualifications Authority for alignment of the relevant awards. The processing of the application is subsequently through the relevant national awards council. The Qualifications Authority has requested the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) to process the application of the OU with a view to advising it in respect of the alignment.

Open University (OU)

The OU was founded by Royal Charter in 1969 and began teaching students in 1971. It was established specifically and distinctively to provide supported open learning opportunities for

students to study with the University from a distance on a part-time basis. Its administrative headquarters are in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and it has 13 regional centres located throughout the UK. It has 55 collaborative partners, 19 of whom are overseas, operating throughout the EU and extending into the Middle and Far East.

The OU in Ireland (Open University Region 12) covers two jurisdictions – Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. As a region of the OU, it has the largest geographical area of the OU's thirteen regions and receives the sixth highest number of enquiries annually in the OU. It ranks twelfth in numbers of registered students (currently over 8,000 registered students). It has a network of sixteen study centres across the country with over 460 Associate Lecturers and advisory staff. Some 65% of its students live within the two main conurbations of Belfast and Dublin, along the 'North/South corridor' on the east coast of the island. However, particular consideration and support is given to students and potential learners living in the more remote western and southern parts of the country. In line with the OU's policy of widening access to and participation in higher education and its commitment to the National Development Plan in Ireland it offers additional communication by tutors, in person, by telephone and e-mail. Over 75% of OU students in Ireland are employed full-time. The regional office in Belfast was established in 1970 to register, advise and support its students throughout the island. In response to further demand the OU opened an Enquiry and Advice Office at Holles Street Dublin in 1996. Since then, the OU has developed relationships with many major bodies in Ireland, including HEA and FÁS. It regards the alignment of its awards with the National Qualifications Framework as critical; one which will be important for its students.

The OU has full degree-awarding powers. It is distinctive among UK universities as it delivers all of its programmes by distance through its method of Supported Open Learning and has no academic prerequisites for admission to its undergraduate provision. Its students enter with a wide range of study goals and prior educational attainment and general experience. The normal minimum academic entry requirement for post-graduate programmes is an honours degree, or equivalent. OU aims to create conditions which ensure that students are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, rather than on other irrelevant distinction. Its undergraduate and most of its postgraduate taught programmes are fully modular. Students register for credit-rated modules and accumulate credit via completion of modules towards qualifications. The carefully structured programmes, designed to facilitate progression within programmes and between levels enable the University to offer open admission, i.e. without any requirements for prior academic qualifications, to its undergraduate programmes. OU also has an active research community and it offers full-time master's degrees by research.

Modules are generally available on a one-of-a-kind basis. Students register by module. While they may indicate a particular award that they wish to pursue on entry, this is not compulsory. Each module has a specified list of learning outcomes and is assigned a level and credit point value (in accordance with the Credit Guidelines for Higher Education Qualifications). Students are awarded the relevant credits on successful completion of a module.

The programmes delivered in Ireland meet the requirements of the UK Quality Assurance Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and are subject to scrutiny by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). The Quality Assurance Framework provides for external quality

assurance of provision through its Code of practice and through review by QAA's mainstream review process. The QAA is a member of the European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies and has committed itself and the institutions within its review remit to the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. HETAC has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the QAA that provides for the exchange of information in relation to UK universities that make awards to learners in Ireland. OU has engaged with the Bologna process and from the end of 2007 it intends to offer the Diploma supplement to all learners who successfully complete programmes.

The OU has a small number of QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority) linked awards. These are specific to a small number of UK regions and arise in relation to regional skills partnerships. OU does not currently and does not intend to offer such programmes in Ireland.

Open University Validation Services (OUVS)

OUVS was established in 1992 and provides an external accreditation and validation service to other educational establishments and professional bodies, including the validation of programmes in subject areas outside the University's portfolio. It currently validates programmes in thirty-one UK institutions (Appendix 3). Some of these institutions offer their programmes to students in Ireland, namely, Maryvale Institute, the Chartered Management Institute and Association of University Administrators. In the most recent audit by QAA of its collaborative provision (2005), the audit team's review of the University concluded that:

- 'only limited confidence can reasonably be placed in the soundness of the University's present and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards made through collaborative arrangements, and that
- only limited confidence can reasonably be placed in the present and likely future capacity of the University to satisfy itself that the learning opportunities offered to students through its collaborative arrangements are managed effectively and meet its requirements.'

Since the audit, QAA has been provided with information on the actions taken by the OU in response to the findings in the report. This enabled QAA to sign off on the report in June 2007.

Application

The OU has applied to have 201 current awards and three previously offered awards aligned to the Framework. (Appendix 4). Currently, over 4,350 learners resident in the Republic of Ireland are registered on part-time OU programmes. In excess of 1,000 learners from Ireland graduate with OU awards annually (Appendix 5). While the number of awards offered in this jurisdiction is extensive, the range of award-types offered by the OU in the UK is greater. We have established that a small number of awards are made by the OU in the UK at a level equivalent to level 5 on the Framework. Awards below level 6 are not made by the OU in Ireland.

QAA

The procedures for the alignment of the awards of awarding bodies from outside the state, which make awards in Ireland, requires consultation with the quality assurance agency which is primarily responsible for the quality assurance within the applicant body. QAA has confirmed that it quality assures the provision of the OU. The Academic Infrastructure is the means of describing academic standards in UK higher education, therefore the institutional audit is central to the review process. An institutional audit of OU was last conducted in 2004. For institutions that have large and complex provision, collaborative provision audits are conducted in addition to institutional audits. OU had a collaborative provision audit in 2005. QAA also carries out quality audits of UK higher education delivered outside the UK through the overseas audit. OU has therefore been the subject of QAA institutional, collaborative provision and overseas audits. (The reports are available at <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews/reports/instReports.asp?instID=H-0001>).

Range of Awards

As indicated above, alignment with the Framework can be through Framework award-types and their descriptors, or at a level in the Framework on an overall best-fit basis. The Framework currently has seven higher education and training major award-types. The corresponding awards of the OU are identified in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Alignment of the award-types of the OU with the National Framework of Qualifications

Awards which can be aligned to Major award-types of the National Framework of Qualifications

Framework Level	Framework Award-Type	ECTS Credits	OU Award-Type	Level	UK Credits
6	Higher Certificate	120			
7	Ordinary Bachelor	180	Ordinary Degrees	I	300 (150)*
8	Honours Bachelor	180 -240	Honours Degrees	H	360 (180)*
	Higher Diploma	60	Advanced Diploma	H/M	120 (60)*
9	Post-graduate Diploma	60	Postgraduate Diploma	M	120 (60)*
	Master Degree	90	Master Degree	M	180 (90)*
10	Doctorate		Taught Doctorates	D	

* credit numbers in brackets are the ECTS equivalent of the UK credits. UK credits are numerically double ECTS credits.

Appendix 1 (contd.)

Awards which are aligned at a level on the National Framework of Qualifications

Framework Level	Framework Award-Type	ECTS Credits	OU Award-Type	Level	Credits
6	Minor Award Level 6	N/A	Certificate	C	60 (30)*
	Special Purpose Award Level 6	N/A	Professional Certificate	C	60 (30)*
7	Minor Award Level 7	N/A	Diploma	I	120 (60)*
8			N/A		
9	Minor Award Level 9	N/A	Postgraduate Certificate	M	60 (30)*
10			N/A		

* credit numbers in brackets are the ECTS equivalent of the UK credits

The awards above are aligned at a level on the Framework. As the volume is smaller than that of the major award-types, these equate more closely with minor awards at the respective level.

Appendix 2

Structure of OU Award-types in terms of Level and Credit

Doctoral awards

The OU offers the awards of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Doctor of Education (EdD). The only research degree where the University's award regulations permit students to be resident outside of the UK is the EdD.

Master Level awards

At master level the OU offers:

Postgraduate Certificate - 60 credits (30 ECTS credits)

Postgraduate Diploma - 120 credits (60 ECTS credits)

Master of Arts and Master of Science - 180 credits (90 ECTS)

Prior to November 2005, all the credit associated with these awards was at master level. In November 2005 the Curriculum and Awards Board approved an amendment to the University's Qualifications Framework to permit the inclusion of up to 30 credits (15 ECTS) at undergraduate level to count towards a postgraduate diploma or a master degree. Each specific incidence of inclusion of undergraduate credit within a master level award is approved individually.

BA/BSc Open

The OU 'open' degree requires a minimum of 300 credits (150 ECTS), with a minimum of 60 credits (30 ECTS) at HE level 3, a minimum of 180 credits (90 ECTS) above HE level 1, and no credits below HE level 1. These requirements came into effect on 31 December 2004.

To qualify for a BA degree, a student is required to have at least 150 credits (75 ECTS) from modules designated as appropriate for a BA. At least 60 credits (30 ECTS) should be above HE level 1. To qualify for a BSc degree a student is required to have at least 150 credits (75 ECTS) from modules designated as appropriate for a BSc. Of these, at least 60 credits (30 ECTS) should be above HE level 1.

Honours Bachelor Degree

The OU honours degree requires 360 credits (180 ECTS) at HE level 1 and above. At least 240 credits (120 ECTS) must be above HE level 1 and at least 120 credits (60 ECTS) at HE level 3.

Honours degrees in named subjects have further requirements in terms of subject-specific credit and HE level 1. Qualification titles that reflect the subject focus of programmes of study in two disciplines (eg a joint Honours award) adopt nomenclatures based on:

- (a) 'A and B', where there is an approximately equal balance between two components; and
- (b) 'A with B', for a major/minor combination where the minor subject accounts for at least a quarter of the programme.

Other awards

OU also offers a range of other/minor awards:

1. **Certificate:** requires 60 credits (30 ECTS) at HE level 1.
2. **Professional Certificates:** for a coherent body of study equivalent to 60 credits of study (30 ECTS) at any undergraduate level which responds to a specific continuing professional development need or/and is recognised by a professional body.
3. **Diploma:** requires either 120 credits (60 ECTS) at HE level 2 or 120 credits, including 60 credits (30 ECTS) at HE level 2 and 60 credits (30 ECTS) HE level 3.
4. **Advanced Diploma:** requires 60 credits at HE level 3 and 60 credits at Master's level.

These awards are designed to be shorter/smaller in volume than the generic Certificates of Higher Education, Diplomas of Higher Education and Graduate Certificates and Diplomas, as OU caters principally for part-time learners.

Appendix 3

Open University Approved Institutions in the UK

- All Nations Christian College
- Architectural Association School of Architecture
- Association of University Administrators
- Bell College
- Billericay Educational Consortium
- Chartered Management Institute
- College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
- Cornwall SCITT
- Education for Health
- European Business School London
- Forth Valley College of Further and Higher Education
- Havering College of Further and Higher Education
- Kent and Medway Training
- Leeds College of Art and Design
- Leeds College of Music
- Leo Baeck College - Centre for Jewish Education
- Manchester College of Arts and Technology [MANCAT]
- Maryvale Institute
- NESCOL
- Newbold College
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- Plymouth College of art and Design
- Regents Business School London
- Richmond The American International University in London
- RNFAA (Military Aviation Academy)
- Ruskin College Oxford
- Solihull College
- South London Consortium
- St John's College
- TITAN Partnership
- UHI Millennium Institute

Appendix 4

Awards of the Open University offered in Ireland and to which the application applies

	Award Code	Award Title	UK Award Level	UK Credits	NFQ Level	ECTS
		Certificate				
1	C32	Certificate in Accounting	C	60	6	30
2	C58	Certificate in Astronomy and Planetary Science	C	60	6	30
3	C63	Certificate in Business Studies	C	60	6	30
4	C73	Certificate in Communication in Health and Social Care	C	60	6	30
5	C50	Certificate in Computing and Mathematics	C	60	6	30
6	C70	Certificate in Contemporary Science	C	60	6	30
7	C37	Certificate in Early Years Practice	C	60	6	30
8	C33	Certificate in French	C	60	6	30
9	C34	Certificate in German	C	60	6	30
10	D34	Certificate in Health and Social Care	C	60	6	30
11	D27	Certificate in Health Promotion	C	60	6	30
12	C78	Certificate in Health Sciences	C	60	6	30
13	C36	Certificate in Humanities	C	60	6	30
14	C47	Certificate in Information Technology and Computing	C	60	6	30
15	C42	Certificate in Managing Care	C	60	6	30
16	C46	Certificate in Mathematics	C	60	6	30
17	C26	Certificate in Natural Sciences	C	60	6	30
18	C79	Certificate in Physics	C	60	6	30
19	C64	Certificate in Promoting Public Health	C	60	6	30
20	C56	Certificate in Quantitative Studies for Business	C	60	6	30
21	C43	Certificate in Reflective and Evidence-based Practice	C	60	6	30
22	C28	Certificate in Social Sciences	C	60	6	30
23	C35	Certificate in Spanish	C	60	6	30
24	C60	Certificate in Supporting Learning in Primary Schools	C	60	6	30
25	C39	Certificate in Web Applications Development	C	60	6	30
26	C54	Certificate in Working with Young People	C	90	6	45
27	C65	Certificate in Youth: perspectives and practice	C	60	6	30
		Professional Certificate				
28	C31	Professional Certificate in Management	C	60	6	30
29	C40	Professional Certificate in Management (Health and Social Care)	C	60	6	30
		Diploma				
30	D48	Diploma in Biological Sciences	I	120	7	60
31	E20	Diploma in Business Studies	I	120	7	60
32	E33	Diploma in Childhood and Youth Studies	I	120	7	60
33	D31	Diploma in Classical Studies	I	120	7	60
34	D12	Diploma in Computing	I	120	7	60
35	D43	Diploma in Design and Innovation	I	120	7	60

36	E24	Diploma in Innovation, Economics and Sustainability	I	120	7	60
37	D28	Diploma in Economics	I	120	7	60
38	D54	Diploma in English Language Studies	I	120	7	60
39	E06	Diploma in English Law	I	120	7	60
40	D21	Diploma in Environment and Development	I	120	7	60
41	D46	Diploma in Environmental Policy	I	120	7	60
42	D16	Diploma in French	I	120	7	60
43	D30	Diploma in Geography	I	120	7	60
44	D29	Diploma in Geography and Environment	I	120	7	60
45	E02	Diploma in Geosciences	I	120	7	60
46	D24	Diploma in German	I	120	7	60
47	D10	Diploma in Health and Social Welfare	I	120	7	60
48	E21	Diploma in Health Sciences	I	120	7	60
49	D39	Diploma in Information Technology	I	120	7	60
50	E09	Diploma in Law and French	I	120	7	60
51	E05	Diploma in Life Sciences	I	120	7	60
52	D65	Diploma in Literature	I	120	7	60
53	E25	Diploma in Literature and Creative Writing	I	120	7	60
54	D23	Diploma in Mathematics	I	120	7	60
55	E03	Diploma in Molecular Science	I	120	7	60
56	D22	Diploma in Music	I	120	7	60
57	D47	Diploma in Natural Sciences	I	120	7	60
58	E04	Diploma in Physical Science	I	120	7	60
59	E32	Diploma in International Dev. and Business Innovation	I	120	7	60
60	D53	Diploma in Politics and Government	I	120	7	60
61	D13	Diploma in Pollution Control	I	120	7	60
62	D15	Diploma in Psychology (Conversion for Postgraduates)	I	120	7	60
63	D66	Diploma in Religious Studies	I	120	7	60
64	D11	Diploma in Social Policy	I	120	7	60
65	D56	Diploma in Social Policy and Criminology	I	120	7	60
66	D55	Diploma in Sociology	I	120	7	60
67	D40	Diploma in Spanish	I	120	7	60
68	D44	Diploma in Statistics	I	120	7	60
69	D42	Diploma in Systems Practice	I	120	7	60
		Ordinary Bachelor Degree				
70	BD	BA/BSc Open degree	I	300	7	150
71	B51	BA in Early Years	I	300	7	150
		Bachelor Degree (Honours)				
72	B04	BA (Honours) Business Studies	H	360	8	180
73	B23	BA (Honours) Childhood and Youth Studies	H	360	8	180
74	B39	BA (Honours) English Language and Literature	H	360	8	180
75	B01	BA (Honours) History	H	360	8	180
76	B03	BA (Honours) Humanities	H	360	8	180
77	B21	BA (Honours) Language Studies	H	360	8	180
78	B02	BA (Honours) Literature	H	360	8	180

79	B30	BA (Honours) Modern Language Studies	H	360	8	180
80	B43	BA (Honours) Philosophy and Psychological Studies	H	360	8	180
81	B45	BA (Honours) Politics, Philosophy and Economics	H	360	8	180
82	B14	BA/BSc (Honours) Computing and Mathematical Sciences	H	360	8	180
83	B34	BA/BSc (Honours) Computing and Statistics	H	360	8	180
84	B15	BA/BSc (Honours) Economics and Mathematical Sciences	H	360	8	180
85	B19	BA/BSc (Honours) Environmental Studies	H	360	8	180
86	B10	BA/BSc (Honours) European Studies	H	360	8	180
87	B18	BA/BSc (Honours) Health and Social Care	H	360	8	180
88	B22	BA/BSc (Honours) Health and Social Care (add-on)	H	120	8	60
89	B17	BA/BSc (Honours) Health Studies	H	360	8	180
90	B09	BA/BSc (Honours) Human Geography	H	360	8	180
91	B11	BA/BSc (Honours) International Studies	H	360	8	180
92	B12	BA/BSc (Honours) Mathematical Sciences	H	360	8	180
93	B31	BA/BSc (Honours) Mathematics	H	360	8	180
94	B36	BA/BSc (Honours) Mathematics and Statistics	H	360	8	180
95	B06	BA/BSc (Honours) Social Sciences	H	360	8	180
96	BD	BA/BSc (Honours) Open degree	H	360	8	180
97	B24	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)	H	360	8	180
98	B05	Bachelor of Laws (Honours)	H	360	8	180
99	B29	BSc (Honours) Computing	H	360	8	180
100	B44	BSc (Honours) Computing and Design	H	360	8	180
101	B33	BSc (Honours) Computing and Systems Practice	H	360	8	180
102	B35	BSc (Honours) Computing with Business	H	360	8	180
103	B25	BSc (Honours) Geosciences	H	360	8	180
104	B49	BSc (Honours) in Computing with Psychological Studies	H	360	8	180
105	B38	BSc (Honours) Information and Communication Technologies	H	360	8	180
106	B13	BSc (Honours) Information Technology and Computing	H	360	8	180
107	B28	BSc (Honours) Life Sciences	H	360	8	180
108	B46	BSc (Honours) Mathematics and its Learning	H	360	8	180
109	B26	BSc (Honours) Molecular Science	H	360	8	180
110	B16	BSc (Honours) Natural Sciences	H	360	8	180
111	B27	BSc (Honours) Physical Science	H	360	8	180
112	B07	BSc (Honours) Psychology	H	360	8	180
113	B20	BSc (Honours) Technology	H	360	8	180
		Professional Diploma				
114	D64	Professional Diploma in Management	M	60	8	30
		Postgraduate Certificate				
115	C68	Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice	M	60	9	30
116	C66	Postgraduate Certificate in Business Administration	M	60	9	30
117	C69	Postgraduate Certificate in Computing	M	60	9	30
118	C67	Postgraduate Certificate in Conflict and Development	M	60	9	30
119	C48	Postgraduate Certificate in Development Management	M	60	9	30
120	C20	Postgraduate Certificate in Humanities	M	60	9	30

121	C51	Postgraduate Certificate in Information Systems	M	60	9	30
122	C59	Postgraduate Certificate in International Finance and Reporting	M	60	9	30
123	C62	Postgraduate Certificate in Knowledge Transfer	M	60	9	30
124	C41	Postgraduate Certificate in Learning in the Connected Economy	M	60	9	30
125	C38	Postgraduate Certificate in Music	M	60	9	30
126	C23	Postgraduate Certificate in Online and Distance Education	M	60	9	30
127	C27	Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Education	M	60	9	30
128	C52	Postgraduate Certificate in Social Sciences Research Methods	M	60	9	30
129	C25	Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	M	60	9	30
130	C49	Postgraduate Certificate in Technology Management	M	60	9	30
131	C24	Postgraduate Certificate in the Social Sciences	M	60	9	30
132	C21	Postgraduate Certificate in Education	M	60	9	30
		Postgraduate Diploma				
132	C02	Postgraduate Diploma in Computing for Commerce and Industry	M	120	9	60
133	E14	Postgraduate Diploma in Criminal Justice	M	120	9	60
134	D37	Postgraduate Diploma in Development Management	M	120	9	60
135	E22	Postgraduate Diploma in Engineering	M	120	9	60
136	D38	Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Decision Making	M	120	9	60
137	E15	Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Policy	M	120	9	60
138	E16	Postgraduate Diploma in Human Geography Research Methods	M	120	9	60
139	D35	Postgraduate Diploma in Humanities	M	120	9	60
140	E10	Postgraduate Diploma in Information Systems	M	120	9	60
141	E19	Postgraduate Diploma in Management of Software Projects	M	120	9	60
142	C03	Postgraduate Diploma in Manufacturing: Management and Technology	M	120	9	60
143	E23	Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematics	M	120	9	60
144	E01	Postgraduate Diploma in Music	M	120	9	60
145	E18	Postgraduate Diploma in Networks and Distributed Systems	M	120	9	60
146	D36	Postgraduate Diploma in Online and Distance Education	M	120	9	60
147	D52	Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Studies in Education	M	120	9	60
148	E11	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Research Methods	M	120	9	60
149	E13	Postgraduate Diploma in Social Policy	M	120	9	60
150	E12	Postgraduate Diploma in Social Research Methods	M	120	9	60
151	D69	Postgraduate Diploma in Software Development	M	120	9	60
152	E08	Postgraduate Diploma in Technology Management	M	120	9	60
153	D41	Postgraduate Diploma in the Social Sciences	M	120	9	60
154	C04	Joint Postgraduate Diploma in Computing and Manufacturing	M	120	9	60

		Advanced Diploma				
155	D57	Advanced Diploma in Applied Linguistics	H	120	8	60
156	D18	Advanced Diploma in Child Development	H	120	8	60
157	C18	Advanced Diploma in Environmental Decision Making	H	120	8	60
158	D19	Advanced Diploma in Language and Literacy	H	120	8	60
159	D06	Advanced Diploma in Special Needs in Education	H	120	8	60
		Master Degree				
160	F33	MA in Art History	M	180	9	90
161	F27	MA in Classical Studies	M	180	9	90
162	F17	MA in Cultural and Media Studies	M	180	9	90
163	F01	MA in Education	M	180	9	90
164	F19	MA in Environment, Policy and Society	M	180	9	90
165	F28	MA in History	M	180	9	90
166	F07	MA in Humanities	M	180	9	90
167	F29	MA in Literature	M	180	9	90
168	F32	MA in Music	M	180	9	90
169	F10	MA in Online and Distance Education	M	180	9	90
170	F30	MA in Philosophy	M	180	9	90
171	F31	MA in Popular Culture	M	180	9	90
172	F16	MA in Social Policy	M	180	9	90
173	F18	MA in Social Policy and Criminology	M	180	9	90
174	F09	MA in the Social Sciences	M	180	9	90
175	F02	Master of Business Administration	M	180	9	90
176	M03	Master of Engineering	M	180	9	90
177	F44	Master of Public Administration	M	180	9	90
178	F38	MBA (Life Sciences)	M	180	9	90
179	F03	MBA (Technology Management)	M	180	9	90
180	F05	MSc in Computing for Commerce and Industry	M	180	9	90
181	F11	MSc in Development Management	M	180	9	90
182	F46	MSc in Engineering	M	180	9	90
183	F13	MSc in Environmental Decision Making	M	180	9	90
184	F35	MSc in Human Geography Research Methods	M	180	9	90
185	F40	MSc in Human Resource Management	M	180	9	90
186	F37	MSc in Information Systems	M	180	9	90
187	F39	MSc in International Finance and Management	M	180	9	90
188	F34	MSc in Management and Business Research Methods	M	180	9	90
189	F43	MSc in Management of Software Projects	M	180	9	90
190	F06	MSc in Manufacturing: Management and Technology	M	180	9	90
191	F04	MSc in Mathematics	M	180	9	90
192	F42	MSc in Networks and Distributed Systems	M	180	9	90
193	F20	MSc in Psychological Research Methods	M	180	9	90
194	F15	MSc in Psychology	M	180	9	90
195	F22	MSc in Research Methods for Educational Technology	M	180	9	90
196	F12	MSc in Science	M	180	9	90
197	F24	MSc in Social Research Methods	M	180	9	90
198	F26	MSc in Software Development	M	180	9	90

199	F36	MSc in Technology Management	M	180	9	90
200	F23	MSc in Technology Strategy Research	M	180	9	90
		Doctoral Degree				
201		EdD	D		10	
202	*	BA/BSc Social Policy	I	120	7	60
203	*	Diploma in Modern Social History Research	H	360	8	180
204	*	Master of Mathematics	M	180	9	90

* refers to programmes previously, but no longer offered in Ireland

Appendix 5

Number of Open University awards for students in the Republic of Ireland 2001- 2005

	Type	Level	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Taught Doctorates	D	Doctoral	0	2	0	0	0
Masters degrees	M	Masters	158	181	179	176	136
Postgraduate Diplomas	M	Masters	68	83	74	91	73
Postgraduate Certificates	M	Masters	6	17	15	23	31
Integrated Masters	M	Masters	5	1	2	9	16
Advanced Diplomas	H/M	Honours	8	8	8	11	5
Honours Degrees	H	Honours	238	208	249	288	280
Ordinary Degrees	I	Intermediate	52	54	48	160	104
Diplomas	I	Intermediate	267	251	282	216	130
Professional Certificates	C	Certificate	65	66	59	62	55
Certificates	C	Certificate	204	252	273	306	217
Total			1,071	1,121	1,189	1,342	1,047

Total number of awards in the period 2001 – 2005 was 5,770