University of the Year for Student Experience (The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020)

Introducing the MA and Choosing your Modules

You will find it useful to download the “MA Module Choices Booklet” so you can look at it alongside the information here:
- PART ONE gives an overview of the MA and information on making your module choices
- PART TWO lists the modules available
Step 1 – What is the MA Programme?

- The **Master of Arts Programme** is an undergraduate Modular System shared between degrees in three Schools:
  - School of Business
  - School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law
  - Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design – DJCAD

- Students on MA Programme degrees in any of these Schools share the same set of regulations and the same set of module choices.

- The same rules apply to all the degrees within the MA programme.

- Information about the MA programme, the modules available and other information are all in the “**MA Module Choices Booklet**”.
  - You will need to look at this document in some detail to make sure you understand how to make your module choices.
  - But this presentation will give you an overview to help you get started.

- You will also be allocated an **Adviser of Studies** to help with your choice of modules. More about that in Step 6 later on.
Step 2 – Some key terms to help you navigate your way around
- there is a Jargon Buster section on page 8 of the MA Module Guide

- **PART ONE of the MODULE GUIDE covers this information (pages 4-5 and 8)**
- **Programme (the MA)** – this is the overall modular system for all Master of Arts Students
- **Degree pathway** – this is the degree you intend to graduate with at the end of your studies. For example:
  - MA Single Honours – in one subject (such as Financial Economics, or Geography)
  - MA Joint Honours – in two subjects (such as Psychology and Politics)
  - MA Honours with a language – such as Philosophy with French
  - MA Honours in Liberal Arts
  - Or you can graduate after three years with MA (without Honours)
- **Levels** – there are FOUR undergraduate levels of modules, starting at level 1.
  - Students entering year 1 can ONLY take modules from level 1.
- **Modules** – this is what we call the specific units of teaching and learning and you accumulate credits by passing the assessment for that module.
  - Each is worth a certain number of credits.
  - You need to take **120 credits in year 1**.
  - Typically this should be balanced **between 60 credits in each semester**.
  - In **level 1 all modules are worth 20 credits**.
  - Some modules are **Compulsory** for particular pathways. Others are **Recommended**. And you may have some which are optional. We’ll come back to this point in Step 4.
Step 3 – Understanding the Rules and Requirements about Modules and Credits

Typical degree patterns

→ Year 1 – usually 6 x level 1 modules: 120 credits
→ Year 2 – usually 6 x modules: 120 credits
→ of which at least 4 must be Level 2 modules
→ Year 3 - usually 4 x level 3 modules, worth 30 credits each: 120 credits
→ Year 4 – usually 4 x level 4 modules in year 4, worth 30 credits each: 120 credits
→ Honours degree required 480 credits in total.

→ To progress to year 2, you require to pass at least 80 credits in year 1.
→ Even better to pass them all, otherwise you need to take the extra credits in year 2 as well as your main 120 credits.
→ If you have compulsory modules for your degree (see step 4), you need to make sure you pass these too.

LEVEL 1 – MODULES AND CREDITS – SEE PART TWO OF BOOKLET

• You need 120 credits and can only choose modules from LEVEL 1 – i.e. pages 9-19 of MA Module Choices Booklet)
→ Your modules should come mainly from the main MA Programme modules – these are in pages 9-17 of the booklet.
→ You may, subject to approval from your adviser, take up to 40 credits of modules from OUTSIDE the main MA as part of your year 1 credits. These do NOT form part of any degree pathway in the MA. They are listed on pages 18-19. The credits would count towards your degree, but they do not cover any of the compulsory or recommended modules for any of the degrees in the MA.

• You need to take 60 credits in each semester
→ You will see them marked as S1 (Semester 1) or S2 (Semester 2) in the MA Booklet.
→ All level 1 MA modules = 20 credits each
Step 4 – Which modules can I choose?

SEE PART TWO OF MODULE GUIDE

In year 1, you may take any of the level 1 modules listed in the MA Module Choice Booklet, but there may be some specific requirements for your degree pathway.

→ Modules are listed alphabetically by subject area (Economics, English etc.)

→ There are no pre-requisites for level 1 modules

→ except for Maths modules or in terms of what version of language classes you are in. For Language modules, you need the ‘intensive’ version if you don’t have the equivalent of A-Level or Higher. And the ‘non-intensive’ if you have A-Level or Higher. If you choose the wrong level, staff in Languages will ensure you get swapped to the right one at the start of semester.

→ There are pre-requisites for some modules in years 2, 3 and 4.

→ If you are following the pathway for a particular subject in year 1 you will automatically have achieved the pre-requisites for that subject area at level 2.

Compulsory pathway modules:

• Some degree pathways have compulsory modules – these are listed on pages 6-7 of the MA Module Choices Booklet.

• If you want to be able to complete your degree in that subject area, you MUST take the level 1 compulsory modules in year 1.

• Some pathways have several required modules, some have none.

Recommended pathway modules (also listed on pages 6-7):

• Some pathways have recommended modules – these are useful modules to study, but they are not compulsory.

• In some combinations, it is not possible to cover all the recommended modules for different pathways (e.g. for joint honours), so you sometimes have to choose.

Optional modules:

• Depending on your intended degree pathway, you will have a varying amount of optional choices of other modules up to the overall total of 120 credits for the year.

All of the modules you choose count within your 120 credits.
### Examples of module choices for different pathways....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MA Joint Honours Geography and Economics</th>
<th>MA Single Honours English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sem 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sem 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compulsory modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Compulsory modules</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE11001 (20 credits)</td>
<td>EN11001 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE12002 (20 credits)</td>
<td>EN12014 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BU12004 (20 credits)</td>
<td>HU11001 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Recommended modules</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BU11004 (20 credits)</td>
<td>EN11001 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HU11001 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So ... this student needs 20 more credits from sem 1, and 20 more from sem 2.</td>
<td>So ... this student so now needs 20 more credits from sem 1, and 40 more from sem 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They choose Env Science modules because they are related to Geography. But they could choose English, or Philosophy, or whatever.</td>
<td>They choose some from Film in semester 1 (EN11013), one from History and one Philosophy in Semester 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Optional modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Optional modules</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EV11001 (20 credits)</td>
<td>EN11003 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EV12002 (20 credits)</td>
<td>HY11004 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This also gives them multiple alternate future pathways.</td>
<td>PI11007 (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Likewise this student could go on to various further pathways.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 5 – Checking and submitting your module choices

→ CHECKLIST

→ What (if any) are the compulsory modules for your subject pathways? (List is on pages 6-7)
  → Put these in first

→ What modules are recommended (if any)? (also listed pages 6-7)
  → Note, in some combinations of subjects, you cannot take all the recommended modules, so you sometimes have to choose.

→ Add in other Level 1 modules that you find interesting and that fit in your balanced workload between Semester 1 and Semester 2.

→ Think ahead to keep your options open....

→ CONTD...

→ Check that you have 120 credits in total = 6 modules of 20 credits (3 module each semester)

→ Check that you have taken at least 80 credits from the main MA programme (ie. From pages 9-17).
  → You can have a max of 40 credits from the modules in pages 18-19).

→ Check that you have a balance of 60 credits in each semester

→ COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM AND SUBMIT before 14 September. (Or as soon after that as you can).
Step 6 – Advising and Support

All students are allocated an Adviser of Studies. Advisers of Studies are academic members of staff, usually from one of your intended degree subjects.

Your Adviser helps with your module choices:

- They check your selection of modules and either approve them, or ask to discuss them with you before your choices are finally approved (by email, for example).
- You will be allocated a time to **meet with your Adviser during Welcome Week**. At this meeting you can also ask further questions.
- Your School will email you to tell you where and when your meeting will happen. Please check your DUNDEE EMAIL address for this information.
- Any later changes to module choices must be **authorised by your Adviser**. (Changes can be made in the first two weeks of semester, but we advise you to finalise your choices as early as possible).

Your Adviser of Studies gives help and support throughout your studies:

- They will meet with you at least once per semester during your first year at University to discuss your progress and to offer any advice or information that may be helpful.
- Contact your adviser during the semester (in their posted consultation hours or by email) if you have concerns, questions or problems (academic, financial, personal or general).

**NOT SURE WHO TO CONTACT?**

- Contact your School – esp. for any academic questions.
- Contact Student Services – via Enquiry Centre or via **https://www.dundee.ac.uk/student-services/**