

Programme Regulations: 2025/26

Programme Title:

**INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE
(NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE)
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION – HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Code: 2960F – September intake
2966F – January intake

Notes

- (i) *These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations and Examination Conventions.*
- (ii) *All optional modules are offered subject to the constraints of the timetable and to any restrictions on the number of students who may be taught on a particular module. Not all modules may be offered in all years and they are listed subject to availability.*
- (iii) *Unless otherwise stated under 'Type', modules are not core.*
- (iv) *A compulsory module is a module which a student is required to study.*
- (v) *A core module is a module which a student must pass, and in which a fail mark may neither be carried nor compensated; such modules are designated by the board of studies as essential for progression to a further stage of the programme or for study in a further module.*
- (vi) *All modules are delivered in Linear mode unless stated otherwise as Block, eLearning or distance learning.*

1. Programme Structure

- (a) The International Foundation Certificate will be offered with a September and January start date each year. The programme will have identical content and assessment; the only difference will be that the vacation periods will be shorter for the January start date. The tables below show the module codes for both the September and January start dates.

- (b) All students shall take the following core module:

<i>September Code</i>	<i>January Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>
INU0102	INU0502	English for Academic Purposes	40	20	20	3	Core

- (c) Students shall take the following compulsory academic modules:

<i>September Code</i>	<i>January Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>
INU0112	INU0512	Introduction to the Study of Humanities and Social Sciences	20	10	10	3	Comp.
INU0113	INU0513	Introduction to Sociology	20	10	10	3	Comp.
INU0122	INU0522	Study Skills (for Foundation)	20	10	10	3	Comp.
INU0127	INU0527	Global challenges	20	10	10	3	Comp.

2. Assessment methods

Details of the assessment pattern for each module are explained in the module outline.

The marking scale used for the academic modules will be as follows:

80%+ Outstanding
70-79% Excellent
60-69% Very good
50-59% Good
40-49% Fair
< 40% Fail

Academic modules will be marked on a 0-100 scale. The pass mark for academic modules is 40. The following forms of assessment may be used: class tests, seen and unseen examinations, coursework, portfolios, oral tests, presentations, group-work.

English for Academic Purposes modules are internally assessed, using Newcastle's English Language Proficiency Scale (and benchmarked against IELTS). Modules will be marked on a 0-90 scale with 50 being equivalent to IELTS 5.0, 60 equivalent to IELTS 6.0, 6.5 equivalent to IELTS 6.5, etc. The pass mark for the English for Academic Purposes modules is 60.

3. Award of the International Foundation Certificate

Satisfactory completion of the International Foundation Certificate requires that:

- (a) The average mark over all academic modules, taking due account of the credit value, is not less than 40;
- (b) No single mark for any academic module is below 35;
- (c) Marks of less than 40 are compensated in academic modules, provided the total credit value of these modules does not exceed 20;
- (d) The average marks for English for Academic Purposes is not less than 60 *equivalent to IELTS 6.0) with no competence (reading, writing, listening and speaking) below 55.
- (e) No compensation for English for Academic Purposes is permitted.

A student who fails a module will be able to have one further attempt to achieve a pass for that module. Students will not be permitted to proceed to a degree programme at Newcastle University carrying a failure in any module.

4. Re-sit assessment

As an exception to the University Taught Programme Regulations re-assessment may take place before the August/September period on the recommendation of an interim progress board.

For the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) module, the following will apply:

Note:

The required pass mark for the module is 60 (an average of the four subskills (reading, listening, writing and speaking)). The required competence level (as determined by UKVI regulations) in each subskill is 55. A minimum mark of 55 in all subskills as well as an average of 60 across all four components is required to pass the EAP module.

If a student has achieved a module mark of 60 or more but has one or more subskill mark of less than 55, then in line with Programme Regulations the student has not passed the module. In this case, the student will be required to re-sit only those subskills where they have failed to achieve the competence level of 55.

A student will only be granted one re-sit opportunity.

The second attempt result achieved at the subskill level will be capped at 60, but the overall module mark will be uncapped. The overall module mark will be calculated as an average of the capped mark(s) achieved at the second attempt, together with any first attempt subskill mark(s) where a re-sit was not required. This is to ensure that the University is provided with the student's actual English language competence level and that the re-sit capping penalty is only attached to those components being retaken.

University selectors (via admissions) will be provided with uncapped subskill marks if the achievement is higher than 60 and the progression requirement is also higher.

5. Progression to Newcastle University degree programmes

Performance higher than a basic pass (in both academic modules and English for Academic Purposes) will be required for entry into Newcastle University degree programmes as specified in the progression requirements for specific degree programmes.