PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION	

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University International Study Centre
3	**Final Award**	International Foundation Certificate
4	**Programme Title**	International Foundation – Science, Computing, Engineering and Mathematics (Newcastle University International Study Centre)
5	**UCAS/Programme Code**	2963F 2965F
6	**Programme Accreditation**	n/a
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	n/a
8	**FHEQ Level**	Level 3 of NQF
9	**Date written/revised**	January 2025

10 Programme Aims

To provide a programme which:

1. Equips international students with the English language competence they need to study at Certificate level at Newcastle University or in another UK HEI
2. Provides students with the intellectual development and subject knowledge they need to be academically capable of studying science, engineering, computing and mathematical subjects at Certificate Level at Newcastle University or in another UK HEI
3. Builds up students' study skills so that they are capable of entering UK HE, whilst also helping them to get accustomed to student life in the UK
4. Provides practical experience of British University teaching methods
5. Provides sufficient appreciation of British life, institutions and culture for both studying and living in the UK
6. Enables students to develop confidence in communicating with native speakers
7. Encourages students to undertake self-evaluation to help them identify additional needs
8. Aims to comply with University and QAA codes of practice.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

A1. Have acquired a basic knowledge and understanding of topics and concepts in computing, physics, chemistry and mathematics (depending on the degree programme to be studied subsequently)

A2. Have developed the necessary practical skills to enable specified laboratory or field experiments to be carried out effectively and safely.

A3. Be able to apply appropriate quantitative methods to experimental data and to interpret experimental results

A4. Have an appreciation of the culture of UK higher education and its expectations of students

A5. Have knowledge and understanding of academic English in order to successfully start a degree programme at undergraduate level in the UK

A6. Understand the basic requirements for writing a competent essay/case study report or laboratory report

Teaching and Learning Methods

Knowledge and understanding are primarily taught through recorded and/or present-in-person lectures and supported by synchronous seminars and laboratory sessions, and asynchronous seminars, supported by reading, discussion and tutorials. English is primarily taught in smaller

classes and reinforced through practice. Case studies and project work will involve an element of student research.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding are assessed primarily through unseen assignments, coursework (such as numerical exercises, essays, case studies, project reports, laboratory reports), and in-course tests.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

B1. Use and interpret data
B2. Read academic texts and other sources of information with some degree of analytical skill
B3. Discuss and evaluate the results of experiments or other forms of research either orally or in writing
B4. Use quantitative techniques related to biological and chemical experimentation
B5. Apply appropriate mathematical techniques to numerical data

Teaching and Learning Methods

These skills are best taught and learned through practice, although the Study Skills module will provide students with advice on what is expected of UK students and strategies for developing these skills, particularly B3. Laboratory and seminar/tutorial/calculation class work will assist in development of B1, B3-B5. English for Academic Purposes module addresses B2 specifically.

Assessment Strategy

All of the above intellectual skills will be assessed as part of the overall assessment of case study and project reports and/or oral presentations, calculation class exercises, laboratory work and laboratory reports. The Study Skills module will assess B3. Unseen examinations will assess B1, B4, B5.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

C1. Understand basic techniques in laboratory and field work (if appropriate) with an appreciation of good laboratory skills/technique and an appreciation of laboratory and field work (if appropriate) safety.
C2. Present scientific data and ideas in clear and logical form, either tabulated, graphically or in written or oral English
C3. Develop strategies for effective note taking in lectures and seminars
C4. Read and take notes from an academic text or other sources of information
C5. Take part in a discussion in a seminar or tutorial context
C6. Write an essay or laboratory report in an academic context in understandable English following the appropriate conventions
C7. Apply proper referencing and other aspects of good academic practice
C8. Demonstrate competence in appropriate basic mathematical techniques

Teaching and Learning Methods

The study skills module will deliver C3, but the lessons learned will be reinforced and practiced in other modules. The skills, C4 and C5, will be taught through the English for Academic Purposes modules largely through small group teaching with plenty of practice and C7 will also be introduced in those modules. However, every other module will also use and reinforce these skills. Laboratory/field classes (if appropriate) and seminar/tutorials exercises will develop C1, C2, C6, C8

Assessment Strategy

Practical laboratory and scientific skills will be assessed through laboratory reports, seminar/tutorial exercises and in some tests and assignments. English language competency will be tested directly in the English for Academic Purposes module using a mixture of tests and coursework and covering reading, writing, speaking and listening. Other modules will indirectly assess English language competence and the ability to take notes and use sources, as they all require an ability to express ideas in English. C7 will be assessed through specific exercises in the study skills module and as part of assessment of case study and project reports and essays submitted in academic modules.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

D1. Work as a member of a team with colleagues from other cultures and backgrounds
D2. Make oral presentations using appropriate scientific language and terminology
D3. Use IT skills effectively
D4. Manage their time effectively

D5. Use library and other information sources effectively
D6. Think and work effectively on their own when required
D7. Express ideas and facts in an acceptable format in understandable English
D8. Understand and communicate effectively with native speakers of English
D9. Analyse their own strengths and weaknesses and take action accordingly
D10. Demonstrate good levels of numeracy

Teaching and Learning Methods

The Study Skills module will introduce students to D3 and all modules provide guidance on techniques with practice. Students will further develop D8 through attendance at selected classes which are part of modules from appropriate undergraduate degree programmes

Assessment Strategy

Some group work is required and students' success in working in teams will therefore be assessed via the quality of the end product. Several assessed oral presentations are built into most modules. D3-D7 and D10 will be assessed via coursework assessment and in particular through case studies, posters, essays and laboratory reports. The Study Skills module will also assess teamwork and presentation skills. D9 will be assessed through preparation of a reflective log with particular emphasis on development of D8 skills

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme (See details at Appendix 1)

A one-year 120 credit programme which combines study of English for academic purposes with study skills, and academic study mathematics, physics for engineering, chemistry and computing as appropriate to the degree programme to be studied subsequently.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The combination of English for academic purposes, study skills and academic content in an environment designed to support international students and bring them up to the standard required for entry to an undergraduate programme.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

Details of the programme regulations can be found at

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programmeregsandspec/

The specific modules selected must be agreed with the Degree Programme Director in accordance with any pre-requisites for the preferred degree programme to be studied subsequently.

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

Induction

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principal support services and general information about the Newcastle University International Study Centre and their programme, as described in the Student Handbook (available on Canvas). New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. This will be delivered via a bespoke Canvas course for all students and will allow for some limited drop in sessions for Present-in-Person students.

Technical support

Alongside the University's NUIT helpdesk, and Canvas chat and phone support, we have a dedicated Newcastle University International Study Centre help desk for student support, which covers a range of issues students might have in accessing materials, engaging or joining live seminars and/or submitting online academic tasks/assessments.

Study skills support

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual work.

Academic support
The initial point of contact for a student is with a tutor or module leader, or their personal tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Programme Manager, Deputy Programme Manager, Academic Director or Centre Director may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Student-Staff Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

Pastoral support
All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. The personal tutor is the first point of contact used when engagement and attendance become a concern. Newcastle University International Study Centre also provides placement and progression support to help students secure appropriate destination degree programmes when progression grades have not been achieved for Newcastle programmes. This provides support students to make applications to Newcastle and elsewhere through UCAS for UG students or through PG portals. In addition the Centre makes use of the range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team.

Support for students with disabilities
The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.
The Newcastle University International Study Centre has a SEN coordinator who works across all academic and English programmes, providing support for students and colleagues as appropriate. The SEN coordinator liaises closely with University Student Wellbeing and Disability service to ensure consistency and coherence of support provision.

Learning resources
The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities.

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

15 Regulation of assessment

Pass mark
Academic modules
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, oral tests, presentations, group-work.

English for Academic Purposes
These 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.

Satisfactory completion of the 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 mark 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.

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.

Marking Scheme
Newcastle University International Study Centre employs the following marking scheme:

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

Role of the External Examiner
An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by the University following recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is required to:

i. confirm whether the standards of the University's awards meet or exceed the academic standards specified in external reference points such as the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, the UK Quality Code, subject benchmark statements, and, where appropriate, the requirements of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies;
ii. confirm whether the academic standards of the University's awards are consistent with those of similar programmes in other UK higher education institutions;
iii. report on whether the University's processes for assessment measure student achievement rigorously and fairly and are conducted in line with University policies and regulations;
iv. identify, where appropriate, examples of exemplary practice and innovation in learning, teaching and assessment;
v. comment on opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning experience provided to students.

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/)
The Newcastle University website (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk)
The Newcastle University International Study Centre Brochure (https://www.intostudy.com/en/universities/newcastle-university)
The University Regulations (see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations)

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.

Annex

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

		Intended Learning Outcomes			
Module	**Type**	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**
INU0102/502	Comp	4,5,6	2,3	2,3,4,5,6,7	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9
INU0114/514	Optional	1,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	2,3,4,5,7, 8	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9,10
INU0115/515	Optional	1,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	2,3,4,5,7, 8	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9,10
INU0116/516	Optional	1,2,3,4,5,6	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9,10
INU0117/517	Optional	1,2,3,4,5,6	1,2,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9,10
INU0120/520	Optional	1,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	2,3,4,5,7, 8	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9,10
INU0122/522	Comp	1,3,4,5,6	1,2,3,4,5	2,3,4,5, 7	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9
INU0130/530	Optional	1,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5	2,3,4,5,7, 8	1,2,3,4,5,6, 7,8,9,10