



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

Grading system at Macquarie University

While it is not possible to equate hours, credit points or grades exactly across North American, Asian and European institution and Macquarie University, some explanation of the Macquarie University grading system may aid you with accreditation purposes.

Credit Points and Class Hours

The number of contact hours per week in any given unit at Macquarie University bears no direct relationship to credit points. Theoretically 1 credit point in a 1 semester unit is roughly equivalent to 4 hours work per week (including class attendance, private study, library research, etc.), so a 4 credit point unit is roughly equivalent to 16 hours' work per week, and a 3 credit point unit to 12 hours' work per week.

In practice, however, many 3 credit point units require the same amount of work as a 4 point unit at other institutions, and actual study time needed for the completion of work in any unit varies widely from student to student, from level to level, unit to unit and even from week to week, depending on the nature of the work, on whether there are written assignments/essays due in any given week, and on the nature and frequency of tutorial and practical assignments set.

Full-time undergraduate students at Macquarie University average between 9-12 credit points per semester (usually 3 x 3cp units or 4 x 3cp units). 9 credit points are accepted as the minimum full-time load per semester. 14 credit points is the maximum that an undergraduate student can study per semester.

Full-time postgraduate students at Macquarie University average between 12-16 credit points per semester. Most postgraduate units are 4 credit points per subject.

Level of units

Macquarie University in line with other Australian universities has 3-year degrees for Arts, Science and Economics, so undergraduate units are classified as 100-level, 200-level or 300-level.

Specialisation in many areas begins in final year of High School so Australian universities do not have a year of breadth-type units.

Postgraduate units are at 800- and 900-level.

Assessment/Assignment

There is no continuous assessment at Macquarie University in the sense of weekly class tests or assignments from which students can judge their progress. Macquarie students undertaking units in the humanities and social sciences are typically required to complete anywhere between two to three essays or assignments per unit per semester, varying between 1500-4000 words, depending on the individual unit requirements. There is also EITHER a final examination OR a long essay in lieu of an examination at the end of each unit. There is a great deal more individual study required at Australian universities than many overseas students are accustomed to.



Grades

The following table shows Macquarie's grading system.

Macquarie University	Standardised Numerical values	GPA Weighting	Approximate US equivalent	Approximate ECTS equivalent
High Distinction (HD)	85-100	4	A	A
Distinction (D)	75-84	4	A	B
Credit (Cr)	65-74	3	B	C
Pass (P)	50-64	2	C	D
Fail (F) / Fail Absent (FA)	Less than 50	0	Fail	F

NOTE:

Macquarie does not award + or – grades as a final grade.

Macquarie does not award percentage grades. If you require percentage grades you must ask your lecturer prior to leaving Australia. They will be able to write a letter with your letter grade as well as your percentage grade.

Definition of Macquarie University grades

- HD – denotes performance that meets all unit objectives in such an exceptional way and with such marked excellence that it deserves the highest level of recognition.
- D – denotes performance that clearly deserves a very high level of recognition as an excellent achievement in the unit.
- Cr – denotes performance that is substantially better than would normally be expected of competent students in the unit.
- P – denotes performance that satisfies unit objectives.
- S – Pass grade. Used for units where grading is on a pass or fail basis only.
- F or FA – denotes performance or attendance did not satisfy unit objectives.

European credit transfer system

60 ECTS = 24 Macquarie University credit points

30 ECTS = 12 Macquarie University credit points (or 1 semester)

7.5 ECTS = 3 Macquarie University credit points