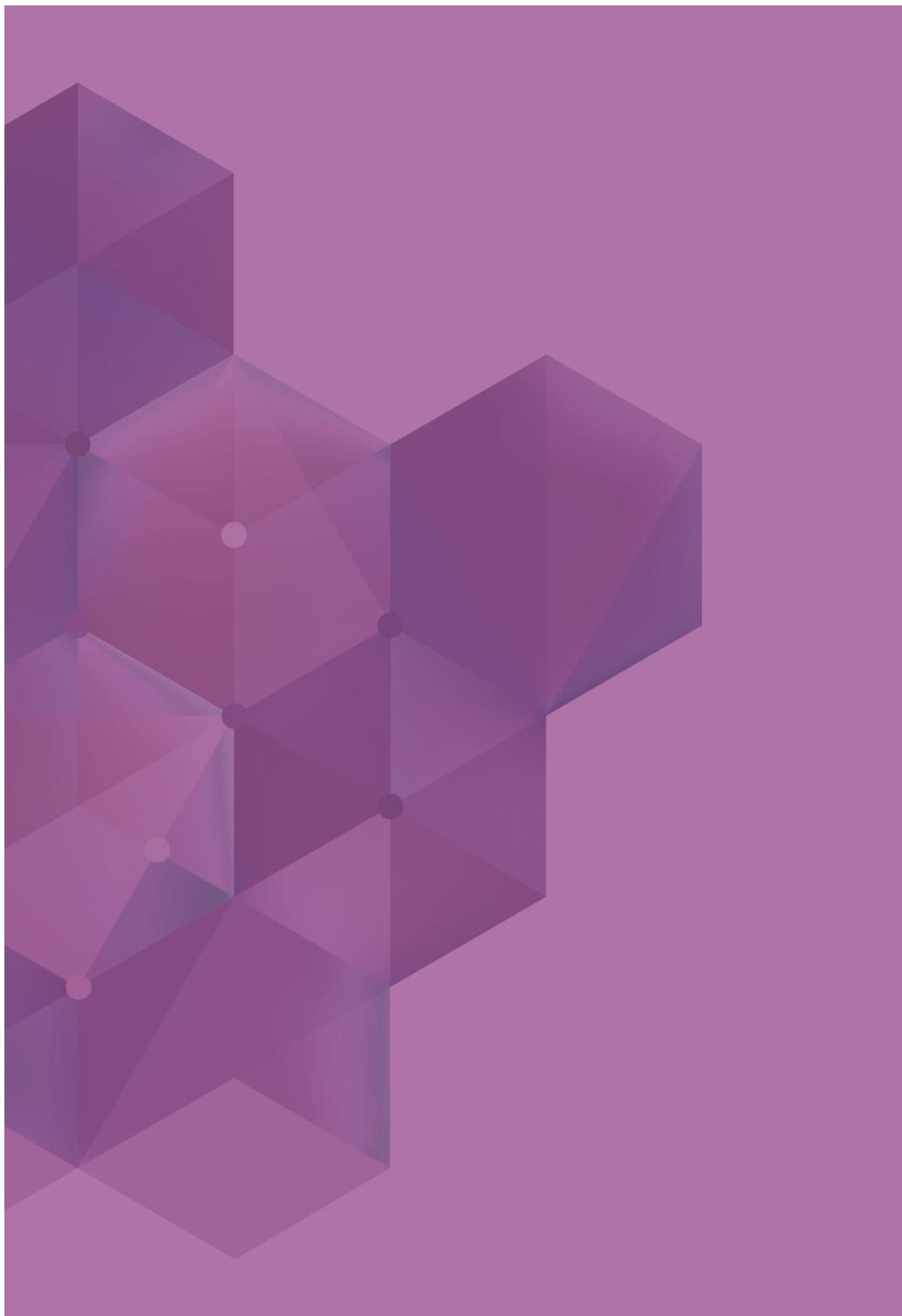


NUI Policy in relation to the Usage of Titles of Degrees and other Qualifications

January 2020



Ollscoil na hÉireann
National University of Ireland



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1. Introduction

The Senate, reflecting the views of member institutions, favours a policy of non-proliferation of award titles and as far as possible, the use of generic award titles.

The choice of award title for every NUI degree and other qualification is a matter for the Academic Council of each constituent university, guided by this overarching Senate policy and in line with local academic regulations.

The policy also applies in the case of programmes presented by recognised colleges to Senate for approval.

2. Policy principles and provisions

- ▶ Award titles are distinct from academic programme titles, for example the BA (Hons) History represents the award BA (Hons) in the (degree) subject of History. While universities can often alter the names of academic subjects and the combinations in which they are offered for qualification, in contrast, the award title is normally more permanent.
- ▶ The choice of award title e.g. BA (Hons) both reflects and informs the overarching learning outcomes of all of the academic programmes that lead to that award.
- ▶ The degree titles BA and MA and BSc and MSc should continue to be regarded as generic titles and their use is encouraged, as a means of promoting the durability and international recognition of NUI qualifications, and to support lifelong graduate mobility in that context.
- ▶ The generic awards of BA and MA are not exclusive to Colleges of Arts and/or Humanities, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences. Where used outside of those Colleges/Faculties, due regard should be given to the overarching learning outcomes associated with Arts-oriented qualifications.
- ▶ Similarly, the awards of BSc and MSc are not exclusive to Colleges of Science and/or, Engineering, Architecture, Informatics, Food Science, Health or Agricultural Sciences. Where used outside of those Colleges, due regard should be given to the overarching learning outcomes associated with Science-oriented qualifications.
- ▶ For historical reasons, and in line with international academic norms, a number of specialised degree award titles exist across the NUI institutions, including *inter alia* BEd; BMus; BCL; LLB; MVB; BDS, MFA; MBA; LLM; MCh and MD. The joint medical degrees of MB BCh BAO (and the derived master's degrees of MCh and MAO) are a particular case.
- ▶ The additional proliferation of unique award titles applied to individual degree programmes is discouraged.
- ▶ Academic Councils/equivalent bodies in Recognised Colleges are encouraged to give due regard to this overarching policy when considering the case for degree and other award titles.

The Senate accepts the case for greater specificity of titles, in the case of certificate and diploma qualifications at undergraduate or postgraduate level, or those offered as part of continuing professional development and leading to qualifications other than major awards. However, it is recommended that in these cases care should be taken to avoid titles which are excessively lengthy or whose language could be expected rapidly to become dated.





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OLLSCOIL NA HÉIREANN
49 Cearnóg Mhuirfean, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 V583

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND
49 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, D02 V583

TEIL / TEL +353 1 439 2424

FACS / FAX +353 1 439 2466

RPHOST / EMAIL registrar@nui.ie

www.nui.ie