



Master's Preparation

Programme and Module Overview

2025-26

Postgraduate degree pathway programmes



Equipping students with academic and language skills for postgraduate study.

Programme	Level of study
	Equips graduates and three-year diploma holders with the English language proficiency and academic skills necessary for successful postgraduate study. Available in 10/20/30 week durations.

The Master's Preparation programme equips graduates and three-year diploma holders with the English language proficiency and academic skills necessary for successful postgraduate study. Offering flexible routes (Extended, Standard, and Accelerated), it fosters independence, introduces Western cultural norms, and ensures students are well-prepared for the challenges of higher education.

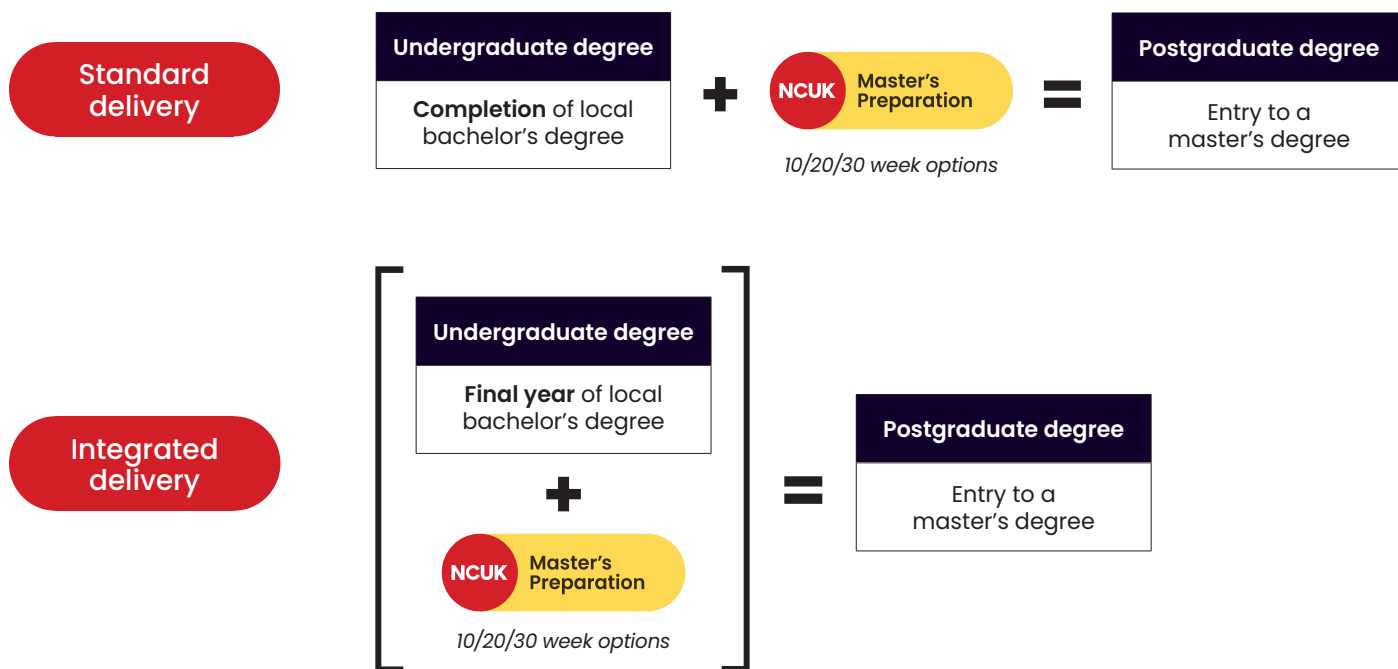
- **Master's Preparation (Extended) – 30 weeks**
- **Master's Preparation (Standard) – 20 weeks**
- **Master's Preparation (Accelerated) – 10 weeks**

96%
of Master's Preparation students successfully pass their postgraduate degree

62%
achieve a merit classification or higher in their postgraduate degree

Delivery models

The Master's Preparation can be delivered as a standalone programme or integrated into the final year of an undergraduate degree.



University Progression

NCUK

Master's
Preparation

Regardless of the route chosen – extended, standard, or accelerated – all students completing the Master's Preparation programme will receive the same certificate and transcript, which include grades for both English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and Research Methods. The programme is recognised by NCUK's University Partners as meeting the English language entry requirements for international students. Progression to university is based on meeting the performance criteria specified in the NCUK University Course Finder, ensuring consistent entry requirements across all routes.

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NCUK University Partners



Master's Preparation (Extended) – 30 weeks

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Overview

This three-term programme is designed for students with a three-year diploma plus work experience or graduates with an English level equivalent to at least IELTS 5.0 or equivalent. It focuses on improving English proficiency, academic skills, and subject knowledge for successful master's study.

Entry requirements

- Three-year diploma plus work experience OR undergraduate degree/final-year student
- English proficiency: IELTS 5.0 or equivalent
- Interview and academic transcript review

Programme structure

Each term consists of 9 weeks of teaching, followed by 1 week dedicated to assessments.

- **Total teaching hours:** 513 hours
 - **Preparatory term (10 weeks):** 10 hrs/week for EAP, 6 hrs/week for Subject Module, + 9 hrs of Orientation to Western Study split throughout the term
 - **Core term (10 weeks):** 10 hrs/week for EAP, 7 hrs/week for Research Methods, 3 hrs/week for Subject Module
 - **Final term (10 weeks):** 10 hrs/week for EAP, 7 hrs/week for Research Methods, 3 hrs/week for Subject Module
- **Independent study:** 544 hours

Modules

Students study three core modules – **English for Academic Purposes**, **Orientation to Western Study**, and **Research Methods** – alongside one subject module in either **Management** or **Life Sciences** to develop the skills needed for successful postgraduate study.

Core modules



EAP



Orientation
to Western
Study



Research
Methods

&

Subject module*

Management

or

Life Sciences

*Study Centres are not required to offer all subject modules available. The choice of modules depends on student demand and resources. New or additional modules require accreditation by NCUK before being offered. Study Centres wishing to offer new modules should inform NCUK early in the process.

Assessment, grading & certification

Subject modules consist of formative assessments, which are made up of both coursework and examinations.

The **Research Methods** involves a comprehensive research project, culminating in a **5,000-word dissertation** and a **12–15-minute presentation**. Assessment is divided into three key components:

- **Research Project Proposal** (20% of grade)
- **Research Project Report (Dissertation)** (80% of grade)
- **Research Project Presentation** (0% of grade, but contributes to EAP Speaking)

The EAP modules assess four different language skills – reading, writing, speaking, and listening – in alignment with internationally recognised English standards. Students receive an overall grade for the module and a grade for each individual skill based on the table below.

English language module grading		Equivalency grades								
Percentage	Grade	Password	IELTS	TOEFL IBT	Skills for English	LanguageCert Academic	Cambridge English Scale Score*	PTE Academic	OTE (Oxford Test of English)	CEFR
90%+	A*	Password plus	7.5	102 – 109	C1 Pass	80 – 84	191	75	141 – 170	C1
80 – 89%+	A	7	7	94 – 101	C1 Pass	75 – 79	185	66		C1
70 – 79%+	B	6.5	6.5	79 – 93	B2 Pass	70 – 74	176	59	111 – 140	B2
60 – 69%+	C	6	6	60 – 78	B2 Pass	65 – 69	169	52		B2
50 – 59%+	D	5.5	5.5	46 – 59	B2 Pass	60 – 64	162	46		B2
40 – 49%+	E	5	5	35 – 45	B1 Pass	50 – 59	154	41	81 – 110	B1
<39%	U	4.5	4.5	32 – 34	B1 Pass	40 – 49	N/A	N/A		B1

*We accept Cambridge English Scale scores from Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First, C1 Advanced & C2 Proficiency and Linguaskill.

Students receive two overall grades for the **Master's Preparation** programme:

1. **EAP:** Graded from **A** to **U**
2. **Research Methods:** Classified as **Distinction**, **Credit**, or **Pass**

Master's Preparation (Standard) – 20 weeks

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Overview

A two-term programme aimed at undergraduate degree holders or final-year students with IELTS 5.5 or equivalent. It develops language proficiency, study skills, and subject expertise needed for postgraduate study.

Entry requirements

- Undergraduate degree/final-year student
- English proficiency: IELTS 5.5 or equivalent
- Interview and academic transcript review

Programme structure

Each term consists of 9 weeks of teaching, followed by 1 week dedicated to assessments.

Total directed study hours: 369 hours

- **Core Term (10 weeks):** 10 hrs/week for EAP, 7 hrs/week for Research Methods, 3 hrs/week for Subject Module, + 9 hrs of Orientation to Western Study throughout the term
- **Final Term (10 weeks):** 10 hrs/week for EAP, 7 hrs/week for Research Methods, 3 hrs/week for Subject Module
- **Independent study:** 377 hours

Modules

Students study three core modules – **English for Academic Purposes**, **Orientation to Western Study**, and **Research Methods** – alongside one subject module in either **Management** or **Life Sciences** to develop the skills needed for successful postgraduate study.

Core modules



EAP



Orientation
to Western
Study



Research
Methods

&

Subject module*:

Management

or

Life Sciences

* Study Centres are not required to offer all subject modules available. The choice of modules depends on student demand and resources. New or additional modules require accreditation by NCUK before being offered. Study Centres wishing to offer new modules should inform NCUK early in the process.

Assessment, grading & certification

Subject modules consist of formative assessments, which are made up of both coursework and examinations.

The **Research Methods** involves a comprehensive research project, culminating in a **5,000-word dissertation** and a **12–15-minute presentation**. Assessment is divided into three key components:

- **Research Project Proposal** (20% of grade)
- **Research Project Report (Dissertation)** (80% of grade)
- **Research Project Presentation** (0% of grade, but contributes to EAP Speaking)

The EAP modules assess four different language skills – reading, writing, speaking, and listening – in alignment with internationally recognised English standards. Students receive an overall grade for the module and a grade for each individual skill based on the table below.

English language module grading		Equivalency grades								
Percentage	Grade	Password	IELTS	TOEFL IBT	Skills for English	LanguageCert Academic	Cambridge English Scale Score*	PTE Academic	OTE (Oxford Test of English)	CEFR
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*We accept Cambridge English Scale scores from Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First, C1 Advanced & C2 Proficiency and Linguaskill.

Students receive two overall grades for the **Master's Preparation** programme:

1. **EAP:** Graded from **A** to **U**
2. **Research Methods:** Classified as **Distinction**, **Credit**, or **Pass**

Master's Preparation (Accelerated) – 10 weeks

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Overview

A fast-track programme designed for students with strong academic backgrounds and an English proficiency level of IELTS 5.5 or equivalent. This intensive programme condenses key learning areas into a single intensive term.

Entry requirements

- Undergraduate degree/final-year student
- English proficiency: IELTS 5.5 or equivalent
- Interview and academic transcript review

Programme structure

The term consists of 9 weeks of teaching, followed by 1 week dedicated to assessments.

Total directed study hours: 171 hours

- **Final Term (10 weeks):** 14 hrs/week for EAP + Orientation, 5 hrs/week for Research Methods
- **Independent study:** 156 hours

Modules

Students study three core modules – **English for Academic Purposes**, **Orientation to Western Study**, and **Research Methods** – to develop the essential skills needed for successful postgraduate study.

Core modules



EAP



Orientation
to Western Study



Research
Methods

Assessment, grading & certification

The **Research Methods** assessment includes the following:

- **Article Evaluations (10%)** – Two individual critiques (500–800 words each)
- **Group Research Task (20%)** – Collaborative exploration of a research topic
- **Research Proposal (70%)** – Individual project linked to the student's postgraduate course, contributing to the EAP Writing grade

The **EAP** modules assess four different language skills – reading, writing, speaking, and listening – in alignment with internationally recognised English standards. Students receive an overall grade for the module and a grade for each individual skill based on the table below.

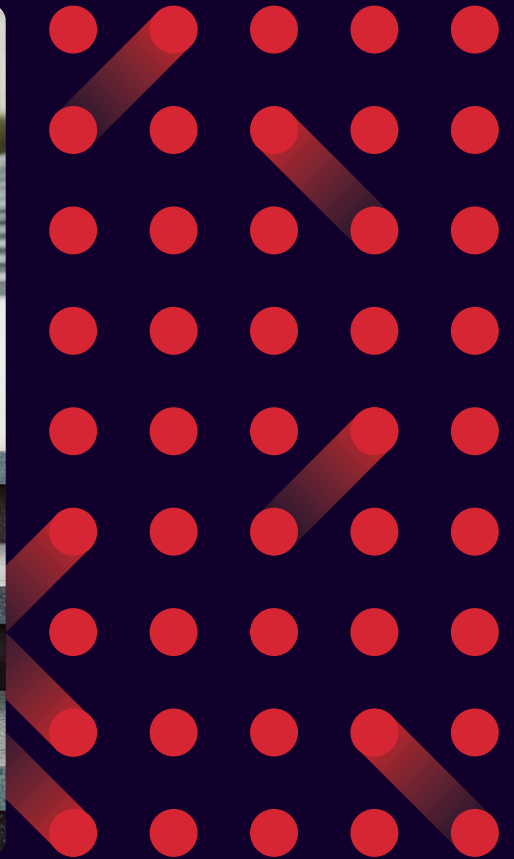
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