

Block Credit Decision Matrix

STEP	BEFORE DECIDING IF A BLOCK IS APPROPRIATE ANSWER QUESTIONS IN STEPS 1 TO 3	
1	Is the applicant from an institution with an existing agreement for the course they have studied? If yes, follow the agreement. If no, go to question 2.	Unsure check the register
2	Has the candidate completed a formal qualification or completed Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level (or equivalent)? If so is it AQF level 5 UG Cert, level 5 Dip, 6, 7 or 8 (nothing below AQF 5 attracts block credit in to an HE course of study)	Unsure? Seek academic advice
3	Identify if the completed formal qualification or completed AQF level (or equivalent) is in a cognate, or non-cognate discipline to the course applied for e.g. hospitality to hospitality = cognate (for more information see the criteria for determining cognate qualifications at the end of this document)	Unsure? Seek academic advice

PROCEED WITH ASSESSMENT
Clarify the level of program that the student has applied for (PG, UG Bachelor, UG Associate Degree, UG Diploma or UG Certificate) and work within that section.

Cognate (C)			Non-cognate (NC)		
Postgraduate applicant - C			Postgraduate applicant - NC		
From Cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #	From Non-cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #
AQF lvl 8 Grad Certificate	4 subject Cognate PG block	CPG1	AQF lvl 8 Grad Certificate	2 subject Non-Cognate PG block	NCPG1
AQF lvl 8 Grad Diploma	6 subject Cognate PG block*	CPG2	AQF lvl 8 Grad Diploma	4 subject Non-Cognate PG block	NCPG2
AQF lvl 9 Masters	8 subject Cognate PG block	CPG3	AQF lvl 9 Masters	6 subject Non-Cognate PG block	NCPG3
UG – Bachelor applicant - C			UG – Bachelor applicant - NC		
From Cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #	From Non-cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #
AQF lvl 5 Cert	4 subject Cognate UG block	CUGB1	AQF lvl 5 Certificate	2 subject Non-Cognate UG block	NCUGB1
AQF lvl 5 Dip	8 subject Cognate UG block	CUGB2	AQF lvl 5 Diploma	4 subject Non-Cognate UG block	NCUGB2
AQF lvl 6	12 subject Cognate UG block*	CUGB3	AQF lvl 6	8 subject Non-Cognate UG block	NCUGB3
AQF lvl 7	16 subject Cognate UG block*	CUGB4	AQF lvl 7	12 subject Non-Cognate UG block	NCUGB4
			ICMS Students only: AQF lvl 7	16 subject ICMS Non-Cognate UG block	Special second degree block for ICMS students NCUGB5
UG – Associate Degree applicant - C			UG – Associate Degree applicant - NC		
From Cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #	From Non-cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #
AQF lvl 5 UG Cert	4 subject Cognate block	CUGB1	AQF lvl 5 Certificate	2 subject Non-Cognate block	NCUGB1
AQF lvl 5 Dip	8 subject Cognate block	CUGB2	AQF lvl 5 Diploma	4 subject Non-Cognate block	NCUGB2
AQF lvl 6	Advise towards a non-cognate Ass Deg or Bach with 12 subject block		AQF lvl 6	8 subject Non-Cognate block	NCUGB3
UG – Diploma applicant - C			UG – Diploma applicant - NC		
From Cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #	From Non-cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #
AQF lvl 5 UG Certificate	4 subject Cognate block	CUGB1	AQF lvl 5 Certificate	2 subject Non-Cognate block	NCUGB1
AQF lvl 5 Diploma	Advise towards AQF lvl 6 or higher				
UG – Certificate applicant - C			UG – Certificate applicant - NC		
From Cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #	From Non-cognate discipline at	Attracts a:	Use Block Arrangement #
AQF lvl 5 UG Certificate	Advise towards UG Diploma entry		AQF lvl 5 Cert	1 subject Non-Cognate block or advise towards UG Diploma entry	

* Up to a maximum of 18 subject exemptions for undergraduate courses, or up to a maximum of eight subject exemptions for postgraduate courses, may be granted for a completed qualification or AQF level as part of an articulation agreement as long as the educational performance is deemed satisfactory by the DVC (Learning and Teaching) and the number of exemptions granted do not exceed the credit limits outlined in paragraph 4.7 of the Advanced Standing

Policy. The list of articulation agreements under these circumstances are approved by the DVC (Learning and Teaching) and reported annually by the Deans to the Academic Board in the Annual Aligned Partnership Report. The Associate Vice President (International Operations) is responsible for maintaining the list of approved articulation agreements.

Table 2 – Summary of Block Credit Arrangements

Cognate			
	Postgraduate		
1	CPG1	4 subject cognate block	
2	CPG2	6 subject cognate block*	
3	CPG3	8 subject cognate block	
Undergraduate			
3	CUGB1	4 subject cognate UG block	
4	CUGB2	8 subject cognate UG block	
5	CUGB3	12 subject cognate UG block*	
6	CUGB4	16 subject cognate UG block*	
Non-Cognate			
	Postgraduate		
7	NCPG1	2 subject non-cognate block	
8	NCPG2	4 subject non-cognate block	
9	NCPG3	6 subject non-cognate block	
Undergraduate			
10	NCUGB1	2 subject non-cognate UG block	
11	NCUGB2	4 subject non-cognate UG block	
12	NCUGB3	8 subject non-cognate UG block	
13	NCUGB4	12 subject non-cognate UG block	
14	NCUGB5	16 subject ICMS Non-Cognate UG block	ICMS students only. Requires different block as they have already completed 1 ICMS Bachelor with all core units

* Up to a maximum of 18 subject exemptions for completion of a qualification or completed AQF level may be granted if the articulation agreement meets pre-determined criteria as stipulated by the DVC (Learning and Teaching) and the number of exemptions granted do not exceed the credit limits outlined in paragraph 4.7 of the Advanced Standing Policy. The criteria for exemption and the list of articulation agreements under these circumstances are approved by the DVC (Learning and Teaching) and reported annually by the Deans to the Academic Board in the annual Aligned Partnership report. The Associate Vice President (International Operations) is responsible for maintaining the list of approved articulation agreements.

Determination of Cognate Qualifications for Block Credit

For the purposes of awarding block credit, the Institution determines whether a completed qualification (or a completed Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level) is *cognate* to one of its courses based on its relevance and alignment to the destination course, consistent with the AQF and the maintenance of academic standards.

A completed qualification (or a completed AQF level) may be deemed cognate where it is awarded at an appropriate AQF level and demonstrates a clear and substantial relationship to the destination course in terms of disciplinary focus, knowledge base and intended learning outcomes. Cognateness is an academic judgement about whether the prior learning provides a sufficient foundation for advanced standing without compromising the integrity or learning outcomes of the destination course.

In determining whether a qualification (or a completed AQF level) is cognate, the Institution considers the following factors, as relevant using academic judgement; not all factors may apply in every case:

- AQF level alignment including whether the completed qualification (or a completed AQF level) is at the same AQF level appropriate for block credit;
- qualification title and discipline nomenclature, including the named qualification, major, specialisation or field of study as recorded on the testamur or academic transcript;
- extent of disciplinary alignment including the relevance of core knowledge, concepts, theories and methods to the destination course;
- breadth and depth of learning including whether the completed qualification (or a completed AQF level) reflects sufficient volume and coherence of higher education study in the relevant discipline;
- learning outcomes including the extent to which the completed qualification (or a completed AQF level) supports readiness for progression into later stages of the destination course;
- alignment with industry and professional practice standards, where applicable. For example, for Accounting courses, a completed qualification (or a completed AQF level) is only deemed to be cognate if it has been formally recognised by CPA Australia or CA ANZ. This ensures that the destination course continues to fulfil CPA Australia or CA ANZ requirements.

Minor sequences of study, elective only study or completed qualifications (or a completed AQF level) where the primary field of study is not clearly related to the destination course are generally not regarded as cognate for block credit purposes. The Institution does not rely solely on qualification titles and may require supporting documentation, such as detailed academic transcripts, subject outlines or syllabuses to substantiate disciplinary alignment.

The DVC (Learning and Teaching), Deans or Associate Deans have authority to determine if a completed qualification is cognate to a course at the Institution.