

Agreement on SMSTC streams for Masters programmes

All consortium departments indicated that they were in favour of the principle of allowing SMSTC streams to be used for credit-bearing masters-level courses (i.e. at SCQF level 11). Responses also indicated agreement with the proposed FTE-based charging formula:

$$\text{cost charged per student} = (c/T) * p * F$$

where:

c = the number of SMSTC credits taken by that student (as a formal part of their curriculum; see 1. below);

T = the total number of credits in the student's academic year (T = 120 for undergraduate courses including integrated masters, and T = 180 for MSc or MRes);

p = proportion of full fee payable to SMSTC (see 3. below).

F = student fee for the academic year (see 2. below);

Based on the responses, the SMSTC Management Committee made the following recommendations at its meeting on 2 June 2009.

Recommendations

1. c would be calculated on the basis that an SMSTC half stream should be weighted as 15 credits when augmented locally by tutorials and formal assessment (so a full stream would be weighted as 30 credits). Departments would of course be able to include other elements, such as mini-projects, if they want or need to work in multiples of 20 credits for a half-stream.
2. F should refer to the full-time tuition fee for the degree programme on which the student is enrolled, at home/EU or overseas student rates as appropriate.
3. p should be set to 0.25 (suggested values ranged from p =0.2 to p = 0.3).
4. Any income will be distributed pro-rata to the institutions whose staff teach on the streams that Masters level students are registered for, possibly less a small (< 10%) administration charge.
5. There would be no charges levied when the stream lecturer and students are from the same institution.