



# University Mobility in Asia - Pacific (UMAP) and its Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS)





# Presentation overview

- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ University Mobility in Asia-Pacific (UMAP)
- ✓ Key issues in credit transfer
- ✓ UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS)
- ✓ Potential benefits of using UCTS
- ✓ Discussion on using the UCTS



# Objectives

## Given that

- we see increased interest and volume of student mobility in the Asia-Pacific region
- credit transfer is a challenge
- UCTS is becoming an industry standard (~ECTS)

## Today's objectives are

- to raise awareness about UMAP and the UCTS
  - to engage in a dialogue about barriers, challenges, solutions and lessons learned with respect to implementing and using the UCTS
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# The University Mobility in Asia-Pacific (UMAP)

- Aims to enhance international understanding through increased mobility of university students and staff
- 28 members
- Canada is a member since 1999
- AUCC is the national contact for Canada





# Key issues in credit transfer (1)

## Overall issues

- common practices in other parts of the world may begin to have a greater impact on Canadian institutions' approaches to this area
- wide variety of approaches and patterns exist within and across institutions

## Students' issues are

- full academic recognition
- good information on programs (relevance to degrees)
- predictability of credit transfer process



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# Key issues in credit transfer (2)

## **Institutions' issues are**

- trust and confidence in the quality of partner institutions
- workloads associated with the implementation of credit transfer schemes / strategies
- consistency, predictability and transparency of grade conversion and credit transfer processes
- broad base of expertise to encourage greater consultation
- institutional autonomy: paramount in determining credit recognition
- other ...



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# The UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS)

Objective is to increase student mobility by ensuring that students receive credit for study undertaken when on exchange with other universities

## UCTS

- is a pilot mechanism
- is monitored by a UMAP steering committee
- must be used when students receive a UMAP scholarship



# Components of the UCTS

## The **credit point scale**

a conversion scale to record the student workload at the host institution in a form suitable for conversion to the home institution workload measure (based on 60-credit points for an academic year for a full-time student)

## The **grading scale**

a conversion scale to record host institution grades in a form suitable for conversion to home institution grades (based on five passing and two failing grades)

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# The credit point scale

- Same 60 credit point scale as the one used by ECTS
- Three-term and a two-semester academic year regime
- Not intended to supplant existing measures of student workload used by host and home institutions
- Student workload = total quantity of work required for completion of a full academic year/semester/term
- Student workload may include lectures, practical work, tutorials, seminars, fieldwork, private study time, and examinations or other assessment activities



# The credit point scale: an example

One semester study program in host institution:

- Host institution: 16 credit points per semester
- Home institution: 9 credit points per term

<u>Course Unit</u>	<u>Host institution</u>	<u>UCTS</u>	<u>Home institution</u>
A	4	7.5	2.25
B	4	7.5	2.25
C	4	7.5	2.25
D	4	7.5	2.25
Total	16	30.0	9.00



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# The grading scale (1)

- Not intended to supplant the institutions' own grading scales
- Particularly important where grades affect the eventual education outcome for the student (e.g. the grade point average)
- However, some circumstances will make conversion of grades difficult
- Application of the grading scale is not a mandatory element of UCTS



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## The grading scale (2)

UCTS	% of	
Grade	students	Definition
A	10	<u>EXCELLENT</u> : outstanding with only minor errors
B	25	<u>VERY GOOD</u> : above average but with some errors
C	30	<u>GOOD</u> : sound work with a number of errors
D	25	<u>SATISFACTORY</u> : fair but significant shortcomings
E	10	<u>SUFFICIENT</u> : performance meets minimum criteria
FX FAIL		<u>FAIL</u> : More work required before credit awarded
F – FAIL		<u>FAIL</u> : Considerable further work is required

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# The grading scale: an example

<u>Course</u> <u>units</u>	<u>Host</u> <u>institution</u> <u>grade</u>	<u>UCTS</u> <u>grade</u>	<u>Home</u> <u>institution</u> <u>grade</u>
A	87	B	Upper Second Class
B	54	E	Pass
C	68	D	Lower Second Class
D	38	FX	Fail
E	60	E	Third Class



# Record of UMAP study program



University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific

## UMAP CREDIT TRANSFER SCHEME (UCTS) RECORD OF UMAP STUDY PROGRAM

### 1. STUDENT'S PERSONAL DATA

(To be completed by the student. The information provided in this form will be passed in confidence by the home and host institutions. Data from the form may be used for UMAP/UCTS statistical purposes, but only in an aggregated and non-identifiable manner.)

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED UMAP STUDY PROGRAM

(To be completed and signed by student and co-signed by the academic staff members of both institutions)

Host institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Course unit code (if any)		Course unit title		CREDITS		
Host institution	Home institution (optional)	Host institution	Home institution (optional)	Host institution	UCTS (Host institution to fill in)	Home institution

(If necessary, continue the list on a separate sheet, including any changes to the approved program, which must be signed and counter-signed)

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We confirm that the proposed program of study is approved.

Home institution staff member: \_\_\_\_\_ Host institution staff member: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. TRANSCRIPT OF UMAP STUDY PROGRAM RESULTS

Host institution course unit			Host institution		UCTS (Host institution to fill in)		Home institution	
Code	Title	Duration	Grade	Credits	Grade	Credits	Grade	Credits

### 4. CERTIFICATION OF UMAP STUDY PROGRAM

Host institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Home institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of registrar/dean/administration officer) (Signature of registrar/dean/administration officer)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION STAMP

INSTITUTION STAMP

NOTE: This document is not valid without the signatures of the registrar/dean/administration officers and stamps of the host and home institutions.

### UCTS CREDIT POINTS SCALE

The UCTS credit points scale is a numerical measure of student workload, based on a typical full-time student's commitments over a full academic year. It measures both contact hours/class time and also private study time for a typical student enrolled in the course.

The UCTS credit point scale is based on a 60-point total for a full academic year, in order to accommodate two-semester and three-term academic years. Thus, a full-time student's total workload would be shown as:

- 60 UCTS credit points, for a full academic year, or
- 30 UCTS credit points, for one semester, or
- 20 UCTS credit points, for one term.

For more information on using the UCTS credit point scale see Section 4 of the UCTS User's Guide.

### THE UCTS GRADING SCALE

UCTS grade	Successful students normally achieving grade (%)	Definition
A	10	EXCELLENT: outstanding with only minor errors
B	25	VERY GOOD: above average standard but with some errors
C	30	GOOD: generally sound work with a number of notable errors
D	25	SATISFACTORY: fair but with significant shortcomings
E	10	SUFFICIENT: performance meets the minimum criteria
FX	-	FAIL: some more work required before credit can be awarded
F	-	FAIL: considerable further work is required

Information session on the UMAP program and the UCTS



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# Role of institutional coordinator

The institution coordinator is responsible for

- overseeing the application of the UCTS at his/her institution
- providing advice and UCTS materials to students and staff
- acting as the contact point for UMAP national contact
- forwarding completed UCTS documentation to UMAP national contact



# Potential benefits of using UCTS

- Standard information about academic programs offered at partner institutions
- Certain level of predictability in credit transfer and grade conversion processes
- Requires relatively little investment of resources by universities since it is more ad-hoc and student-initiated
- Can help student recruitment
- Other ...





# Discussion

- Are your **exchange partners** asking you to use the UCTS?
- Do you have any **lessons learned** about the use of credit transfer tools you would like to share?
- What are the key **obstacles** which would preclude involvement by your institution in the use of UCTS from academic, administrative and financial perspectives? How can these obstacles be addressed?
- What kind of **support** do you need in order to successfully implement the use of UCTS?