

Validation

Information for prospective students

What does it mean when a programme is 'subject to validation'?

For quality assurance and enhancement purposes, our programmes go through a rigorous approval stage, known as validation. Any programme listed as 'subject to validation' is in the final process of approval. When a programme is 'subject to validation', it means that the contents of the programme are in the last stage of the validation process and are awaiting final approval by a validation panel.

Once the programme is validated, the full programme specification is added to the programme web page.

Validation is not guaranteed and should the programme be significantly amended, or deemed unfit, you will be contacted by UCEM and assistance will be provided to find a suitable alternative.

What is the purpose of validation?

UCEM is responsible for the quality and standards of all provision leading to award or credits made in its name. The purpose of validation is therefore to ensure that the academic standards of UCEM awards are maintained and also meet relevant national academic standards. The validation process also reviews the quality of learning opportunities to ensure that they are appropriate for students to achieve the academic standard of the required award.

The Academic Board retains ultimate authority for the approval of all programmes and modules leading to a UCEM award or credit. It however delegates the detailed scrutiny and approval of new programmes and modules to a validation panel. The validation panel will decide whether a programme should be approved and if it should be subject to conditions and recommendations.

For more information on programme validation, please see the [UCEM Code of Practice on Programme Development and Validation \(opens new window\)](#)

Why do you advertise programmes that are 'subject to validation' if there is a risk that they might not run or the programme content might be significantly amended?

It is rare that programmes that we advertise that are 'subject to validation' do not receive final validation, but it can happen.

The reason we advertise programmes that are 'subject to validation' is to give you as much choice as possible when deciding on the right programme to apply for, and to hopefully give you the opportunity to start your higher education on the right programme for you, at the earliest opportunity.

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In the event that you have been made an offer on a programme that was 'subject to validation' when you applied but which is subsequently unable to run or the content of the programme is so significantly amended, you will be contacted by UCEM to discuss your options, which could include studying a different programme.