

11. CREDIT TRANSFER

- 11.1 Students may be given credits for recognised previous studies (including mandatory General University Requirements (GUR) subjects; and the credits will be counted towards meeting the requirements for award. Transferred credits may be counted towards more than one award. The granting of credit transfer is a matter of academic judgment. In assessing the transferability of subjects previously taken, the syllabus of that subject should be carefully scrutinized to ascertain that it is comparable to the PolyU's curriculum. Whether the previous studies are from institutions on credit-based or non-credit-based system should not be a matter of concern, and the subject size need not be a perfect match. To ascertain the academic standing of the institution offering the previous studies, the Department might need to request the institutions concerned to provide more information.
- 11.2 Credit transfer may be done with or without the grade being carried over; the former should normally be used when the credits were gained from PolyU. Credit transfer with the grade being carried over may be granted for subjects taken from outside the University, if deemed appropriate, and with due consideration to the academic equivalence of the subjects concerned and the comparability of the grading systems adopted by the University and the other approved institutions. Subject credit transfer is normally decided by the subject offering Department. However, for applications submitted by students who have completed an approved student exchange programme, the decision will be made by the programme offering Department in consultation with the subject offering Departments. As the application for credit transfer may involve subjects offered by more than one Department, the programme offering Department should coordinate and check whether the maximum limit for credit transfer for a student has been exceeded, and whether the student has fulfilled the residential requirement of the University.
- 11.3 In case of disagreement between the programme offering Department and the subject offering Department, the two Faculty Deans/School Board Chairmen concerned will make a final decision jointly on the application. The validity period of credits previously earned is 8 years after the year of attainment.
- 11.4 Normally, not more than 50% of the credit requirement for award may be transferable from approved institutions outside the University. For transfer of credits from programmes offered by PolyU, normally not more than 67% of the credit requirement for award can be transferred. When both types of credits are being transferred (i.e. from programmes offered by PolyU and from approved institutions outside the University), not more than 50% of the credit requirement for award may be transferred.

- 11.5 If the transferred credits are for a PolyU programme accredited by a professional body, the Department concerned should ensure that the transferred credits will also meet the requirement of the relevant professional body.
- 11.6 If a student is waived from a particular stage of study on the basis of advanced qualifications held at the time of admission, the student concerned will be required to complete fewer credits for award. For these students, the 'deducted' credits at admission stage will be counted towards the maximum limit for credit transfer when students apply for further credit transfer after their admission.
- 11.7 Notwithstanding the upper limits stipulated in Section 11.4 above, (and unless professional bodies stipulate otherwise) students may be given more credit transfer than these upper limits (e.g. upon completion of an exchange programme as mentioned in Section 11.8 below), subject to their satisfying the residential requirement.
- 11.8 Credit transfer can be applicable to credits earned by students through studying at an overseas institution under an approved exchange programme. Students should, before they go abroad for the exchange programme, seek prior approval from the programme offering Department (who will consult the subject offering Departments as appropriate) on their study plan and credit transferability. As with all other credit transfer applications, the Departments concerned should scrutinise the syllabuses of the subjects which the students are going to take at the overseas institution, and determine their credit transferability based on academic equivalence with the corresponding subjects on offer at the PolyU, and the comparability of the grading systems adopted by PolyU and the overseas institution. The transferability of credits, and the suitability for allowing grades to be carried over, must be determined and communicated to students before they go abroad for the exchange programme. In order to overcome the problems associated with subject-to-subject mappings, block credit transfer rather than subject-by-subject credit transfer can be given.
- 11.9 All credit transfers approved will take effect only in the semester for which they are approved. A student who applies for transfer of credits during the re-enrolment or the add/drop period of a particular semester will only be eligible for graduation at the end of that semester, even if the granting of credit transfer will immediately enable the student to satisfy the credit requirement for the award.