

# ECTS

All modules in NUI Galway are specified in terms of ECTS.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) is a student-centered system based on the average **student workload** required to achieve the **learning outcomes** at the end of a programme of study.

It is important to consider the ECTS and expected student effort required when designing or redesigning modules and programmes

## Student Workload

Student workload, in terms of ECTS, consists of the time required to complete all learning activities, such as attending lectures, seminars, independent and private study, group work, project work, examinations, work placements and so forth.

These are *notional* hours of total student effort – in practice there will be variation in subjects and in students in terms of how much time and effort they need to learn something.

There is **no direct link between contact hours and credits**. It is, however, important to maintain reasonable contact with students over the course of a period of study, and a minimum number of contact hours per 5/10 ECTS module may be specified by individual schools or colleges.

## ECTS in NUI Galway

60 credits = workload of a full-time undergraduate student during one academic year.\*

Typically, 1ECTS= 20-25 hours of total student effort.

## Obtaining ECTS

ECTS (credits) can only be obtained after successful completion of the work required and appropriate assessment of the learning outcomes achieved. Student effort alone does not guarantee the award of ECTS.

Credits are allocated to all education components of a study programmes (such as modules, courses, placements, dissertation work, etc.).

## In Summary

A **semester** in NUI Galway is comprised of **15 weeks**. This includes 12 weeks teaching and self study time, exam study and exam weeks.

A **full-time student** is expected to commit to approximately **40 hours** of academic effort per week for the duration of a semester or academic year.

There is **no direct link** between ECTS and contact hours.

\* Some postgraduate courses are year-long courses, including a summer semester. These courses are typically 90 ECTS.

	ECTS	Weeks	Total Workload	Workload Per Week (avg)
Full-time Year Long (postgraduate)	90 ECTS	45 weeks	1,800 hours	40 hours
Full-time 1 Academic Year	60 ECTS	30 weeks	1,200 hours	40 hours
Full-time 1 Semester	30 ECTS	15 weeks	600 hours	40 hours
5 ECTS module	5 ECTS	15 weeks	100 hours	6.5 hours
10 ECTS module	10 ECTS	15 weeks	200 hours	13 hours
10 ECTS module	10 ECTS	30 weeks	200 hours	6.5 hours

Additional resources and support are available from CELT <http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt> under the Learning, Teaching and Assessment menu.