

Northern Technical University Policy for the Implementation of the Bologna Process

I. Introduction and General Policy

In alignment with the Strategic Plan of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Bologna Process Guide – 2023 Edition), Northern Technical University (NTU) formally announces the systematic and institutional implementation of the Bologna Process Policy across all its relevant colleges, institutes, and academic departments.

- This policy is anchored in transforming the educational framework into a flexible, student-centered model driven by competencies and intended learning outcomes. It aims to elevate the quality of technical and academic education while facilitating credit recognition and academic mobility at both regional and international levels.

II. Strategic Goals and Objectives

Modernizing Curricular Frameworks: Comprehensive transition toward the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

- Developing Competency-Based Curricula: Aligning all academic programs with clear Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) mapped directly to Module Learning Outcomes (MLOs).

- Enhancing Graduate Employability and Competitiveness: Aligning technical qualifications with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and labor market dynamics.

- Transitioning to Student-Centered Learning: Empowering students to actively shape their educational trajectories while developing autonomous, digital, and professional skill sets.

- Facilitating Mobility and Academic Recognition: Expanding avenues for student and faculty exchanges and promoting qualification recognition locally and globally.

III. Pillars of Academic Implementation

1. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) & Student Workload
   - Every academic module is structured according to ECTS parameters, where 1 ECTS credit point corresponds to 25–30 hours of total student workload (encompassing lectures, laboratory work, self–study, assessments, and practical projects).
   - A standard academic semester corresponds to 30 ECTS credits (totaling 60 ECTS credits for a full academic year).
2. Student–Centered Learning (SCL)

   - Adopting contemporary pedagogical strategies, including Problem–Based Learning (PBL), interactive blended learning, project–based learning, and hands–on workshops.
   - Restructuring workload distribution to provide students with substantial opportunities for self–directed learning and applied research under academic supervision.
3. Comprehensive and Transparent Assessment Framework

   - Continuous Formative Assessment: Allocated the primary weight throughout the semester to evaluate cumulative performance and practical competencies.
   - Summative Assessment: Conducted at the conclusion of the semester to measure the overall achievement of module learning outcomes.
   - Prior Disclosure: Grading criteria, evaluation rubrics, and assessment mechanisms are published systematically in Module Descriptors at the beginning of each semester.

4. Learning Outcomes and Qualifications Framework

   - Designing programs and curricula based on a triad model: Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies (autonomy and responsibility), ensuring full alignment with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

IV. Structural Support and Methodological Transition

- Digital Transformation and Data Management: Deploying an integrated digital platform dedicated to managing Bologna Process operations, including student registration, workload tracking, ECTS credit allocation, and academic record archiving.
- Diploma Supplement: NTU commits to issuing a standardized Diploma Supplement free of charge to all graduates in both Arabic and English, following accredited European templates.

- Specialized Academic Advising: Activating a dedicated academic advising framework to assist students in understanding Bologna Process regulations and effectively managing their workload.

V. Responsibilities and Governance

Supreme Council for Quality Assurance (at NTU Headquarters and Formations): Responsible for supervising, evaluating, and endorsing the implementation frameworks and policies of the Bologna Process, ensuring full compliance across all university formations and departments with approved ministerial guidelines and standards.

VI. Endorsement and Review

This policy is subject to annual periodic review. All implementation reports and amendments shall be submitted for approval and monitoring by the Supreme Council for Quality Assurance established at Northern Technical University and across all its formations, ensuring continuous enhancement and sustained alignment with ministerial guides and ESG 2015 standards.

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