Guidance on Assessment Volume

The UMF requires that 25% of module hours are devoted to assessment activity. This means that for a standard 20 credit module, 50/200 student learning hours should be spent on assessment. In general, assessments are measured as a % weighting of the 50 hours. So an assessment with a 50% weighting should take around 25 student hours to complete. **These requirements are contained within the University Modular Framework (UMF).**

Following the UMF Review of Assessment in 2017, the University reduced the overall length of assessment deliverables and introduced a requirement to measure assessment volume in more appropriate ways e.g. written assignments are measured in the number of words and presentations are measured in minutes.

The reduction in assessment volume means that the new lengths for assessments are as follows:

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| **N.B. All examples provided are for a standard 20 credit module** |

Please note: In all cases, the Module Specification document must indicate the relevant University assessment code, the nature of the assessment and the assessment deliverables (i.e. a short overview of what the student must submit). This should indicate things like:

* length in words/minutes
* individual/group requirements
* number and length of ‘entries’ for multiple sub-component assessments e.g. 3 x 20 question TCT or 5 x 500 word journal entries with a total of 2,500 words.
* Portfolio assignments should be clear what students need to hand in and what additional supporting work needs to be submitted (e.g. sketchbooks, developmental work, lesson plans)

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| Assessment Type | Maximum Limits (N.B. These are **maximum** limits. The actual word limit may be less depending on the nature of the assessment and what is pedagogically appropriate). |
| **Exam** | 3 hours (75%)  2 hours (50%)  1 hour (25%) |
| **Presentation / Oral / Viva / Student Led Seminar** | Typically determined by the number of hours of student work (weighting). |
| **Dissertation / project (principal module)** | 5,000 words |
| **Written assignment (non-principal module** | 4,000 words (100%)  3,000 words (75%)  2,000 words (50%)  1,000 words (25%) |
| **Journals, blogs,  wiki entries** | Total length to be in line with the maximum lengths and weightings for written assignments in the row above.  Volume can be spread across more than one ‘entry’. |
| **Poster** | Typically this is of a standard size and format. Therefore, the number of hours of student work will be what determines the weighting / importance of the poster **as part of** the overall module assessment strategy |
| **Practical skills, performances, exhibitions, projects** | Typically determined by the number of hours of student work (weighting) as part of the overall module assessment strategy. |