

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY TYPE ASSIGNMENTS AND DISSERTATIONS

In order that the work required of students is reflective of the credit value assigned to study-units in a consistent manner, the Programme Validation Committee is issuing the following guidelines to be used by F/I/C/S when indicating word limits for essay type assignments and dissertations:

Essay Type Assignments (including Seminar Papers, Long Essays, Special Projects and Undergraduate Dissertations):

ECTS Value	Range of Word Limit* (excluding footnotes, references and appendices)
4 ECTS	2,000 – 3,000
8 ECTS	4,000 – 6,000
12 ECTS	7,000 – 9,000

Postgraduate Dissertations:

ECTS Value	Range of Word Limit (excluding footnotes, references and appendices)
30 ECTS	15,000 – 20,000
60 ECTS	20,000 – 30,000
80 ECTS	30,000 – 35,000

** Applies for essay type assignments which contribute at least 80% towards the final mark of the study-unit. Where the component is weighted less than 80%, the size of the work should be calculated pro-rata.*

Programme Validation Committee
30th January, 2017