

Office of Quality, Standards
and Partnerships



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANUAL
Foundation Degrees

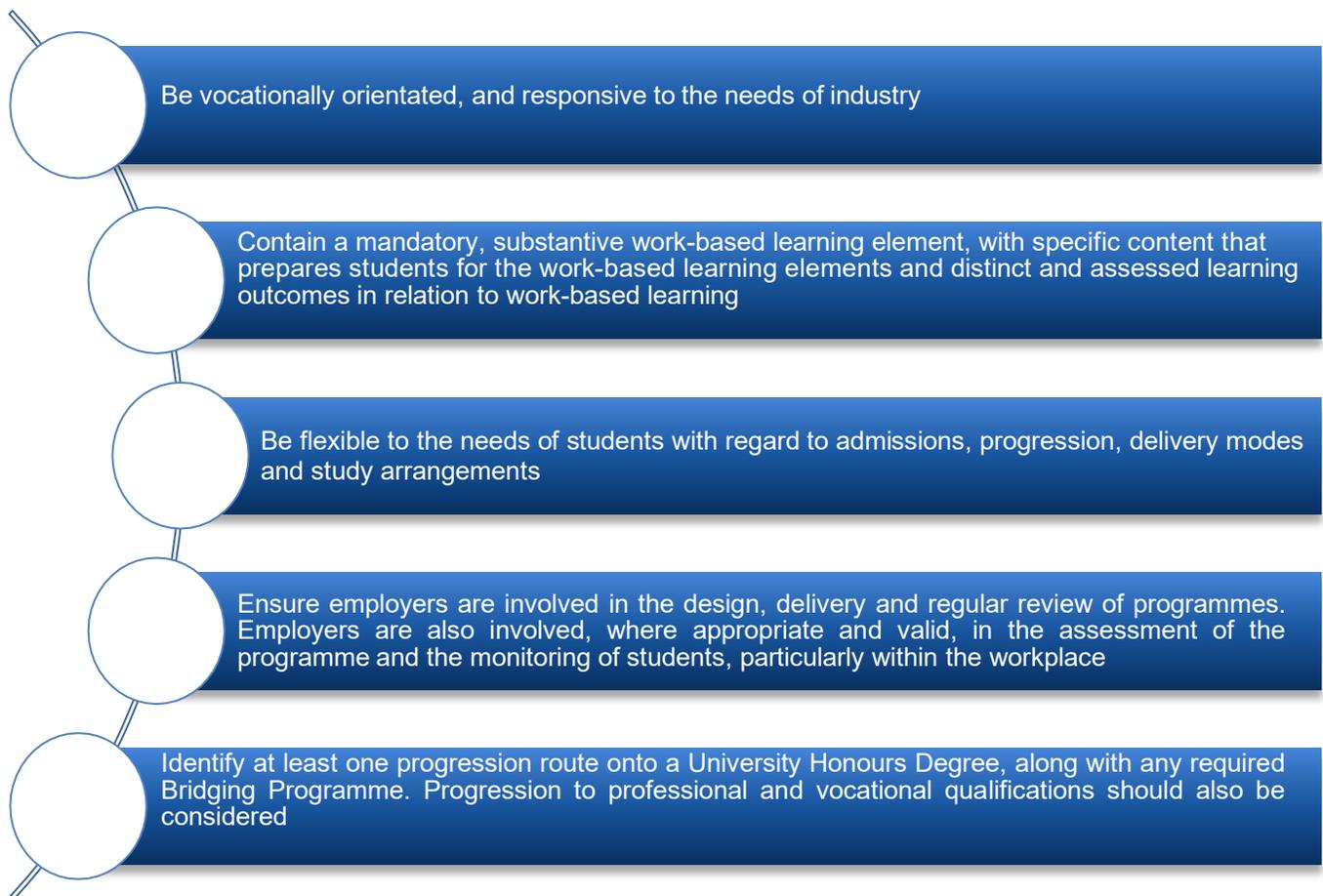
SECTION02D

Introduction

Designed in association with industry employers, a Foundation Degree is a Level 5 qualification that combines academic study with workplace learning. Foundation Degrees are qualifications to equip people with the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding to achieve academic results as well as improve performance and productivity in the workplace.

Work-based learning can be achieved through many forms, including full-time or part-time work, integrated work placements, and real work environments.

In particular, Foundation Degrees should:



All Foundation Degrees should take into account the Quality Assurance Agency's Characteristic Statement on Foundation Degrees, which will be confirmed through programme (re)validation:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/characteristics-statements>

Bridging Programmes

A Bridging Programme consists of discrete Level 5 module(s) that address any shortfalls in content and skills that would preclude students progressing to Honours level study. These usually include the research skills required to prepare students for the final level dissertation and any pre-requisite subject content required.

There may be circumstances where the articulation between the Foundation Degree and the identified Honours programme requires a Bridging Programme to ensure students are adequately prepared for the next level of study.

Proposals for Bridging Programmes, including relevant module specifications, must be approved by the panel at (re)validation. Students must pass the full assessment requirements of any required Bridging Programme in order to progress to an identified Honours programme. A Bridging Programme shall not be greater than 30 credits in size. In exceptional circumstances the relevant College Academic Affairs Committee may approve a bridging programme using the procedures set out in Quality Assurance Manual 2A *Approval – Short Courses and Microcredentials*, but will need to satisfy itself that the programme adequately prepares students for progression.

The (re)validation panel shall ensure that all arrangements for progression, including those involving a bridging programme, are appropriate and sufficiently prepare students for the next level of study. The (re)validation panel may require supporting documentation such as a formal curriculum mapping document in order to assure itself of the appropriateness of progression arrangements.