



БОЛОВСРОЛ,
СОЁЛ,
ШИНЖЛЭХ УХААНЫ ЯАМ



Mongolia: Higher Education Reform Project

ADB Project No. 43007-023

Project Code: HERP MON Loan No. 2766

Consulting Services for Higher Education Reform

General Education Subjects - Recommendation

Team of NQF and Credit System

Dr. Sudirman Yahya
International Consultant

Gelegiin Tsagaach
National Consultant



PT.TRANS INTRA ASIA

June 2016
Ulaanbaatar



Under the guidelines of this project, we were given a task to make analysis on requirements and conditions of general education subjects of higher education study program and plan, and develop recommendations on ways to improve thereof.

Within the framework of this project, we have chosen the NUM among the HEIs we consulted and cooperated, and researched its training procedures. The NUM offers the widest choice of general education subjects among Mongolian universities. The NUM set the following purposes in general education subjects of bachelor degree training:

“General Education subjects. Basic subjects of higher education that is aimed at giving 1. basic knowledge and skills of social, humanitarian and natural sciences under basic requirements of bachelor program of the NUM and 2. competence to utilize the acquired knowledge and skills in real life.” (Training procedures of the National University of Mongolia specified in the attachment of decree A/203 of the Director of the NUM on June 30, 2015)

Basically, General Education is the basis of science obligatorily required for students to acquire higher education. It is a group of compulsory and optional subjects aimed at giving knowledge and skills to elaborate and write clearly, process quantitative and qualitative information, understand the reasoning of pluralism, work efficiently in a team, be responsible and learn mutually.

All students of the NUM shall choose and study from 94 subjects of 8 different groups of General Education in the first year, in other words, the first 2 semesters. Science School students shall study 12 subjects, totaling 36 credit hours. Students of Law School, International Relations School, Public Administration School, Business School and Applied Science and Engineering School shall study 10 subjects, totaling 30 credit hours. Each student shall study not less than 30 credit hours of subjects successfully and by that time depending on the GPA and the scores of General Entrance Examination, majors are selected in order of students with the highest score.

The following table shows the groups of general education subjects offered for students along with their credit hour requirements.

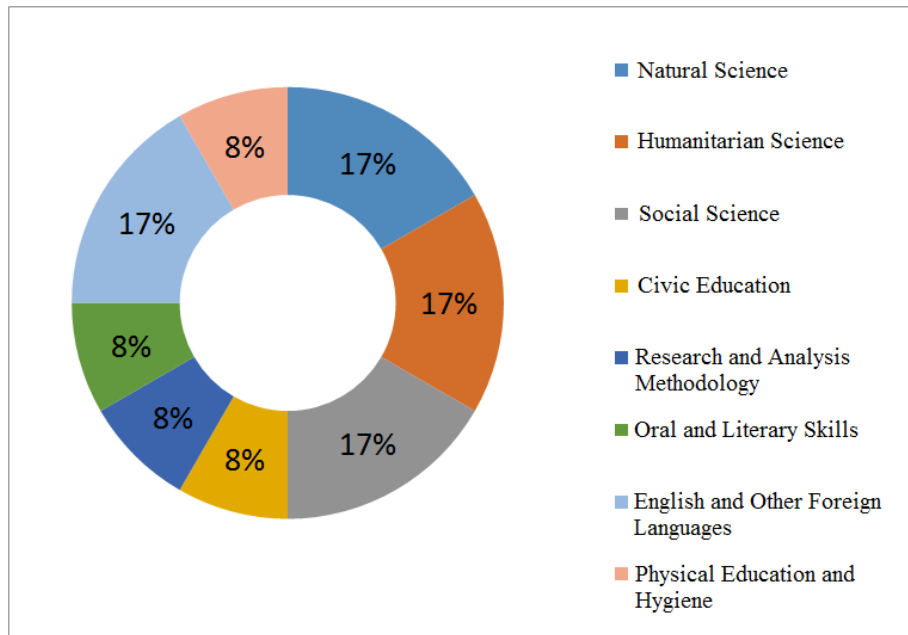
#	Groups	Expected outcomes	Credit hour requirements
1	Natural Science (13 subjects)	Acquires skills to understand and explain the nature of natural phenomena and scientific principles, approach information scientifically, make analysis and summarize thereof.	6 credit hour
2	Humanitarian Science (13 subjects)	Aimed at giving skills to understand the history of thoughts and philosophy, and make analysis on literatures, and developing artistic and aesthetic mindset, and ethical standard.	6 credit hour
3	Social Science (11 subjects)	Acquires knowledge of diversity of society, economics and administration, interpersonal communication and behavior, creative thinking and scientific approach.	6 credit hour
4	Civic Education (7 subjects)	Gives knowledge of Mongolian history and culture, politics, economics, law, basic human rights and personal development, and skills to work in a team.	3 credit hour
5	Research and Analysis Methodology (9 subjects)	Learns to make analysis and assessment on quantitative and qualitative information and facts, logical thinking, reasoning skills, process modeling and raise problems.	3 credit hour
6	Oral and Literary Skills (4 subjects)	Acquires oral and literary skills to express oneself and scientific writing skills.	3 credit hour
7	English and Other Foreign Languages (33 subjects)	Ensures the competency to use professional sources in English (and other languages), upper intermediate level of English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.	6 credit hour
8	Physical Education and Hygiene (4 subjects)	Gives skills to develop one's own body, learn healthy lifestyle, ensure safety during disasters and provide first aid.	3 credit hour
9	Professionalism	Have professionalism, morals and ethics, concern for the community and the value / value, environmental awareness and entrepreneurial (this competence can be obtained among others through the course Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Arts and Sports).	3 credit hour

As for the structure of these groups in relation to scientific fields, 70 percent of the required credit hours consist of natural, social and humanitarian sciences and foreign language, and 30 percent of the required credit hours consist of Civic Education, Research and Analysis Methodology and Oral and Literary Skills.

One third of the total subjects offered is foreign language subjects, and another 30

percent is natural, social and humanitarian science subjects.

Figure 1. Required General Education Subjects, in percentage, the NUM



The NUM may be the only school in Mongolia that emphasizes offering liberal arts education to its students. But in reality, poor student consulting services and students' information access makes it obviously difficult for newly enrolled students to make responsible and informed choice among too wide range of General Education Subjects. Hence there is a need to review the subjects for their content overlapping with the next level associated subjects. Furthermore, among these 94 subjects, there are quite a few subjects that have very similar content despite being offered by different structural units.

Students cannot acquire wide range of knowledge about significant ideas, advances and achievements of fields such as music and arts within the framework of general education subjects because of the main fields of sciences in which the NUM operates. Hence, students should be allowed to study these types of subjects in other HEIs that specialize in these fields and

accumulate credits.

The learning outcomes defined in the above table shows that the requirement of credit accumulation of general education subject groups is not very different from leading universities of the world and equals to over one third of the required credits for bachelor study. But the subjects of this group should be reviewed for its contents and subjects of some groups should be reviewed for its workload in comparison with general education subject requirements.

The Institute of Finance and Economics which is one of the leading private universities, does not offer as many subjects for its general education subjects group as the NUM. But it clearly shown from the subjects offered by them that the IFE emphasizes more on giving broad knowledge to their students about significant ideas, achievements and discoveries of diverse fields such as literature, philosophy, history, music, arts, science.