



**FALLBACK QUALIFICATIONS
(FBQs) FOR
EXISTING UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREE PROGRAMME**

A Policy Guideline

**Faculty of Technology,
Eastern University, Sri Lanka
2025**

Status of Approval

Name of the Policy/Guideline: Fall-Back Qualifications (FBQ) for Existing Undergraduate Degree Programme: A policy Guidelines

Meeting Number and Date of approval:

Faculty Board		Senate		Council	
Meeting No	Approved Date	Meeting No	Approved Date	Meeting No	Approved Date
08	12.09.2023	353	21.02.2024	348	18.01.2025

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Fall-Back Qualifications (FBQ) for Existing Undergraduate Degree
Programme: A policy Guidelines
Faculty of Technology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

1. Introduction

Fall-back Qualification (FBQ) referred as awarding a qualification given to the students who registered to follow a particular degree program and completed the **minimum period of study that required for the expected qualification**, but are unable to fulfill all the requirement for awarding the said degree due to various reasons that they encountered during their studentship period.

Considering the above facts and to provide an alternative and appropriate pathway, this policy is developed by the Faculty of Technology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka to those students who unable to meet their goal of being a graduate at the end of the stipulated timeframe. This amendment has been developed by adopting the guidelines provided in the UGC Circular No. 02/2024 (January 30 2024), which introduces the Fall-Back option to the existing and new degree programme.

2. Aim

It is inevitable that all the student will be able to complete the academic work to get the expected qualification. Hence, the purpose of this policy is to provide pathways for student registered for a programme of study leading to a particular qualification, to leave with a different qualification at a lower SLQF level. Accordingly, the Faculty of Technology, EUSL at present offers a four-year Bachelor's Degree program, *Bachelor of Biosystems Technology Honors in Agricultural Technology and Entrepreneurship* (BBSTHons), which is equivalent to SLQF Level 06.

The FBQ is aiming to provide an alternative and appropriate qualifications as Fall-back options, which are less than SLQF 6 such as SLQF 3, 4 and 5.

3. Scope

This amendment shall apply to existing undergraduate degree programme offered by the Faculty of Technology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka with the scope of allowing students to leave the University with some qualification rather than the situation where the student is compelled to leave the programme without any qualification despite several years of study and some significant level of achievement. But, if a student is expelled from the university on **disciplinary grounds**, then such student **may not be considered** for award the FBQ.

4. Fall-back Qualifications

The following qualifications are available to claim;

SLQF Level	Awarding Title	Qualification
SLQF 3	Diploma in Biosystems Technology in <i>Agricultural Technology and Entrepreneurship</i>	Diploma
SLQF 4	Higher Diploma in Biosystems Technology in <i>Agricultural Technology and Entrepreneurship</i>	Higher Diploma
SLQF 5	Bachelor of Biosystems Technology in <i>Agricultural Technology and Entrepreneurship</i>	Bachelor's Degree

The expected Program Outcomes (PO), course structure, Learning Outcomes (LO) and assessment strategies would be the same as the particular program registered for, except the credit values mentioned in section 5.2.

5. Awarding Criteria

5.0 General Criteria

- (i) Should be able to get fallback options only after the student has followed the degree programme (BBSTHonors) during normal duration of the course i.e., 04 academic years, which he/she registered for (Sec. II of 2).
- (ii) May be awarded only after completion of the maximum period of study, i.e., 08 academic years of study of the programme (BBSTHonors), for which the student has been registered (Sec. 3.7 of 3).
- (iii) The student should apply for either a Diploma or Higher Diploma or Bachelor of Biosystems Technology in *Agricultural Technology and Entrepreneurship*.
- (iv) Should not be expelled from university on disciplinary grounds (Sec. 3.1 of 3).

5.1 Specific Criteria

5.1.1 Eligibility Requirements for SLQF Level 3

- (i) Should complete a minimum of 30 credits out of 120.
- (ii) Should be no "E" grade in the above 30 credits.
- (iii) Cumulative GPA for the above 30 credits should be 2.00 or above.

5.1.2 Eligibility Requirements for SLQF Level 4

- (i) Should complete a minimum of 60 credits out of 120.
- (ii) Should be no "E" grade in the above 60 credits.
- (iii) Cumulative GPA for the above 60 credits should be 2.00 or above.

5.1.3 Eligibility Requirements for SLQF Level 5

- (i) Should complete a minimum of 90 credits out of 120 credits.
- (ii) 60 credits are compulsory out of the 120 credits (Annexure 1).
- (iii) Should be no "E" grade in the above 90 credits.
- (iv) Should complete the industrial training.

- (v) Should obtain a “D+” or above for all auxiliary courses for batches prior to 2022/2023; whereas should obtain a “D” or above for all auxiliary courses for batches from 2022/2023 onwards (in both conditions GP is 1.30).
- (vi) Cumulative GPA for the above 90 credits should be 2.00 or above.

6 Awarding/Application procedure

- (i) As per the Commission Circular (02/2024), the student who satisfies the eligibility criteria, has made request in writing (Section 3.9 of 3).
- (ii) The recommendation for the FBQ to a student who applied for such qualification should be made by the Faculty Board, to the Senate; after an exit interview to judge the suitability of the student for the award of such qualification (Section 3.9 of 3).
- (iii) For the above (ii.), the faculty board may nominate the interview panel and seek the approval of the Senate.
- (iv) The interview panel may evaluate the suitability based on the performance records of the particular student (History sheet, No. of repeats, Mentor’s observation during the program of study, exam offenses), Personal file (i.e., Disciplinary offenses), and any other relevant documents prescribed by the University by-law for awarding a qualification.
- (v) FBQ at the SLQF level 5 should be approved by the Commission through the submission of an application to the QAC/Standing Committee for Technology Stream (3.12 of 3).
- (vi) The effective date of such qualification would be the 01st day of the month after which the Senate has approved the award (below the SLQF level 5), upon the request of the student and on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- (vii) The effective date for the FBQ at the SLQF level 5 will be the date of the Commission **approval received** (Section 3.14 of 3).

Annexure 1:

Course Details for Fallback Qualifications for the Existing Degree Programme

Semeste	Course code	Couse Name	Credit value	Status [C/O]	Existing / New [E/N]	
1 (Y1, S1)	BST 11012	General Biology	02	O	E	
	BST 11022	Introduction to Farming Systems	02	C	E	
	BST 11032	Introduction to Livestock Production	02	C	E	
	BST 11042	Fundamentals of Food and Nutrition	02	C	E	
	BST 11051	Introduction to Economics	01	C	E	
	MDS11012	Fundamentals of Chemistry	02	O	E	
	MDS11022	Fundamentals of Physics	02	O	E	
	MDS11031	Basic Mathematics	01	O	E	
	MDS11042	Fundamentals of Information and Communication Technology	02	O	E	
	Auxiliary Courses					
	MDS11051	English for Technology-I: Basic English Grammar/Language Structure	01 (NGC)	C	E	
MDS11061	Social Harmony	01 (NGC)	O	E		
2 (Y1, S2)	BST 12012	Animal Production Systems	02	O	E	
	BST 12022	Principles of Crop Production	02	C	E	
	BST 12032	Crop Protection Techniques	02	O	E	
	BST 12042	Fundamentals of Molecular Biology	02	O	E	
	BST 12052	Green Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 12062	Landscaping Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 12072	Introduction to Entrepreneurship	02	C	E	
	MDS12011	Basic Statistics	01	O	E	
	MDS12021	Macroscopic Physics	01	O	E	
	Auxiliary Courses					
	MDS12032	English for Technology-II (English-Level I: Reading and Listening skills)	02 (NGC)	C	E	
MDS12041	Career Development I	01 (NGC)	O	E		
3 (Y2, S1)	BST 23012	Introduction to Aquaculture	02	O	E	
	BST 23022	Molecular Biological Techniques	02	O	E	
	BST 23032	Principles of Food Preservation Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 23042	Soil and Soil Reclamation Techniques	02	O	E	
	BST 23052	Fruit and Vegetable Production Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 23062	Water Management Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 23072	Agribusiness Management	02	C	E	
	MDS23012	Design Technology	02	O	E	
	MDS23021	Workshop Technology	01	O	E	
Auxiliary Courses						

	MDS23032	English for Technology-III (English-Level II: Writing and Speaking skills)	02 (NGC)	C	E	
	MDS23041	Career Development II	01 (NGC)	O	E	
4 (Y2, S2)	BST 24012	Waste Treatment Technologies	02	C	E	
	BST 24022	Bio Energy Systems	02	O	E	
	BST 24032	Nanotechnology and its Applications	02	O	E	
	BST 24042	Postharvest Technology of Agricultural Commodities	02	C	E	
	BST 24052	Production Technology of Bio-Control Agents	02	C	E	
	BST 24062	Productive Insects, Fungi and Algae Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 24072	Economic Development and Growth	02	O	E	
	BST 24082	Human Resources Management	02	C	E	
	Auxiliary Course					
	MDS24012	English For Technology-III (English-Level III- Scientific Writing and Presentation Skills)*	02 (NGC)	C	E	
5 (Y3, S1)	BST 35012	Climate Resilience Agriculture	02	O	E	
	BST 35023	Crop Production Technologies	03	C	E	
	BST 35032	Energy Resources and Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 35042	Environmental Biotechnology	02	O	E	
	BST 35052	Farm Structure, Instrumentation and its Applications	02	O	E	
	BST 35062	Geospatial Technology	02	O	E	
	BST 35072	Processing Technology of Crop Commodities	02	C	E	
	BST 35081	Intellectual Property Rights	01	O	E	
	MDS35012	Information Transfer	02	O	E	
	Auxiliary Course					
	MDS35022	Career Development III*	02 (NGC)	O	E	
6 (Y3, S2)	BST 36012	Bioprocessing Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 36022	In-Vitro Culture Techniques	02	C	E	
	BST 36032	Production Technology of Plant Based Products	02	C	E	
	BST 36042	Dairy Technology	02	C	E	
	BST 36052	Industrial Microbiology	02	O	E	
	BST 36062	Processing Technology of Animal Commodities	02	C	E	
	BST 36072	Food Protection Systems	02	O	E	
	BST 36081	Agro Industrial Development	01	C	E	
	BST 36091	Business Plan Development	01	C	E	
	BST 36102	Marketing for Small and Medium Enterprises	02	C	E	
7	BST 47012	Life Cycle Assessment	02	O	E	

	BST 47022	Water-Energy-Food Nexus	02	O	E
	BST 47032	International Trade	01	O	E
	BST 47042	Industrial Training/ In Plant Training	06	C	E
8 (Y4, S2)	BST 48012	Research Methodology	02	O	E
	BST 48026	Research Project	06	O	E
	SLQF Level 5	Compulsory	60	C	E
		Optional (minimum)	30	O	
		Total (minimum)	90	-	
		Grant total (90 + 7 NGC) (minimum)	97	-	