



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) Polymer Materials Science and Engineering
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	J5C2
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Engineering & Materials Science

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, China (NPU)

### Programme outline

QMUL's Joint Programme (JP) in Polymer Science and Engineering, under the umbrella of the JEI (Joint Educational Institute), delivered in partnership with NPU in China's Shaanxi province, draws on the academic expertise of both institutions and on the strengths of two distinct educational cultures. The programme – which is taught entirely in English has been running successfully since 2017, and leads to the award of both a Queen Mary University of London BEng and a BEng from NPU. The jointly-planned programme has been approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education and accredited by the IoM3.

### Aims of the programme

The JEI will create graduates equipped for employment in scientific/engineering research in China or around the world (including the UK, Europe and US), and leads to the award of two degrees: a Queen Mary University of London BEng and a BEng from NPU. In the first of these, students will be provided with a strong background in materials and polymer science, including

subject areas such as structure and properties of materials, chemistry for materials, polymer physics, composite materials, polymer chemistry, environmental properties of materials, polymer synthesis, processing and design. Students will also receive a thorough practical training in these subjects, with particular emphasis on engineering techniques in research and other research skills.

Together, these two parts of the JP will equip students with the skills needed for (i) progression to graduate degree courses and professions allied to engineering and polymer and materials science; (ii) academic research; (iii) employment in engineering and other scientific-based industries.

The programme aims to provide a rational, flexibly structured and coherent programme of study which is relevant to the needs of employers, facilitates the professional development of the student and lays the foundations for a successful career to the benefit of society. It will provide a sound knowledge base in the fields studied and develop key transferable skills in the areas of communication, numeracy, information technology, leadership, working with others, problem solving, time and task management. It will foster the development of an enquiring, open-minded and creative attitude, tempered with scientific discipline and social awareness, which encourages lifelong learning.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will have knowledge and understanding of the topics outlined immediately below, as well as the skills and attributes described in the subsequent sections.

### **Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19**

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

#### Academic Content:

A 1	Knowledge of a broad-range of topics in materials science including: engineering materials, structure and properties of materials, processing and applications and understanding of materials to a molecular level
A 2	Knowledge to an advanced level in more specialised areas of materials and polymer science including: surfaces and interfaces, polymer physics, polymer chemistry, environmental properties of materials, polymer synthesis, processing and design.

A3	Experimental and computing techniques in engineering and polymer and materials science.
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Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B1	Apply materials and polymer science knowledge and principles, together with problem solving skills, in a wide range of theoretical and practical situations. Understand the importance of materials science to engineering and other technical applications
B2	Conduct practical work efficiently and with due regard for safety
B3	Use a wide range of laboratory, testing and analytical equipment
B4	Analyse and evaluate/interpret the results of controlled experiments
B5	Retrieve, filter and collate materials data from a variety of information sources
B6	Prepare scientific/technical reports

Attributes:

C1	Communicate effectively by written and verbal means
C2	Capacity for independent learning, and to work independently
C3	Able to participate constructively as a member of a group/team, with skills to influence, negotiate and lead
C4	Assess the relevance, importance and reliability of the ideas of others and of different sources of information
C5	Competent in the use of computer-based technology, and in the manipulation and analysis of quantitative data
C6	Awareness of the role and impact of science and engineering in society, including the global perspective
C7	Use information for evidence-based decision-making and creative thinking

## How will you learn?

Knowledge and skills are developed in a progressive way throughout the programme.

### Academic Content

The programme includes scheduled interactive large group sessions (lectures), practical classes, workshops, seminars, tutorials and practical demonstrations.

Students are also expected to use independent and self-directed learning to consolidate the lecture material, for completion of coursework and in-preparation for follow-on sessions. Support for learning is provided through the Library, QMUL's online learning environment (QMplus), by teaching and administrative staff at NPU and via QMUL's staff in China and in the UK.

### Practical and Problem-oriented Disciplinary Skills

Practical skills will be taught as part of organised practical classes, during the first, second and third years of the programme.

Workshops reinforce knowledge acquired in lectures and provide opportunities for application of such knowledge to the solution of real problems. Advanced practical skills and specialised analytical skills are then developed during the project

component of the final year.

#### Graduate Attributes

QMUL's graduate attributes are developed in a progressive fashion throughout the programme. The Professional Engineering Skills modules provide further opportunities for the development of transferable skills and other aspects of these attributes.

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment of knowledge is through a combination of unseen written examinations and assessed coursework. The exact nature of the coursework varies from module to module and may include practical reports, mini-tests, essays, problem sheets and group coursework delivered through written reports, online pages or video presentation. The coursework mark may also include a contribution from online and computer-based assessments. Specific modules may include assessed oral examinations, oral presentations and extended reports/dissertations. Prompt feedback is provided on elements of coursework to provide an iterative learning experience, in which both knowledge and skills can be gradually developed and strengthened.

Transferable skills are developed in a contextual manner throughout the teaching and learning programme, and are indirectly assessed as part of the normal assessment processes for the programme. For example, the assessment of the projects includes consideration of data-retrieval skills, report-writing skills and presentational skills.

Practical skills are assessed through in-class observation and through written laboratory reports, which often include attention to quantitative accuracy. The assessment of the final year practical research project also addresses the majority of the professional disciplinary skills that students of this programme are expected to acquire.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Subject to successful completion, students will graduate with two degrees: a Queen Mary University of London BEng and a BEng from NPU. Students must complete both degrees: it is not possible to graduate with one or the other alone.

All the modules listed in the following section of this programme specification contribute directly to the BEng award. All modules are core modules - this means that they must be taken and must also be passed.

Modules taught by QMUL are coded with QXU and NPU-taught modules have been given codes beginning with NXC.

In addition to these modules, NPU will teach various modules which contribute towards their degree, but do not contribute to the classification of the BEng award. These additional modules are comprised of a number of social/political/cultural modules, taught in years 1-4, which all Chinese students are required to take. This suite of topics are captured in NXC6000 Chinese Compulsory Topics to record when a student has completed and passed all of these modules in the NPU system. Although they do not count towards BEng classification, all these additional modules must be passed in order for students to be awarded both degrees.

#### Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
English for Science and Engineering	QXU3103	15	3	Core	1	Semester 1
Academic & Professional Engineering Skills	QXU3112	0	3	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Communication in Science and Engineering	QXU3104	15	3	Core	1	Semester 2
Engineering Materials	QXU4015	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Engineering Chemistry	QXU4004	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2
Advanced Mathematics 1	NXC3000	15	3	Core	1	Semester 1
General Physics	NXC3001	15	3	Core	1	Semester 1
Linear Algebra	NXC3002	15	3	Core	1	Semester 1
Advanced Mathematics 2	NXC3004	15	3	Core	1	Semester 2
Mathematical Modelling and Computing	NXC3005	15	3	Core	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Materials Science 1 - Structure and Properties	QXU4000	15	4	Core	2	Semester 1
Developing Professional Engineering Skills	QXU4112	0	4	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Experiments in Materials 1	QXU4007	15	4	Core	2	Semester 1
Polymer Chemistry	QXU4003	15	4	Core	2	Semester 1
Materials Science 2 - Processing and Applications	QXU4006	15	4	Core	2	Semester 2
Mechanical Modelling - Solid Mechanics	NXC4012	15	4	Core	2	Semester 2
Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics	NXC4122	15	4	Core	2	Semester 2
Engineering Design Methods	QXU4016	15	4	Core	2	Semester 1
Experiments in Materials 2	QXU5017	15	5	Core	2	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Business and Professional Engineering Skills	QXU5112	0	5	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Physical properties of polymers	QXU5032	15	5	Core	3	Semester 1
Surfaces and Interfaces	QXU5010	15	5	Core	3	Semester 1
Composite Materials	QXU5030	15	5	Core	3	Semester 2
Materials and Sustainability	QXU6008	15	6	Core	3	Semester 2
Polymer Degradation	NXC5028	15	5	Core	3	Semester 1
Elastomer Materials	NXC5014	15	5	Core	3	Semester 2
Polymer Characterisation	NXC5013	15	5	Core	3	Semester 1
Advanced Polymer Chemistry	QXU6033	15	6	Core	3	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Materials Selection in Engineering Design	QXU6004	15	6	Core	4	Semester 1
Polymer Processing	NXC6018	15	6	Core	4	Semester 1
Polymer Engineering Project	QXU6040	30	6	Core	4	Semesters 1 & 2
Polymer Devices	QXU6028	15	6	Core	4	Semester 1
Failure of Polymers	NXC6026	15	6	Core	4	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Chinese Compulsory Topics	NXC6000	0	6	Core	4	Semester 2

### What are the entry requirements?

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of Northwestern Polytechnical University, in line with regulations from the Chinese Ministry for Education. This programme is limited to being able to recruit from the top 10% of school leavers taking the national examination, the gaokao (for Chinese participating students). In addition, candidates must demonstrate sufficient English skills to ensure that they can meet the demands of studying a degree programme which is taught in English. The entry requirement would be at or above the standard tariff for NPU entry. An IELTS score of 6.0, with no element of the IELTS below 5.5, would be required for entry, in line with QMUL programmes for students whose first language is not English.

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student Voice Committee (also known as SSLC), closely modelled on the equivalent body within SEMS, provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the JEI staff and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year of the JEI, together with appropriate representation from staff from QMUL and NPU. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Student Voice Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

The Faculty Education Committee advises the JEI directors on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at School level, including monitoring the application of relevant QMUL policies and reviewing proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through consideration of student surveys and input from the Student Voice Committee.

All QMUL schools operate a Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. Programme Review is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Programme Review which is the summary of the School's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of various programme surveys and the module evaluations.

Review of the programmes happen periodically where student voice from module evaluations is taken into account. The Programme Director also works with academics to review and update the programmes through DGLS cycle of module amendments.

External Examiners take part in the SEB and provide valuable feedback on quality assurance and processes. Appropriate changes are made based on their feedback. An external examiner will be sent from the UK to oversee the programme. They will conduct their duties remotely, but will have the opportunity to travel to NPU to see teaching facilities and school.

### What academic support is available?

Academics are available to assist students with academic understanding. Academics can be seen during office hours which can be arranged via email. NPU staff also have a pastoral responsibility for students on the programme, and it is these staff who will deal with inquiries from parents and other Chinese-specific issues.

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Inclusivity is promoted at QMES by making all materials available to students on QM+ before the class as well as ensuring the curriculum, assessment, learning objectives and reading lists are up-to-date and available online to students. This is done in line with the Disability and Dyslexia Service at QMUL. Students with additional needs have access to QMUL DDS as well as being support by NPU in China.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

- a) a requirement to pass all modules, including the Chinese political/social modules
- b) graduation after 4 years, when both degrees that comprise the Joint Programme have been completed

It should be further noted that:

- a) the QMUL provisions for aggregate degrees shall not apply
- b) the credits listed by NPU are a measure of load in the Chinese system that is related to the contact hours
- c) different marking scales are used at QMUL and NPU, and the procedures for conversion between these marking scales is defined in the regulations
- d) the award of a number of certificates within the NPU regulations is specified

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

Industrial Liaison lead industry connections. Students attend industry placements every year for 2 weeks as required from the MOE in China. Students have the opportunity to attend over 200 technical competitions per year where they can demonstrate their technical knowledge as well as professional skills such as presentation skills, teamwork and project management.

## Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Faith Nightingale

Person responsible for management of programme:

Dr Maria Romero-Gonzalez

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: