



Table 1: Table of SNQF level descriptors

SNQF level	Qualification type	Level descriptors		
		Knowledge	Skills	Autonomy and responsibility
10	Doctoral Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a thorough understanding of current research and literature in the subject discipline, occupation or profession • Generate new knowledge and applications through conceptualising, designing and implementing a research project at the forefront of the subject discipline, occupation or profession. • Analyse and synthesise comprehensively and critically a substantial body of knowledge in the subject discipline, occupation or profession to elicit and establish relationships between the elements of the subject in research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate initiative and employ a wide range of advanced research skills and techniques applied to complex tasks in highly specialised contexts. • Demonstrate interpersonal communication skills in the context of consultation and dissemination of new findings to specialist and non-specialist audiences. • Conduct original research that is evaluated by independent experts against international standards • Articulate the results of research clearly, accurately and in a balanced and rational manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate in accordance with broad development or strategic plan and budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in a completely self-directed manner, - with full responsibility and accountability for all aspects of advanced research work and including management of resources and supervision of others. • Demonstrate the ability to act with responsibility and full accountability in all aspects of work or research-based study.
9	Master's Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate evidence of critical and systematic understanding of knowledge and current problems and/or insights at the forefront of the field of study or area of specialisation. • Conceive, write, critically analyse, discuss, compare specialised texts, propose new insights into the field of study and possibly generate new knowledge. • Understand limits of the knowledge and the necessity for further research and continuous development in the field of study. • Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of current research and literature in the subject discipline, occupation or profession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a measure of originality and mastery in the application of in-depth and specialised and/or broad knowledge. • Demonstrate interpersonal communication skills in the context of consultative and/or supervisory roles. • Use established techniques of research and enquiry, to internationally recognised standards, to create and interpret knowledge in the field of study. • Apply relevant concepts, principles and research techniques, including critical analysis and evaluation, to new issues and problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate in accordance with broad development or strategic plan and budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in a self-directed manner - with responsibility and broad-ranging accountability for management of resources and supervision of others. • Demonstrate the ability to work independently and/or lead teams to manage their own and group outcomes in various complex situations.

SNQF level	Qualification type	Level descriptors		
		Knowledge	Skills	Autonomy and responsibility
8	<p>Bachelor's Degree Honours</p> <p>Post-Graduate Diploma</p> <p>Post-Graduate Certificate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge and intellectual independence in the critical and systematic understanding of ideas, principles and concepts of the field of study and area of specialisation. • Evaluate critically the appropriateness of different problem-solving approaches, and where appropriate, propose a range of solutions. • Demonstrate an understanding of current research and literature in the subject discipline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out processes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - require a mastery in the application of in-depth and specialised knowledge; - involve the development and adaptation of procedures to specific and professional contexts in the field of study; and - require the application and the consolidation of a wide range of skills applied to tasks in highly specialised contexts. • Provide detailed responses to situations requiring analysis, synthesis and evaluation of heterogeneous data in contexts involving uncertainty. • Demonstrate interpersonal communication skills in the context of consultative and/or supervisory roles. • Apply highly advanced levels of understanding of the values and ethics of their discipline and promote these values to others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate in accordance with broad development or strategic plan and budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within a context of broad autonomy, and - with responsibility and broad-ranging accountability for management of resources and supervision of others.
7	Bachelor's Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge and intellectual independence in the critical understanding of ideas, principles and concepts of the field of study and area of specialisation. • Analyse, synthesise and evaluate rigorously a wide range of information including consideration of areas of uncertainty. • Demonstrate general knowledge of the essential legal environment and relevant regulatory frameworks. • Demonstrate an awareness of current research and literature in the subject discipline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out processes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - require self-directed application of knowledge with substantial depth in some areas; - involve the development and adaptation of standard procedures to specific contexts in the field of study; and - require the application of a range of technical and other skills to tasks in both varied and highly specific contexts. • Provide appropriate responses to new situations requiring synthesis and evaluation of heterogeneous data in contexts involving aspects of uncertainty. • Demonstrate interpersonal communication skills in the context of supervisory and collaborative roles. • Apply advanced knowledge of the associated values and ethics and encourage the use of these in others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved in planning, resourcing and managing processes and guiding or supervising the work of others. • Function within a context of broad autonomy with complete accountability for determining, achieving and evaluating personal and/or group outcomes.

SNQF level	Qualification type	Level descriptors		
		Knowledge	Skills	Autonomy and responsibility
6	Advanced Diploma Technical and Vocational Advanced Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse, reformat and evaluate a wide range of information. Provide adequate responses to unfamiliar situations requiring synthesis and consideration of heterogeneous data. Interpret highly technical information in a particular field of study. Demonstrate knowledge of the main research methods used in the subject discipline or occupation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out processes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> require a command of highly specialised technical or academic and basic research skills across a particular branch of a field of study; involve the application of a full range of procedures in the branch of study; are employed in highly variable routine and non-routine contexts. Demonstrate interpersonal communication skills in the context of professional consultation. Demonstrate significant understanding of the values and ethics associated with their occupation and/or study and introduce these to others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in planning, resourcing and managing processes within broad parameters and functions. Act with responsibility for determining, achieving, and evaluating personal and/or group outcomes.
5	Diploma Technical and Vocational Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ a broad knowledge base with substantial depth in some areas. Analyse and interpret a wide range of data and make informed judgements. Determine appropriate methods and procedures in response to a range of concrete problems and with reference to some theoretical concepts. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the essential legal environment and relevant regulatory frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out processes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> require a wide range of specialised technical and/or academic skills; involve a wide choice of standard and non-standard procedures; are employed in a variety of routine and non-routine contexts. Demonstrate interpersonal communication skills to train or supervise. Show a broad understanding of the values and ethics associated with their occupation and/or study and display these to others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in activities with full responsibility for the nature, quantity and quality of outcomes, under broad guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with possible responsibility for the achievement of group outcomes, with some responsibility for the supervision of others.
4	Upper Secondary Certificate Advanced Level Certificate Advanced Certificate Vocational Advanced Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ a broad range of factual and technical knowledge incorporating some theoretical concepts. Understand working instructions and simple technical documents. Use a range of known responses to solve familiar problems. Use information to construct a coherent argument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out processes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cover a range of well-developed technical and/or academic skills; involve a significant choice of procedures executed within a range of familiar contexts. Demonstrate interpersonal skills to communicate information, to convince or care for others. Demonstrate developed abstract thinking skills to solve complex problems. Apply a general understanding of the values and ethics required in a subject field or discipline and display these to others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in directed activities, with some autonomy, under general supervision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with some responsibility for the quantity and quality of output for self and others with possible responsibility for supervising others.

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3	Upper Subsidiary Secondary Certificate Certificate Vocational Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ basic operational and technical knowledge. Apply procedures and/or techniques in response to precise instructions to obtain expected results. Exchange factual information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover a range of specialised technical skills in a precise field of study. Involved repetitive and familiar procedures executed within closely defined parameters. Demonstrate abstract thinking skills to solve complicated problems. Apply basic understanding of the values and ethics in a subject field or discipline to carry out selected tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in directed activities under general supervision and quality control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with some responsibility for the quantity and quality of their work, with no responsibility for guiding others.
2	General Secondary Certificate Vocational Secondary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply procedures and/or techniques related to language, mathematical, ICT, scientific, historical, socio-cultural and environmental domains. Demonstrate the ability to gain and apply a range of knowledge and skills at a detailed level. Determine the proper methods and procedures to respond to a variety of problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with propositions which will be directly linked to a concern, topic or theme. Demonstrate concrete thinking skills to solve simple problems. Demonstrate general communication skills, which are familiar and routine, to inform, recall and express facts, ideas, views, opinions and feelings. Apply a simple understanding of the values and ethics in carrying out basic tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in independent learning but will often require input or guidance from others to complete tasks. Display qualities and transferable skills useful in situations requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility and judgement.
1	Primary Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply basic procedures and techniques related to language, mathematical, ICT, scientific, historical, socio-cultural and environmental domains. Apply repetitive and other learning skills to instil sound elementary knowledge, attitudes and values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out processes at a concrete (hands-on) level based on familiar content and involving logical groupings. Demonstrate basic communication skills to inform, recall and express facts, ideas, views, opinions and feelings. Apply an elementary understanding of appropriate values and ethics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in basic directed learning under continuous guidance with close supervision with limited responsibility and autonomy.

2.8 Quality assurance

The Authority exercises its mandate for quality assurance by setting standards with the participation of industry, education and training institutions, professional bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

In order to ensure that the required standards as determined by the Authority are maintained and enhanced, the Authority develops and implements policies and guidelines for:

- Registration of qualifications and part-qualifications on the SNQF;
- Institutional accreditation of education and training providers;
- Accreditation of programmes offered by providers.
- Registration of private providers

2.9 Credit system

The volume of learning required by qualifications and part-qualifications registered on the SNQF is quantified as the number of notional study hours required for achieving the learning outcomes specified for the qualification or part-qualification, whereby one credit is equated to 10 notional hours of learning.

The minimum credit value is prescribed according to each qualification type as summarised on the qualifications map.

Qualification types on Levels 1 and 2 of the SNQF are not allocated credits due to the nature of the curriculum, which is historically structured more progressively over multiple years to accommodate young learners.