

Document title:	<b>Qualification Descriptors (AF2)</b>		
Scope:	<b>Academic staff</b>	Version:	<b>2</b>
Approved by:	<b>AQS</b>	Effective date:	<b>October 2006</b>
Responsible department:	<b>Academic Quality Support , Registry</b>	Last updated by/date:	<b>July 2011</b>

## Qualifications Descriptors

Learning Outcomes/Level Indicators	DOMAIN				
	<i>Information Gathering</i>	<i>Theory and Practice</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Application</i>	<i>Synthesis and Evaluation</i>
<b>Level 3</b> <i>At the completion of the year/programme students should have provided evidence of being able to:</i>	Acquire information from recommended sources.	Begin to engage with theories and principles at a basic level.	Consider simple situations and problems. Consider effectiveness in basic approaches to problem solving.	Begin to apply learned theory and principles in simple situations. Begin to show evidence of communicating and presenting an argument.	Evaluate relationships between knowledge and principles of the subject.
<i>Key skills:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>basic IT skills, writing skills.</li> </ul>					
<b>Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4/Year 1)</b> <i>At the completion of the year/programme students should have provided evidence of being able to:</i>	Acquire and organise information mostly from recommended sources.	Understand key theories and principles at a basic level.	Analyse simple situations and problems for relevant factors and main issues; demonstrate an ability to evaluate effectiveness in basic approaches to problem solving.	Apply learned theory and principles to straight forward and relatively unambiguous situations and problems. Show an ability to communicate and present a structured and coherent simple argument.	Begin to organise, synthesise and evaluate structures for relationships between the knowledge and principles of the subject. Make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts.
<i>Key skills:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>basic IT skills, ability to communicate orally and in writing;</li> <li>ability to organise and manage own learning;</li> <li>working with others;</li> <li>ability to apply a range of study and research skills.</li> </ul>					

<b>DOMAIN</b>					
<b>Learning Outcomes/Level Indicators</b>	<i>Information Gathering</i>	<i>Theory and Practice</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Application</i>	<i>Synthesis and Evaluation</i>
<p><b>Diploma of Higher Education (Level 5)</b></p> <p><i>In addition to the outcomes achieved in Year 1, on completion of the year/programme students should have provided evidence of being able to:</i></p>	Acquire and organise information independently, from a wide range of secondary sources. Acquire and appreciate primary data.	Increasingly demonstrate a broad understanding of key theories and principles, with a clear understanding of their inter-relationships and their relevance to different contexts.	Appreciate and employ the main methods of enquiry to analyse more complex situations and problems for relevant factors/issues. Use a range of techniques to undertake the analysis of data and information.	Apply appropriate theories and principles to more complex and relatively ambiguous situations and problems including those outside the context in which they were originally studied. Show an ability to communicate and present a coherent more in-depth argument.	Identify a range of valid alternative solutions and begin to discriminate and evaluate amongst these solutions in a reasoned way. Make increasingly informed judgements which recognise the limitations of own current knowledge.
<p><i>Key skills:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis orally and in writing;</li> <li>develop autonomy and self-management as a learner;</li> <li>begin to engage in research activity;</li> <li>further develop technical and IT skills as appropriate to the discipline.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>Foundation Degree (Year 2)</b></p> <p><i>In addition to the outcomes achieved in Year 1, on completion of the programme students will have provided evidence of being able to:</i></p>	Acquire and organise information independently, from a wide range of secondary sources. Acquire and appreciate primary data in practical/vocational situations.	Increasingly demonstrate a broad understanding of key theories and principles, with a clear understanding of their inter-relationships and their relevance to different vocational contexts.	Appreciate and employ the main methods of enquiry to analyse more complex situations and problems for relevant factors/issues. Use a range of techniques to undertake the analysis of data and information.	Apply appropriate theories and principles to more complex and relatively ambiguous vocational/practical situations and problems, including those outside the context in which they were originally studied. Show an ability to communicate and present a coherent more in-depth argument.	Identify a range of valid alternative solutions and professional/vocational techniques begin to discriminate and evaluate amongst these solutions in a reasoned way. Make increasingly informed judgements which recognise the limitations of own current knowledge.
<p><i>Key skills:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis orally and in writing;</li> <li>develop autonomy and self-management as a learner;</li> <li>begin to engage in research activity;</li> <li>adjust to professional and vocational boundaries;</li> <li>further develop technical and IT skills as appropriate to the discipline.</li> </ul>					

<b>DOMAIN</b>					
<b>Learning Outcomes/Level Indicators</b>	<i>Information Gathering</i>	<i>Theory and Practice</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Application</i>	<i>Synthesis and Evaluation</i>
<p><b>Graduate Diploma</b></p> <p><i>On completion of programme students should have shown evidence of being able to:</i></p>	<p>Demonstrate the ability to acquire and make flexible use of the basic concepts, information, practical competencies and techniques which are standard features of the discipline. Ability to show evidence of drawing on recent research and scholarship and current understanding of professional competences.</p>	<p>Combine theories and principles in the analysis and solution of complex problems. Describe and comment on particular aspects of recent research and scholarship.</p>	<p>Analyse complex problems from a range of perspectives. Deploy accurately standard techniques of enquiry within the discipline.</p>	<p>Understand and demonstrate new coherent and detailed subject knowledge and professional competences some of which may be informed by recent research/scholarship in the discipline. Demonstrate theoretical understanding to help sustain an argument.</p>	<p>Proficiently use, and communicate the results of, basic generic and subject/professionally specific approaches to access and evaluate qualitative and/or quantitative data.</p>
<p><i>Key skills:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicate effectively using a range of skills, oral, written and receptive, appropriate to audience and purpose;</li> <li>• employ IT effectively using a range of skills – systems skills, word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation, drawing and network services;</li> <li>• manage numerate tasks regularly used in everyday life and employment, eg. tasks associated statistics, numbers, measurement and budgets;</li> <li>• identify personal values, skills, personality traits, interests, strengths and weaknesses;</li> <li>• understand the changing nature of work;</li> <li>• identify and apply decision making processes;</li> <li>• present themselves positively to others;</li> <li>• manage transitions;</li> <li>• effectively organise and manage their own learning;</li> <li>• employ a range of study and research skills;</li> <li>• work with others on learning/project tasks;</li> <li>• engage with problem solving.</li> </ul>					

<b>DOMAIN</b>					
<b>Learning Outcomes/Level Indicators</b>	<i>Information Gathering</i>	<i>Theory and Practice</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Application</i>	<i>Synthesis and Evaluation</i>
<p><b>Ordinary Degree – Level 6</b></p> <p><i>In addition to the outcomes achieved in Years 1 and 2 on completion of the year/programme students should have shown evidence of being able to:</i></p>	<p>Show proficiency in acquiring and organising information which is, accessed independently. Make flexible use of the basic concepts, information, practical competencies and techniques which are standard features of the discipline.</p>	<p>Show proficiency in combining theories and principles in the analysis and solution of complex problems.</p>	<p>Demonstrate proficiency in evaluating the appropriateness of different approaches to problem solving associated with the discipline.</p>	<p>Proficiently apply learned theory and principles in the identification of a range of valid solutions to complex problems. Demonstrate theoretical understanding to help sustain an argument.</p>	<p>Proficiently use, and communicate the results of, basic generic and subject/professionally specific approaches to access and evaluate qualitative and/or quantitative data.</p>
<p><i>Key skills:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicate effectively using a range of skills, oral, written and receptive, appropriate to audience and purpose;</li> <li>• employ IT effectively using a range of skills – systems skills, word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation, drawing and network services;</li> <li>• manage numerate tasks regularly used in everyday life and employment, eg. tasks associated statistics, numbers, measurement and budgets;</li> <li>• identify personal values, skills, personality traits, interests, strengths and weaknesses;</li> <li>• understand the changing nature of work;</li> <li>• identify and apply decision making processes;</li> <li>• present themselves positively to others;</li> <li>• manage transitions;</li> <li>• effectively organise and manage their own learning;</li> <li>• employ a range of study and research skills;</li> <li>• work with others on learning/project tasks;</li> <li>• engage with problem solving.</li> </ul>					

<b>DOMAIN</b>					
<b>Learning Outcomes/Level Indicators</b>	<i>Information Gathering</i>	<i>Theory and Practice</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Application</i>	<i>Synthesis and Evaluation</i>
<p><b>Honours Degree – Level 6</b></p> <p><i>In addition to the outcomes achieved in Years 1 and 2, on completion of the year/programme students should have provided evidence of being able to:</i></p>	<p>Acquire and organise information with increased emphasis on primary sources, accessed independently. Ability to show evidence of drawing on recent research and scholarship and current understanding of professional competences.</p>	<p>Combine theories and principles in the analysis and solution of complex problems. Describe and comment on particular aspects of recent research and scholarship.</p>	<p>Analyse complex problems from a range of perspectives. Deploy accurately standard techniques of enquiry within the discipline.</p>	<p>Apply learned theory and principles in the identification of a range of valid solutions to complex problems and appreciate the uncertainty, ambiguity and limitations of own knowledge. Demonstrate a conceptual understanding which facilitates the sustaining of an argument.</p>	<p>Synthesise theory and professional/vocational practice and evaluate critically theory, process, solutions and outcomes.</p>
<p><i>Key skills:</i></p> <p>Identify and demonstrate research skills relating to a chosen area of study and negotiate planning and managing of the project. A research dissertation must be undertaken.</p> <p><i>In addition, students will be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicate effectively using a range of skills, oral, written and receptive, appropriate to audience and purpose;</li> <li>• employ IT effectively using a range of skills – systems skills, word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation, drawing and network services;</li> <li>• manage numerate tasks regularly used in everyday life and employment, eg. tasks associated statistics, numbers, measurement and budgets;</li> <li>• identify personal values, skills, personality traits, interests, strengths and weaknesses;</li> <li>• understand the changing nature of work;</li> <li>• identify and apply decision making processes;</li> <li>• present themselves positively to others;</li> <li>• manage transitions;</li> <li>• effectively organise and manage their own learning;</li> <li>• employ a range of study and research skills;</li> <li>• work with others on learning/project tasks;</li> <li>• engage with problem solving.</li> </ul>					

## POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

*On completion of the programme students should have shown evidence of being able:*

- to demonstrate in-depth specialist knowledge of techniques relevant to the discipline or to demonstrate an advanced understanding of concepts, information and techniques informed by knowledge across, or in aspects at, the forefront of the discipline;
- to exhibit competence in the exercise of generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities;
- to demonstrate an advanced understanding of techniques applicable to their own research, advanced scholarship or area of specific interest within the broader discipline;
- to take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and to develop professional relationships with others;
- proactively to formulate ideas and hypotheses and to evaluate these;
- to evaluate current issues and research in the discipline.

## POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

*On completion of the programme students should have shown evidence of being able:*

- to demonstrate in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge of techniques relevant to the discipline or to demonstrate an advanced understanding of concepts, information and techniques informed by knowledge at the forefront of the discipline;
- to exhibit competence in the exercise of advanced generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities;
- to demonstrate an advanced understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;
- to take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and to develop professional relationships with others;
- proactively to formulate ideas and hypotheses and to evaluate these;
- to evaluate critically current issues and research in the discipline.

## MASTERS (Taught)

*On completion of the programme students should have shown evidence of being able:*

- to demonstrate in-depth, specialist knowledge and mastery of techniques relevant to the discipline and/or to demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of concepts, information and techniques at the forefront of the discipline;
- to exhibit mastery in the exercise of generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities;
- to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;
- to take a proactive and self-reflective role in working and to develop professional relationships with others;
- proactively to formulate ideas and hypotheses and to develop, implement and execute plans by which to evaluate these;
- critically and creatively to evaluate current issues, research and advanced scholarship in the discipline.

*Key skills:*

**Masters (Taught), Postgraduate Diploma & Postgraduate Certificate students will have had the opportunity to acquire the following abilities as defined in the modules specified for the programme:**

- the skills necessary to undertake a higher research degree and/or for employment in a higher capacity in industry or area of professional practice;
- evaluating their own achievement and that of others;
- self direction and effective decision making in complex and unpredictable situations;
- independent learning and the ability to work in a way which ensures continuing professional development;
- critically to engage in the development of professional/disciplinary boundaries and norms.