

## Doctoral Degree (NFQ Level 10 – major award)

Entry to a programme leading to a Doctoral Degree is typically for holders of Honours Bachelor Degrees. The general model is that a holder of an Honours Bachelor Degree with a high classification enters initially a Masters research programme, and transfers to a Doctoral programme after one year on the Masters research programme. In total, the number of years in the programme would generally be at least 3 years. There is also access to Doctoral Degrees for holders of Masters Degrees whether taught Masters or research Masters. Various models for Doctoral Degree programmes now exist, ranging from the traditional research doctorate to professional and practitioner doctoral programmes which have substantial taught components. Most doctoral programmes are now structured to include some taught components.

### Descriptor

<b>Title</b>	Doctoral Degree
<b>Purpose</b>	This is a multi-purpose award-type. The knowledge, skill and competence acquired are relevant to personal development, participation in society and community, employment, and access to additional education and training.
<b>NFQ Level</b>	10
<b>Volume</b>	Large
<b>Knowledge - breadth</b>	A systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of a field of learning
<b>Knowledge - kind</b>	The creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research, or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy review by peers
<b>Know-how and skill - range</b>	Demonstrate a significant range of the principal skills, techniques, tools, practices and/or materials which are associated with a field of learning; develop new skills, techniques, tools, practices and/or materials
<b>Know-how and skill - selectivity</b>	Respond to abstract problems that expand and redefine existing procedural knowledge
<b>Competence - context</b>	Exercise personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent contexts
<b>Competence - role</b>	Communicate results of research and innovation to peers; engage in critical dialogue; lead and originate complex social processes
<b>Competence – learning to learn</b>	Learn to critique the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts
<b>Competence - insight</b>	Scrutinise and reflect on social norms and relationships and lead action to change them
<b>Progression &amp; Transfer</b>	

**Awarding bodies:** Higher Education and Training Awards Council, Dublin Institute of Technology, Institutes of Technology with delegated authority, and Universities

**This is a major award. Major awards are the principal class of award made at a level. There are also component (minor), specific purpose (special purpose) and supplemental awards at the same level.**

**Minor awards**

Minor Awards are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award.

**Supplemental Awards**

Supplemental Awards are for learning that is additional to a Major Award.

**Special Purpose Awards**

Special Purpose Awards are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement.