

Higher Certificate (NFQ Level 6 – major award)

The Higher Certificate is normally awarded after completion of an accredited programme of two years duration (120 ECTS credits) in a recognised higher education institution/provider. Entry to these programmes is generally for school leavers and those with equivalent qualifications. The Higher Certificate is an intermediate qualification within the Bologna First Cycle.

Descriptor

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| Title | Higher Certificate |
| Purpose | 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. |
| NFQ Level | 6 |
| Volume | Large |
| Knowledge - breadth | Specialised knowledge of a broad area |
| Knowledge - kind | Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant underpinning theory |
| Know-how and skill - range | Demonstrate comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools |
| Know-how and skill - selectivity | Formulate responses to well-defined abstract problems |
| Competence - context | Act in a range of varied and specific contexts, taking responsibility for the nature and quality of outputs; identify and apply skill and knowledge to a wide variety of contexts |
| Competence - role | Exercise substantial personal autonomy and often take responsibility for the work of others and/or for the allocation of resources; form, and function within, multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups |
| Competence – learning to learn | Take initiative to identify and address learning needs and interact effectively in a learning group |
| Competence - insight | Express an internalised, personal world view, reflecting engagement with others |
| Progression & Transfer | Transfer to programme leading to an Advanced Certificate. Progression to a programme leading to an Ordinary Bachelor Degree or to an Honours Bachelor Degree. |

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