

## Higher Diploma (NFQ Level 8 – major award)

The Higher Diploma is normally awarded following completion of an accredited programme of 1-year duration (60 ECTS credits) in a recognised higher education institution/provider. Entry to a programme leading to a Higher Diploma is typically for holders of Honours Bachelor Degrees but can also be for holders of Ordinary Bachelor Degrees. It is of note that the Higher Diploma is typically in a different field of learning than the initial award. The Higher Diploma is a qualification at the same level as completion of the Bologna First Cycle.

### Descriptor

<b>Title</b>	Higher Diploma
<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>	8
<b>Volume</b>	Medium
<b>Knowledge - breadth</b>	An understanding of the theory, concepts and methods pertaining to a field (or fields) of learning
<b>Knowledge - kind</b>	Detailed knowledge and understanding in one or more specialised areas, some of it at the current boundaries of the field
<b>Know-how and skill - range</b>	Demonstrate mastery of a complex and specialised area of skills and tools; use and modify advanced skills and tools to conduct closely guided research, professional or advanced technical activity
<b>Know-how and skill - selectivity</b>	Exercise appropriate judgement in a number of complex planning, design, technical and/or management functions related to products, services, operations or processes, including resourcing
<b>Competence - context</b>	Use advanced skills to conduct research, or advanced technical or professional activity, accepting accountability for all related decision making; transfer and apply diagnostic and creative skills in a range of contexts
<b>Competence - role</b>	Act effectively under guidance in a peer relationship with qualified practitioners; lead multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups
<b>Competence – learning to learn</b>	Learn to act in variable and unfamiliar learning contexts; learn to manage learning tasks independently, professionally and ethically
<b>Competence - insight</b>	Express a comprehensive, internalised, personal world view manifesting solidarity with others
<b>Progression &amp; Transfer</b>	Progression to programmes leading to Masters Degree or Post-graduate Diploma
<b>Articulation</b>	From an Ordinary Bachelor Degree, or from an Honours Bachelor Degree, into a new field of learning

**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.