

Honours Bachelor Degree (NFQ Level 8 – major award)

The Honours Bachelor Degree is normally awarded following completion of a programme of three or four years duration (180-240 ECTS credits) in a recognised higher education institution/provider, although there are examples of longer programmes in areas such as architecture, dentistry and medicine. Entry to a programme leading to an ab-initio Honours Bachelor degree is typically for high achieving school leavers and those with equivalent qualifications. In addition, there are typically programmes of 1-year duration (60 ECTS credits) leading to Honours Bachelor Degrees available to holders of the Ordinary Bachelor Degree. The Honours Bachelor Degree is a Bologna First Cycle qualification.

Descriptor

Title	Honours Bachelor Degree
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	8
Volume	Large
Knowledge - breadth	An understanding of the theory, concepts and methods pertaining to a field (or fields) of learning
Knowledge - kind	Detailed knowledge and understanding in one or more specialised areas, some of it at the current boundaries of the field(s)
Know-how and skill - range	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
Know-how and skill - selectivity	Exercise appropriate judgement in a number of complex planning, design, technical and/or management functions related to products, services, operations or processes, including resourcing
Competence - context	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
Competence - role	Act effectively under guidance in a peer relationship with qualified practitioners; lead multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups
Competence – learning to learn	Learn to act in variable and unfamiliar learning contexts; learn to manage learning tasks independently, professionally and ethically
Competence - insight	Express a comprehensive, internalised, personal world view manifesting solidarity with others
Progression & Transfer	Transfer to programmes leading to Higher Diploma. Progression to programmes leading to Masters Degree or Post-graduate Diploma, or in some cases, to programmes leading to a Doctoral Degree. Progression internationally to second cycle (i.e. "Bologna masters") degree programmes

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.