

LEVEL DESCRIPTORS MATRIX

	OVERVIEW	SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES				OUTCOMES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
		Knowledge	Understanding	Subject-Specific Skills	Problem solving/ Investigative skills	Autonomy in learning	Independence	Personal responsibility for wider issues
Level 0	Students will acquire skills to enable them to pursue further study based on knowledge appropriate to the Level	a knowledge base appropriate to the specific subject or programme		the ability to use some basic skills associated with subject or programme	the ability to evaluate information, and use it to develop problem solving techniques, in relation to a range of predictable problems	ability to undertake directed learning activity	ability to operate in specific contexts within given guidelines	
Level 1 <i>FHEQ 4</i>	Students will acquire and be able to demonstrate a factual and / or conceptual knowledge base within a given field or fields, together with an understanding of and ability to use terminology appropriate to the field(s) of study	a rigorous approach to a broad knowledge base	Awareness of basic concepts and intellectual frameworks appropriate to the subject	the ability to use a range of basic skills associated with subject or programme	the ability to collect, categorise and evaluate information, and use it to develop investigative strategies to determine solutions to a range of predictable and less predictable problems or questions	the ability to undertake self-directed learning activity, taking responsibility for the nature and quality of outputs to meet specified standards	the ability to operate in a range of contexts within broad guidelines	an awareness or understanding of any ethical, or health and safety considerations involved in the subject / discipline

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Level 2 <i>FHEQ 5</i>	Students will acquire and be able to demonstrate a broad and detailed knowledge of the subject(s), together with an awareness of an increased variety of the ideas, concepts, and contexts relating to it	the understanding and application of major theories of a discipline	the ability to analyse concepts at an abstract level and apply them appropriately	the ability to undertake and defend the use of alternative methods and techniques with minimal guidance	the ability to collect, categorise and evaluate information, and use it to develop investigative strategies to determine solutions to a range of predictable and unpredictable problems or questions	to accept responsibility and accountability within broad parameters for determining and achieving personal and/or group outcomes	an ability to operate independently in a range of contexts within broad guidelines	an ability to debate issues in relation to ethical considerations involved in the subject / discipline and to take into account any wider social and environmental implications of area(s) of study
Level 3 <i>FHEQ 6</i>	Students will acquire and be able to demonstrate a comprehensive and accurately detailed knowledge of the subject(s), with areas of specialisation in depth, together with an awareness of the limitations of knowledge in the subject(s).	the ability to acquire a systematic and coherent body of knowledge	the ability to critically review and consolidate the understanding of a systematic and coherent body of knowledge and apply it in complex situations	the ability to use a range of specialised technical or scholastic skills across an area of study with minimal guidance	the ability to collect, categorise and critically evaluate information from a range of sources, and use it to develop solutions to novel and/or complex problems or questions	the ability to accept responsibility for determining and achieving personal and/or group outcomes	the ability to operate independently within broad guidelines in novel or complex contexts	the ability to accept personal responsibility in relation to academic and professional codes of conduct, including an ability to incorporate a critical ethical dimension into their work, where appropriate

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Level 4 <i>FHEQ 7</i>	The student acquires and demonstrates depth of knowledge in a complex and specialised area, and/or across specialised or applied areas. This may include work at the current limits of theoretical and/or research understanding	the ability to master a complex and specialised area of knowledge and skills	the ability to critically review a specialised area of knowledge, including representing the complexity and/or contradictions in the knowledge base and apply it in novel and/or complex situations	the use of highly specialised and advanced technical, professional and/or scholastic skills, including the ability to communicate results of own work to peers in a manner appropriate to the subject area	the ability to operate in complex, unpredictable and normally specialised contexts demanding innovative work which may involve exploring the current limits of knowledge	the ability to work autonomously within the bounds of professional practice, taking a high level of responsibility for self and possibly others	the ability to operate independently, exercising appropriate judgement, in novel or complex contexts	the ability to accept personal responsibility in relation to academic and professional codes of conduct, including an ability to evaluate and resolve any ethical dilemmas likely to arise in research and professional practice
For Level Descriptors above Level 4, please refer to the Postgraduate Level Descriptors Matrix.								

These level descriptors are generic and apply to all subject areas at the relevant level across the University. Each department supplements these with its own subject-specific descriptors in line with the relevant subject benchmarks and other requirements appropriate to the discipline.