



**Academic Quality
Framework
University Award Framework
& Nomenclature Policy**
Approved by Academic Council
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. This policy describes the University's award framework and the conventions for the naming of TU Dublin awards and qualifications. The policy aligns to the [National Framework of Qualifications](#) (NFQ), QQI Statutory Guidelines and the Joint Sectoral Protocol for the Inclusion of Awards of DABs within the NFQ.
- 1.2. This policy also prescribes the information to be included on Transcripts and Award Parchments and the requirements for Joint and Multiple awards.

2. Award Levels, Classes, Types & ECTS Credits

- 2.1. TU Dublin issues awards from Level 6 to Level 10 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). In exceptional circumstances and to provide access to Higher Education, the University may deliver programmes leading to awards at levels lower than NFQ Level 6.
- 2.2. TU Dublin issues both Major and Non-Major Awards as defined within the NFQ.
- 2.3. Major awards are the main class of award made at an NFQ level. There are 16 major awards in the National Framework each with an award type descriptor. Major awards have a larger volume and breadth associated with them than the non-major awards. TU Dublin currently has seven major awards types from Level 6 to Level 10 on the NFQ, as shown in Table 1;

Table 1 – TU Dublin Major Awards

NFQ Level	Major Award
6	Higher Certificate
7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree
8	Higher Diploma Honours Bachelor Degree
9	Postgraduate Diploma Master's Degree
10	Doctorate

2.4. Non-Major Awards

- Minor awards provide recognition for learners who achieve a range of learning outcomes but not the specific combination of learning outcomes required for a major award. These awards allow learners to accumulate ECTS credits at their own pace and needs. Minor awards are a sub-set of other larger awards;
- Special-purpose awards are made for very narrow fields of study for specific purposes;
- Supplemental awards recognise learning which is additional to a previous major award. They could, for example, relate to updating and refreshing knowledge or skills, or to continuing professional development.

2.5. While a special-purpose award can be a stand-alone award, a minor or supplemental award must relate to at least one major award.

2.6. The volume of learning associated with TU Dublin awards is expressed in terms of the allocation of European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits. Table 2 shows the allocation of credits for TU Dublin major awards.

**Table 2 – TU Dublin Major Awards & ECTS Credits
(taught programmes)**

Level	Major Award	ECTS Credits
6	Higher Certificate	120
7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree	180
8	Honours Bachelor Degree	180-240
8	Higher Diploma	60-120
9	Postgraduate Diploma	60
9	Master's Degree	90-120

- 2.7. The University may approve awards with ECTS credit allocations outside of the ranges specified in Table 2 in exceptional circumstances.
- 2.8. At NFQ Level 6, 7, and 8, the title “Certificate” is used for non-major awards of less than 60 ECTS credits and the title “Diploma” is used for non-major awards of greater than or equal to 60 ECTS credits.
- 2.9. At NFQ Level 9, the title “Certificate” is used for non-major awards of less than 30 ECTS, and the title “Postgraduate Certificate” applies to all non-major award at NFQ Level 9 equal or greater than 30 ECTS credits but less than 60 ECTS credit.
- 2.10. At NFQ Level 9, the title “Diploma” is used for all non-major awards of 60 ECTS credits or greater.
- 2.11. Table 3 shows the TU Dublin Award Classes and Types.

Table 3 – TU Dublin Award Levels, Classes and Types

Award Level	Award Class	Award Type
10	Major	Doctoral Degree
9	Major	Master's Degree
9	Major	Post Graduate Diploma
9	Special Purpose	Level 9 Special Purpose Award
9	Supplemental	Level 9 Supplemental Award
9	Minor	Level 9 Minor Award
8	Major	Honours Bachelor Degree
8	Major	Higher Diploma
8	Special Purpose	Level 8 Special Purpose Award
8	Supplemental	Level 8 Supplemental Award
8	Minor	Level 8 Minor Award
7	Major	Ordinary Bachelor Degree
7	Special Purpose	Level 7 Special Purpose Award
7	Supplemental	Level 7 Supplemental Award
7	Minor	Level 7 Minor Award
6	Major	Higher Certificate
6	Special Purpose	Level 6 Special Purpose Award
6	Supplemental	Level 6 Supplemental Award
6	Minor	Level 6 Minor Award

3. Award Titles & Abbreviations

- 3.1. The titles and abbreviations of TU Dublin awards are shown in Table 6 in Appendix C.
- 3.2. Level 8 Honours Degrees will include the word “Honours” in brackets after the award name and before the specialism and regardless of the classification.
- 3.3. To propose an exception to paragraph 3.2, a Faculty Board may submit the proposal and a rationale to the University Programmes Board for consideration.
- 3.4. Non-major awards leading to Certificates and Diplomas will include the field and specialism.

4. Approval and Ratification of Awards

- 4.1. Faculty Boards approve the assessment results leading to all University Awards.
- 4.2. Faculty Boards submit recommendations for all non-major awards to the University Programmes Board for ratification.
- 4.3. Faculty Boards submit recommendations for all major awards to Academic Council for ratification.

5. Transcripts and Parchments

- 5.1. Parchments for Major Awards and Non-Major Awards will be in the same format and contain the same level of information.
- 5.2. TU Dublin Transcripts and Parchments will include the following information:
- TU Dublin Logo
 - Name of Awarding Body – TU Dublin
 - Date Award as Ratified by Academic Council (Major Awards) or the University Programmes Board (non-Major Awards)
 - Graduate's name
 - Qualification title
 - Classification
 - Qualification NFQ level
 - Qualification type/class
 - Qualification EQF level
 - Total ECTS followed by "Add-on" in brackets where applicable.
 - Signature of President (Major Awards - as Chair of Academic Council) or Registrar (NonMajor Awards – as Chair of the University Programmes Board).

Where Applicable

- Joint/Double/Multiple Award (see Section 7 below)
- (hc) – *after DPhil to denote Honorary Awards* (see Section 8 below)
- Aegrotat (see Section 10 below)

6. Recording of ECTS Credits on Transcripts and Parchments

- 6.1. The ECTS credits recorded on transcripts and parchments will be the ECTS credits successfully attained on the programme on which the student/graduate was registered.
- 6.2. The transcript and parchment for a graduate who accessed a programme through advanced entry will record the credits attained from the point of entry to successful completion of that programme.
- 6.3. The Award Parchment will include “Add-on” in brackets after the ECTS credits to show that either the:
- Programme was designed to allow students, who had already completed another award, to obtain the required additional ECTS credits to obtain this award; or
 - Student entered the programme at an advanced stage.
- 6.4. Examples of ECTS credits recorded on transcripts and parchments for students completing programmes through different routes are provided in Appendix B.

7. Award Classifications

- 7.1. The award classification will be recorded on both the Transcript and the Parchment.

- 7.2. As per University Assessment Regulations, the determination of award classifications is based only on the ECTS Credits completed on the programme the student is registered on. Hence, the award classification for a student who enters a programme through an advanced entry route is based only on the credits attained from point of entry to ensure to successful completion.

8. Joint and Multiple Awards

- 8.1. For definitions and more information on these Awards please see [University Joint, Multiple and Dual Awards Policy](#).
- 8.2. For Joint and Multiple Awards, the parchment and transcript will include “Joint Award”, “Double Award” or “Multiple Award” and the names of the other education institutions involved in the delivery of the Joint Programme.
- 8.3. For Joint and Multiple Awards, the parchments and transcripts from the other education Institutions involved in the delivery of the Joint Programme should also include “Joint Awards” and the names of the other education institutions. If this is not possible because of local policy, this must be made clear in the Collaborative Provision proposal stage.

9. Honorary Awards

- 9.1. The definition and approval processes for Honorary Awards can be found in the [University Assessment Regulations](#). This policy only relates to the Awards nomenclature and conventions.

- 9.2. Honorary Awards will only be awarded at Level 10 and the title shall be Doctor of Philosophy with the designation DPhil (hc). The word “Honorary” will appear on the Parchment.

10. Aegrotat Awards

- 10.1. The definition and approval processes for Aegrotat Awards can be found in the [University Assessment Regulations](#).
- 10.2. The use of Aegrotat awards will be limited to Major Awards.
- 10.3. An Aegrotat Award will be the award which the student would have received on successful completion of the programme. Aegrotat awards will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances and when the student was close to attaining the necessary ECTS credits for the award.
- 10.4. Aegrotat Awards will be unclassified, and the word “Aegrotat” will appear on the Transcript and Parchment.

11. Posthumous Awards

- 11.1. The definition and approval processes for Posthumous Awards can be found in the [University Assessment Regulations](#).
- 11.2. The recipient of such an award must have been a registered student on the programme leading to that award.

- 11.3. The Parchment does not include any additional information to that specified in Section 5.2 above.

12. Exit Awards

- 12.1. Information on the use of Exit Awards can be found in the [University Exit Award Policy](#).
- 12.2. The transcripts and Parchments for Exit Awards do not include any additional information to that specified in Section 5.2 above.

Appendix A

Table 4 – Comparison of NFQ, EQF & QF-EHEA

National Framework of Qualifications	European Qualifications Framework	Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area
1	1	
2		
3	2	
4	3	
5	4	
6	5	Short Cycle
7	6	First Cycle
8		
9	7	Second Cycle
10	8	Third Cycle

Appendix B

Examples of ECTS Credits Recorded on Transcripts and Parchments

1. Table 5 shows the ECTS credits recorded on the transcripts and parchments for graduates who accessed programmes at different points on a four-year full-time Level 8 undergraduate programme.

Table 5 – ECTS Credits Recorded on Transcripts and Parchments

Entry to Programme	ECTS Credits on Transcript & Parchment
1 st year (ab initio)	240
2 nd year (advanced entry)	180
3 rd year (advanced entry)	120
4 th year (advanced entry)	60

2. Where students successfully complete an embedded programme and then progress onto, and successfully complete, the higher level programme, the Transcripts and Parchments for the higher level award will record only the ECTS credits successfully attained on that programme. For example, where students successfully complete an embedded Level 6 programme and then progress onto, and successfully complete, the Level 7 programme they will receive two awards with the following ECTS credits on the Transcript and Parchment:
 - Level 6 Major Award – Higher Certificate - 120 ECTS credits
 - Level 7 Major Award - Ordinary Degree - 60 ECTS credits

3. Where students successfully complete a full-time undergraduate Level 7 programme and then successfully complete a Level 8 programme after transferring into Year 4, they will receive two awards with the following ECTS credits on the Transcript and Parchment:
 - Level 7 Major Award – Ordinary Degree - 180 ECTS credits
 - Level 8 Award - Honours Degree - 60 ECTS credits

4. Where students successfully complete a full-time undergraduate Level 7 programme and then successfully complete a Level 8 programme after transferring into Year 3, they will receive two awards with the following ECTS credits on the Transcript and Parchment:
 - Level 7 Major Award – Ordinary Degree - 180 ECTS credits
 - Level 8 Award - Honours Degree - 120 ECTS credits

5. Where students successfully complete a Level 9 programme leading to a Postgraduate Certificate and progress onto, and successfully complete a programme leading to a Postgraduate Diploma, and then progress onto, and successfully complete a programme leading to a Masters, they will receive the following awards:
 - Level 9 Minor Award – Postgraduate Certificate – 30 ECTS credits
 - Level 9 Major Award – Postgraduate Diploma – 30 ECTS credits
 - Level 9 Major Award – Masters – 30 ECTS credit

Appendix C

Table 6 – TU Dublin Award Levels, Classes, Types, ECTS Credits, Names and Abbreviations

NFQ Level	Award Class	Award Type	ECTS Credits	Award Name	Abbreviation	Example Award & Programme Title
6-8	Special Purpose, Supplemental or Minor	All non-major awards.	< 60	Certificate	Cert.	Certificate in Science in Cyber Security (Level 8)
			≥ 60	Diploma	Dip.	Diploma in Science in Statistics (Level 7)
9	Special Purpose, Supplemental or Minor	All non-major awards.	< 30	Certificate	Cert.	Certificate in Science in Cyber Security (Level 9)
9	Special Purpose, Supplemental or Minor	All non-major awards.	≥ 30 and < 60	Postgraduate Certificate	PG.Cert.	Postgraduate Certificate in Science in Biosciences
9	Minor	All non-major awards	< 60	Diploma	Dip.	Diploma in Science in Advanced Statistics (Level 9)
6	Major	Higher Certificate	120	Higher Certificate	H.Cert.	Higher Certificate in Science in Biosciences
7	Major	Ordinary Bachelor Degree	180	Bachelor of Science	B.Sc.	Bachelor of Science in Digital Technology & Design
				Bachelor of Engineering	B.Eng.	Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering
				Bachelor of Engineering Technology	B.Eng.Tech.	Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Civil Engineering
				Bachelor of Business	B.Bus.	Bachelor of Business in Accounting & Finance
				Bachelor of Arts	B.A.	Bachelor of Arts in Social Care
				Bachelor of Technology	B.Tech.	Bachelor of Technology in Construction Technology
8	Major	Higher Diploma	60-120	Higher Diploma	H.Dip.	Higher Diploma in Science in Biosciences

8	Major	Honours Bachelor Degree	180-240	Bachelor of Science	B.Sc. (Hons)	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computer Science
				Bachelor of Engineering	B.Eng. (Hons)	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Electrical Engineering
				Bachelor of Business	B.Bus. (Hons)	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Management
				Bachelor of Arts	B.A. (Hons)	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Art
				Bachelor of Architecture	B.Arch. (Hons)	Bachelor of (Honours) Architecture
				Bachelor of Law	LL.B. (Hons)	Bachelor of (Honours) Laws
				Bachelor of Music	B.Mus. (Hons)	Bachelor of (Honours) Music in Composition
9	Major		60-120	Postgraduate Diploma	PG.Dip.	Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Advanced Producing
		Postgraduate Diploma		Postgraduate Diploma	PG.Dip.(Res)	Postgraduate Diploma by Research
9	Major	Master's Degree	90-120	Master of Philosophy	M.Phil.	Masters of Philosophy in Chemistry
				Master of Science	M.Sc.	Masters of Science in Mathematics
				Master of Arts	M.A.	Masters of Arts in Journalism
				Master of Business	M.Bus.	Masters of Business in International Accounting
				Master of Engineering	M.Eng	Masters of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering
				Master of Architecture	M.Arch.	Masters of Architecture
				Master of Music	M.Mus.	Masters of Music
				Master of Business Studies	M.B.S.	Master of Business Studies
10	Major	Doctoral Degree		Doctor of Philosophy	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy in Physics
				Doctor of Music Performance	D.Mus (Perf)	Doctor of Music