

WSQ Level Descriptors

Note: The following level descriptors describe the generic learning outcomes of each qualification level. They are intended to provide a general understanding of each level and to allow broad comparisons to be made between qualifications at different levels. They are not intended to be prescriptive and there is no expectation that every qualification should meet all of the learning outcomes. The descriptors have been developed through making comparisons with other countries' descriptors and are offered as a first working guide and will be revised in the light of feedback on their use.

WSQ Level	Qualification Level	Learning Outcomes				
		Application of Skills / Nature of work	Knowledge	Work Activities and Accountability	Supervision	Problem Solving
6	Graduate Diploma	Ability to apply, integrate and contextualize skills and knowledge in a broad range of professional or specialist work activities in complex and changing contexts.	The knowledge acquired is highly sophisticated and evolved through original research. It assumes that the learning requires a degree or diploma foundation, and industry experience at a high level.	Work activities comprise tasks involving a high level of organizational and resource management, with full accountability and autonomy for own and others' processes and outputs within very broadly defined boundaries.	Activities are mainly self-directed requiring a significant degree of strategic thinking and judgment.	Work problems are mainly non-routine, complex and multifaceted in nature and are addressed through using tried and tested conceptual frameworks and highly structured processes. The difference between Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate may be breadth or depth within the field. Usually a Graduate Certificate involves six months full-time or one-year of part-time, and Graduate Diploma one year full-time or two years part-time.
	Graduate Certificate					
5	Specialist Diploma	Ability to apply, integrate and contextualize skills and knowledge in a range of complex technical or professional and specialist work activities in a variety of contexts, some of which are unpredictable.	The knowledge acquired involves a strategic and critical understanding of current developments in the field of study and a number of related disciplines.	Work activities comprise tasks involving substantial organizational and resource management, with full accountability and significant autonomy for own processes and outputs and others within defined boundaries.	Activities are carried out under very minimal supervision requiring a significant degree of strategic thinking and judgment.	Work problems are mainly non-routine, complex and multifaceted in nature involving application of a range of fundamental principles including analysis, diagnosis, designing, planning, execution and evaluation.

WSQ Level	Qualification Level	Learning Outcomes				
		Application of Skills / Nature of work	Knowledge	Work Activities and Accountability	Supervision	Problem Solving
4	Professional Diploma	Ability to apply and contextualize skills and knowledge in a broad range of high level technical or professional work activities in a wide variety of contexts.	The knowledge acquired involves a sound understanding of theoretical concepts in the relevant field of study.	Work activities comprise tasks involving a substantial degree of individual accountability and autonomy for self and others within broad boundaries.	Activities are carried out under minimal supervision requiring a significant degree of judgment and decision-making.	Work problems are mainly non-routine and emergent in nature and are preempted and/or addressed through well-deliberated guidelines.
3	Advanced Certificate	Ability to apply and contextualize skills and knowledge in a range of work activities, most of which are complex and non-routine in a variety of contexts.	The knowledge acquired is procedural with elements of abstraction and theory.	Work activities comprise tasks involving guidance of others and some planning and allocation of resources, e.g. supervisor and front-line manager, with considerable individual accountability and autonomy.	Activities are carried out under general supervision requiring a significant degree of judgment.	Work problems are mainly non-routine in nature and are addressed through new or adapted guidelines that are developed individually or collaboratively.
2	Higher Certificate	Ability to perform a range of work activities, some of which are non-routine and complex in a variety of contexts.	The knowledge acquired is mainly factual or procedural with some understanding of relationships and associations.	Work activities comprise tasks employing higher skills sets mainly undertaken by front-line supervisors involving some accountability within specified boundaries.	Activities are carried out under frequent supervision requiring some judgment or reasoning.	Work problems are mainly routine-based and addressed through established guidelines that are interpreted and applied arising from variations in work processes.
1	Certificate	Ability to perform a range of work activities, most of which are routine-based in a stable and predictable context.	The knowledge acquired is mainly factual and procedural requiring basic comprehension skills.	Work activities comprise basic tasks mainly undertaken by entry-level or operational occupations with some accountability within clearly specified boundaries.	Activities are carried out under clear instructions and close supervision requiring minimal judgment.	Work problems are mainly routine-based and addressed through established guidelines and standard operating procedures.