



Awards, Certification and Conferring Policy

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1. Purpose

Atlantic Technological University (ATU, the University) is a Designated Awarding Body (DAB), and as such is permitted to award qualifications from Level 6 to Level 10 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

This purpose of this policy is to set out the awards made by ATU, parameters for the provision of certification for student learning and for conferring of awards on students.

This policy also provides for recognition of non-credited learning and achievement.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all current students, graduands and graduates of ATU and to graduates and alumni of its antecedent institutions and colleges.

The policy applies to all staff involved with certifying or conferring of awards at ATU.

This policy does not apply to programmes where ATU is not the awarding body. For Collaborative and Joint awards the Consortium Agreement will detail the awarding body(s).

This policy does not apply to the awarding of Honorary Doctorates which are governed by *AQAE019 Honorary Doctorates Policy*.

3. External Reference Documents

The following documents were referred to in the development of this policy and are available on the Staff portal:

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Policy and Criteria for Making Awards (QQI, 2014)
- Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) (Amendment) Act 2019
- Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines developed by QQI for Designated Awarding Bodies (QQI, 2016)
- Joint-sectoral protocol between Designated Awarding Bodies and Quality and Qualifications Ireland for the inclusion of qualifications within the National Framework of Qualifications – July 2022 (QQI, 2022)

4. Policy

4.1 Context

4.1.1 Legal Framework

This section describes the legislative framework that governs the quality assurance of awards at ATU.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) is the state agency responsible for the external quality assurance of higher education and training in Ireland and is the custodian of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Its functions are set out in the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act (2012).

ATU derives, from law, the authority to make awards. ATU endorses the Joint-Sectoral Protocol between Designated Awarding Bodies and Quality and Qualifications Ireland for the inclusion of qualifications within the National Framework of Qualifications (July 2022) to fulfil its requirements under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Education and Training Amendment Act (2019) to formally include awards made by ATU within the NFQ.

4.1.1 Qualification Frameworks

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) is a common European reference framework. The core of the EQF is its eight levels defined in terms of learning outcomes which express what individuals know, understand, and can do at the end of a learning process. The EQF enables transparency, comparability and portability of qualifications and makes it possible to compare qualifications from different countries and institutions. European countries develop national qualification frameworks in support of the implementation of the EQF.

4.1.2 National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

All awards made by ATU are included in the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The NFQ was established in 2003 as a framework for the development, recognition, and award of qualifications in the State. The system is based on levels of knowledge, skill and competence and aims to promote greater transparency and trust in qualifications. The NFQ is formally aligned with the EQF. Therefore, all awards made by ATU are transferable within the European Higher Education Area.

The NFQ has 10 levels designed to promote and allow progression of learners through the ladder of levels in the framework. Various award types exist at each level, as illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1. National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), QQI 2021.

ATU makes awards at Level 6 through to Level 10 on the NFQ. These awards are made in respect of taught programmes at Level 6 to Level 9 and in respect of research programmes at Level 9 and Level 10. In making awards, ATU ensures that learners have acquired the standard of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the NFQ level of an award on the NFQ.

4.1.3 Volume of an award and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

The size or volume of learning behind an award is measured in credits. Credits indicate the workload required of a typical learner to complete the requirements of the programme leading to an award. ATU uses the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) in allocating credits to the volume of learning associated with an award.

4.2 Awards

4.2.1 Award Classes

An award is an academic qualification conferred on a named recipient in recognition of the successful completion of a programme. All awards conferred by ATU are recognised on the NFQ.

There are four classes of awards provided for on the NFQ (Figure 1): Major, Minor, Supplemental and Special Purpose Awards. These are defined as follows:

- **Major Awards** are the main class of awards made at each level of the NFQ and constitute a significant volume of learning. These awards are identified on the outer rings of the NFQ fan, shown in Figure 1.
- **Minor Awards** provide recognition for achievement of a range of learning outcomes, but not the specific combination required for a major award. The module or combination of modules is a subset of a linked major award.
- **Special Purpose Awards** have a distinct identity which reflects their clearly defined but relatively narrow purpose. They constitute a smaller volume of learning than a major award. The module or combination of modules is not included within a major award.
- **Supplemental awards** are for learning that is additional to a previous major or special purpose award. In general, these are at the same level as the awards to which they are additional.

Awards are categorised by class, type and NFQ level. Undergraduate awards are at Level 6 through Level 8 on the NFQ and postgraduate awards are at Level 9 and Level 10 on the NFQ. The term Non-Major Awards refers to Minor, Special Purpose and Supplemental Awards. Table 1 lists the awards conferred by ATU by award class, type and NFQ level.

Award Class	Award Type	NFQ Level
Major	Higher Certificate	6
	Bachelor (Ordinary)	7
	Bachelor (Honours)	8
	Higher Diploma	8
	Postgraduate Diploma	9
	Masters (Taught) Degree	9
	Masters (Research) Degree	9
	Doctoral Degree	10
Non-Major	Certificate	6
	Certificate	7-9
	Diploma	7-8
	Postgraduate Certificate	9 (>20 ECTS)

Table 1. Awards by class, type, and level.

4.2.2 Collaborative and Joint Awards

Collaborative provision of programmes with other Higher Education Institutions may result in single, dual or joint awards as stipulated in the relevant consortium agreement (see *AQAE038 Collaborative Provision of Programmes Policy*).

- A **Single Award** is where one awarding body in the consortium confers a single parchment as the official award of the joint programme.
- A **Joint Award** is where one award is conferred on graduates of a single joint programme. Parchments for Joint awards will be agreed in the Consortium Agreement and will include the details of each of the collaborating providers.
- A **Dual Award** is where both awarding bodies in the consortium confer separate awards at the same level on the NFQ, following the completion of two complimentary but distinct programmes of study at two separate institutions. The student must successfully complete their studies in both institutions in order to be conferred with both awards.

4.3 Entitlement to an Award

To be eligible for an ATU award, a student must satisfy all assessment requirements of the programme and be in good standing with the University. Assessment requirements for taught are provided in the Approved Programme Schedule (APS) and the assessment requirement for research degrees are provided in the *AQAE011 Research Degree Policy*.

4.3.1 Award Classification

ATU awards may be classified or unclassified depending on the award type and the criteria approved when the programme was validated. Award Classifications are approved by the Examination Board. More detail on award classification is set out in the *AQAE005 Marks and Standards Policy*, including:

- which award types are classified or unclassified,
- the Grade Point Average (GPA) thresholds for achieving an award classification for each class of major award, and
- other regulations related to award classification (e.g. implications for repeating at an award stage on award classification).

4.4 Eligibility for an Award on the basis of accumulation of credits or awards

Registered students may be considered for an award on the basis of accumulation of credits where:

- the student meets the requirements for a validated embedded award of the programme on which they are registered i.e. an exit award (see 4.4.1),
- the student registered via Accumulation of Credits and Certification of Modules (ACCM) mode meets the requirements for the programme on which they are registered, or

- the student has met the requirements of a major award by completing two or more ATU awards or modules, that correspond with the requirements of a major award (see 4.4.2).

4.4.1 Criteria for the granting of Exit Awards

An **exit award** is an award granted to a student who does not complete in full the programme on which they are registered but has successfully achieved the required learning outcomes and credits for an embedded award within the registered programme.

An exit award may be made where:

- a validated embedded award exists,
- the student has successfully achieved the assessment requirements of the embedded award in full, and
- the student is in good standing with the University.

Exit awards are not intended for students who require a break from their studies for a short period of time but intend to return and complete the programme for which they originally registered. In this case the student may defer their programme and return to complete their registered programme at a later date (see *AQAE032 Procedure for Deferral of Modules and Programmes* for further information).

There is an exclusion period for a student who graduates with an exit award. The student cannot re-register on the programme they exited, or progress to a more advanced stage of a related ATU programme for a minimum of one academic year from the date of application for the exit award.

There is a limit of 3 years since last registration in which to be granted an exit award.

4.4.2 Stackability of Awards

A student who has successfully completed more than one ATU Minor award and/or module(s), which combined (stacked) meet the requirements of a Major award, may be eligible to apply to obtain the Major award.

The modules/minor awards being stacked must match the Approved Programme Schedule (APS) of the Major Award.

The student must meet the admission requirements of the Major award. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be used to meet admission requirements to stage 1 or for advanced entry to the relevant stage of the stacked award, but the same learning must not have been used (or double counted) to meet the accumulated credits that are being used to obtain the new award.

There is a limit of 3 years since last registration in which to be granted a major award by accumulation of awards/credits.

4.4.3 Applying for Consideration for an Exit Award or an Award by Accumulation of credits

The *AQAE072 Procedure for Applying for an Exit Award or an Award by Accumulation of Credits or Awards* specifies the application and approval process for students to be considered and granted such awards.

An administration fee will be charged as per the *ATU Fee Schedule*.

4.5 Awards Given in Exceptional Circumstances

4.5.1 Posthumous and Aegrotat Awards

A **Posthumous Award** is an award made subsequent to the death of a student where there is sufficient evidence based on the student performance that the student would have qualified with that award. ATU recognises the importance of providing the student's family with a posthumous award. Specific thresholds of learning must be met to maintain the standard/ value of the award. Posthumous awards will only be made with the knowledge and consent of the next of kin and/or immediate family members of the student.

An **Aegrotat Award** is an award that may be made where there are exceptional circumstances, typically due to a diagnosis of a life-limiting or incurable debilitating illness, which prevents the student from completing their registered programme, but where is evidence based on the students' performance that they would have qualified with that award.

Aegrotat awards can only be considered after a student has formally withdrawn from a programme, and if the student agrees to an aegrotat award, they waive the right to any further study or assessment on that specific programme.

Aegrotat awards will be made with the knowledge and consent of the student, where possible, and with the knowledge and consent of their next of kin and/or immediate family members of the student where the circumstances prevent the student from consenting.

Aegrotat awards are considered for major awards only and do not meet the accreditation requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies. Aegrotat awards are unclassified, and the parchment will state that the award being made is "Aegrotat".

4.5.2 Criteria for the awarding of Posthumous and Aegrotat Awards

Posthumous and Aegrotat Awards can be recommended by the Examination Board in the following circumstances:

- i. Where the student has successfully completed the requirements of the award or an exit award. In this case the award may be classified (where applicable).
- ii. Where the student has successfully completed 50% of the ECTS in the award year of the taught programme, or 50% of the ECTS in the award year of an embedded award and the Exam Board is satisfied that there is sufficient evidence based on the student's performance that they would have qualified for the award or embedded award.
- iii. In the case of structured research programmes, where the student has successfully completed the taught modules and has been registered for at least 50% of the scheduled time for the thesis/project, an award can be made where the supervisor(s) are satisfied that there is sufficient quantity of material of sufficient standard to do so.
- iv. Where a student has been registered for at least 50% of the expected time for a research programme, the thesis can be examined without the viva, or where a thesis has not been submitted, an award can be made where the supervisor(s) and internal examiner are satisfied that there is sufficient quantity of material of sufficient standard to do so.

Posthumous and Aegrotat awards will be unclassified, except as described in (i) above.

Posthumous and Aegrotat Awards must be recommended by an Examination Board to the Director of Academic Affairs and Quality for approval.

Major awards may be presented at a conferring ceremony or in private, in agreement with the wishes of the student or their family, as appropriate. Minor and Special Purpose awards can be presented at a special ceremony or issued as normal in agreement with the wishes of the student or their family, as appropriate.

4.5.3 Embedded Awards for Continuing Students

In exceptional circumstances, as approved by Academic Council, ATU may confer embedded awards to cohorts of students who are continuing their studies. This may arise for example where students need evidence of an award to be eligible for specific roles, or to meet financial or regulatory requirements. These specific programmes must be approved by Academic Council, and a list is maintained in *AQAE072 Procedure for Applying for an Exit Award or an Award by Accumulation of Credits or Awards*. Student performance will be considered with decisions made in respect of awards by the Examination Board as normal, but parchments are not presented at a conferring ceremony.

4.6 Ratification of Awards

An Examination Board is convened to consider and verify student performance in assessment and examination and to make decisions in respect of student progression and awards.

The conferring of all University Major Awards must be ratified by Academic Council. This must occur in advance of the conferring ceremonies held twice annually in Spring and in Autumn.

All Non-Major Awards are ratified by the Academic Standards and Policy Committee of Academic Council.

4.7 Certification of Awards

Certification is the provision of a formal academic record or document.

ATU issues the following formal academic documents:

- Statement of Examination Results (Grademailer or Transcript)
- Parchment
- European Diploma Supplement (EDS).

Academic documents issued by ATU to students to certify their learning will be accurate, authorised, transparent, stored securely, and be designed to prevent unauthorised reproduction or fraudulent use. The *AQAE075 Procedure for Issuing Academic Documents* details how documents are issued to students and how students can request academic documents issued by antecedent institutions and colleges of ATU.

All ATU academic documents are available via a secure cloud-based platform that allows students and graduates to access, store and share their digitally certified records in a secure manner online.

All academic documents will clearly indicate the level and volume of learning and specify the name, class, type and classification of award achieved, where applicable.

In compliance with relevant data protection legislation the university must obtain permission in writing from a student, approving the issuing of an academic document to a named third party.

Requests for education verification from a third party, including references and transcripts, must include signed consent to share the data from the student/graduate.

4.7.1 Date of Award

The Date of Award is specified on Academic Documents and is determined by the award type as specified in Table 2 below:

Award	Date of Award	Frequency
Major Awards	Date of Ratification by Academic Council	Twice annually in advance of Autumn and Spring Conferring Ceremonies
Non-Major Awards	Date specified on the Academic Calendar	Three times annually in advance of release of documents in November, March and July

Table 2. Date of Award by Award Type.

4.7.2 Statement of Examination Results

A Statement of Examination Results (also called Grademailer or transcript) is an official document in a digital format provided to all students on completion of a programme stage.

The Statement of Examination Results provides the following details:

- Student Name
- Student Number
- Programme Code and Name of the Programme
- Stage
- Overall Result for each module
- Credits earned
- GPA result (%) at the end of the stage of the named programme.
- Award Classification (where applicable).

The Statement of Examination Results is signed by the Registrar and Chief Academic Officer.

4.7.3 Parchments

A parchment is a formal document issued by the University to confirm the successful completion of an award. It is the official certification of the award and is conferred upon a student following the successful completion of a programme.

The approved award titles that ATU can confer are listed in *Appendix 1 Approved Award Titles*. All ATU programmes leading to named awards are listed in the Register of University Programmes which is available on the university website.

The design, information and format of award parchments is consistent with their purpose and significance.

Parchments for all ATU awards bear the official ATU stamp and are signed by the President. Parchments for major awards are also signed by the Chair of the Governing Body.

Parchments for major awards will be presented at a conferring ceremony or posted to those who do not attend in person. The original parchment for a major award is a valuable document, and it should be kept in the safe possession of the graduate at all times.

Parchments for Minor, Special Purpose, and Supplemental Awards will be made available to students in a digital format.

Parchments for single subject certification will normally be made available in digital format only and are signed by the Registrar and Chief Academic Officer.

Printed parchments may be provided for in-person ceremonies recognising student achievement organised by Faculties/Schools/Departments, outside of the ATU Conferring Ceremonies, with prior agreement with the Academic Affairs Manager with responsibility for Examinations, Conferring and Timetabling.

4.7.4 Duplicate Parchments

Duplicate parchments may be requested by a graduate if the original parchment has been lost, destroyed or damaged and the graduate has a statutory declaration signed by a solicitor, Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Oaths to confirm this. A fee for duplicate parchments will be set annually and listed on the *ATU Fees Schedule*.

AQAE075 Procedure for Issuing Academic Documents provides details of how to obtain duplicate parchments for awards made by ATU and its antecedent institutions. All replacement parchments will state on the parchment that it is a duplicate and will indicate the awarding body (whether ATU or an antecedent Institution).

Duplicate parchments will be issued in a digital format in the first instance.

ATU is committed to protecting graduates and the University's reputation by protecting the integrity of parchments. The identity of a graduate requesting a duplicate parchment must be verified by the University. ATU parchments have a number of security elements built into them to avoid fraudulent duplication or usage and parchments are printed, stored and transported securely in accordance with *AQAE075 Procedure for Issuing Academic Documents*.

In accordance with the *ATU Gender Expression and Identity Procedure*, graduates who have changed their legal name subsequent to completing their studies in ATU may also request a replacement parchment in their new legal name.

4.7.5 European Diploma Supplement

The European Diploma Supplement (EDS) is issued to graduates of Higher Education Institutions in addition to their University parchment. It provides information regarding the award which is not available on the official parchment such as the skills and competences acquired, the level of the qualification and the results achieved. It is an important document, which outlines in detail the student's academic achievement, and can be useful as part of the evidence of their academic record to give to national or international prospective employers, education institutions or for migration purposes. The EDS will be provided to graduates in a digital format following the issuance of parchments.

The EDS bears the official ATU stamp and is signed by the President of ATU.

4.8 Conferring Ceremonies

Conferring ceremonies are held by ATU as a public celebration of the achievement of its students. A student who has completed the requirements of an award but has not yet been conferred with the award is called a graduand. Graduands are presented with their parchment in person or *in absentia* (where the graduand does not attend).¹

ATU host conferring ceremonies for the conferral of Major Awards. Conferring ceremonies are significant milestones in the Academic Calendar for the entire University community. The conduct and environment recognise the importance of the event to students, their supporters and academic staff marking the occasion with dignity and celebration.

4.8.1 Schedule

ATU normally holds an Autumn (October/November) and a Spring conferring ceremony (April/May) annually. Each conferring may have multiple sessions and/or multiple locations.

The schedule will be agreed annually with the Registrar and Chief Academic Officer and the dates/locations published on the website a minimum of six months prior to the conferring. Session times will be issued four to six weeks prior to the ceremonies.

4.8.2 Invitation to Conferring

Once a student has met the academic requirements for a major award they will be invited to the next conferring ceremony. Graduands will be invited to one ceremony only and the invitation cannot be deferred to a future ceremony. If they choose not to attend, they will be conferred in their absence i.e. *'in absentia'*.

Students with outstanding fees or other debts to ATU are not eligible to be conferred until payment is made at which point they will receive their academic record by post (major

¹ In exceptional circumstances conferring ceremonies can be held online (for example, during the COVID pandemic)

award) or receive it in digital format (minor/special purpose awards). Conferring lists are checked to ensure that all those listed have met the requirements to graduate.

A student who applies and is approved to exit with an embedded major award within the academic year that they are currently registered, are eligible to be invited to a conferring ceremony. Exit awards received in subsequent academic years may be recommended for the award and receive a parchment but invitation to the conferring will be subject to the time limitations set out in *AQAE072 Procedure for Applying for an Exit Award or an Award by Accumulation of Awards/Credits*.

4.8.3 Conferring Ceremony Protocol

The conferring ceremony is a formal ceremony at which graduands will be presented with their major awards. Conferring ceremonies are led by the President of ATU or their nominee. Graduands will be permitted to bring a specified number of invited guests, normally two, to witness the ceremony. The *ATU Protocol for Conferring Ceremonies* is maintained by the Academic Affairs Manager with responsibility for conferring and is approved by the Registrar and Chief Academic Officer annually. It outlines the order and the wording of each ceremony.

4.8.4 Academic Dress

Staff and graduands must wear the approved academic gowns during the ceremony, with graduands also wearing a mortarboard hat or doctoral cap. The colour and design of gowns varies according to ATU Faculty, and award type being conferred. The specific colours and designs are specified in the *ATU Protocol for Conferring Ceremonies*.

During the conferring ceremony graduands start with the tassel on the right side of their hat/cap, moving it to the left when called to do so after they graduate. This symbolises the transition from graduand to graduate.

4.9 Recognition of Achievement

4.9.1 Digital Open Badges

Digital Open Badges are visual indicators that can be shared across digital platforms recognising achievement, conduct, or learning. They serve as a means to certify achievement or learning that does not align with an award on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Digital Badges are non-credit bearing and are intended to enhance engagement, motivation, and recognition by indicating the completion of specific activities or learning experiences by students or staff.

Digital Open Badges may be issued by academic staff and management at ATU. They must reflect meaningful accomplishments and uphold ATU's commitment to academic and professional standards.

Each digital open badge must clearly state:

- what the badge represents,
- the criteria and evidence required for its award,
- the process by which eligibility is determined, and
- the date of issue.

Digital Open Badges must only be issued where verifiable evidence of learning or achievement exists.

All ATU-branded digital open badges must be approved in accordance with the *AQAE074 Procedure for Digital Open Badges* and must adhere to the design, quality standards, record-keeping and reporting requirements specified in that procedure.

4.9.2 Academic Excellence Prizes and Other Scholarships, Bursaries, Fellowships and Prizes

ATU Academic Excellence Prizes are presented to students at conferring ceremonies.

ATU also recognises student achievement through the provision of other scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and prizes. *AQAE065 Student Scholarship, Bursary, Fellowship, and Prizes Policy* provides further detail.

4.10 Revocation of Awards

The University reserves the right to revoke an award where it is subsequently established that the award was obtained through fraud, academic misconduct or administrative error.

Any such case will be forwarded to the Registrar and Chief Academic Officer who will appoint a panel to investigate.

The Academic Council must approve the revocation of an award following an investigation.

The graduate will have the opportunity to respond to any allegation and should the award be revoked will have the right to appeal.

The procedures for investigation, revocation, and appeal of a revocation are detailed in *AQAE073 Procedure for Revocation of an Award*.

5. Documents Related to this Policy

5.1 Policies

- AQAE004 Programme Design Policy
- AQAE005 Marks and Standards Policy
- AQAE011 Research Degree Policy
- AQAE038 Collaborative Provision of Programmes Policy
- AQAE065 Student Scholarship, Bursary, Fellowship, and Prizes Policy

5.2 Procedures

- AQAE032 Procedure for Deferral of Modules and Programmes
- AQAE072 Procedure for Applying for an Exit Award or an Award by Accumulation of Awards/Credits
- AQAE074 Procedure for Digital Open Badges
- AQAE073 Procedure for Revocation of an Award
- AQAE075 Procedure for Issuing Academic Documents
- ATU Gender Expression and Identity Procedure

5.3 Other

- ATU Protocol for Conferring Ceremonies

6. Revision History

Revision No	Description of Change	Approval Date
000	New Policy	17/04/2026

Appendix 1 Approved Award Titles

The ATU list of approved award titles is listed in Table 3 for taught programmes in respect of Major awards and research degrees. The approved abbreviation for each title is also indicated.

NFQ Level	Approved Award Title	Abbreviated Title
Level 6	Higher Certificate in Arts	HC in Arts
	Higher Certificate in Business	HC in Business
	Higher Certificate in Engineering	HC in Engineering
	Higher Certificate in Science	HC in Science
Level 7	Bachelor of Arts	BA
	Bachelor of Business	BBus
	Bachelor of Education	BEEd
	Bachelor of Engineering	BEEng
	Bachelor of Science	BSc
	Bachelor of Music	BMus
Level 8	Bachelor of Architecture (Honours)	BArch (Hons)
	Bachelor of Arts (Honours)	BA (Hons)
	Bachelor of Business (Honours)	BBus (Hons)
	Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)	BComm (Hons)
	Bachelor of Design (Honours)	BDes (Hons)
	Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours)	BFA (Hons)
	Bachelor of Education (Honours)	BEEd (Hons)
	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)	BEEng (Hons)
	Bachelor of Music (Honours)	BMus (Hons)
	Bachelor of Science (Honours)	BSc (Hons)
	Bachelor of Social Science (Honours)	BSocSc (Hons)
	Higher Diploma in Arts	HDip in Arts
	Higher Diploma in Business	HDip in Business
	Higher Diploma in Engineering	HDip in Engineering
	Higher Diploma in Science	HDip in Science
	Higher Diploma in Education	HDip in Education
	Honours Bachelor of Laws, Legum Baccalaureus	LLB
	Professional Diploma in Education	PDip
Level 9	Master of Architecture	MArch
	Master of Agricultural Science	MAgrSc
	Master of Arts	MA
	Master of Business	MBus
	Master of Design	MDes

NFQ Level	Approved Award Title	Abbreviated Title
	Master of Education	MEd
	Master of Engineering	MEng
	Master of Engineering Science	MEngSc
	Master of Fine Arts	MFA
	Master of Health Science	MHSc
	Master of Laws, Legum Magister	LL.M
	Master of Pharmacy	MPharm
	Master of Science	MSc
	Master of Social Science	MSocSc
	Postgraduate Diploma in Arts	PGDip in Arts
	Postgraduate Diploma in Business	PGDip in Business
	Postgraduate Diploma in Education	PGDip in Education
	Postgraduate Diploma in Engineering	PGDip in Engineering
	Postgraduate Diploma in Science	PGDip in Science
	Professional Master of Education	PME
	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery	BVMS
Award titles for Research Degrees		
Level 9	Master of Arts (Research)	MA
	Master of Business (Research)	MBus
	Master of Engineering (Research)	MEng
	Master of Science (Research)	MSc
	Master of Research	MRes
	Master of Philosophy	MPhil
Level 10	Doctor of Philosophy	PhD
	Doctor of Business Administration	DBA
	Professional Doctorate of Engineering	PDEng

Table 3. Approved award titles and abbreviations by NFQ Level (Major Awards).