

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
For Level Descriptors below Level 4, please refer to the Undergraduate Level Descriptors Matrix								
Level 4 (<i>FHEQ Level 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
Level 5 (<i>FHEQ Level 8</i>)	The student demonstrates the ability to create and interpret new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship, of quality to satisfy peer	A detailed knowledge in a specific area of their discipline based on a wide-ranging, critical study of the relevant literature and research, along with a systematic acquisition of a substantial body of knowledge	A detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry, as well as the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the	The ability to decide on appropriate methods of enquiry suitable for the investigation of particular cases and contexts within their specialist field, including the ability to modify established	The ability to undertake independent investigation within a defined area, leading to valid conclusions worthy of publication, and to report their findings in a clear, concise, orderly way; the ability to make	The ability to work autonomously, and to take a high level of responsibility for their work, and, where appropriate, the work of others.	The ability to take responsibility for their own learning, including the ability to direct their own study and manage time effectively.	The ability to exercise personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments; to work within

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	review, extend the forefront of the discipline, and merit publication.	which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice.	generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems.	techniques and introduce innovative methods; a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.	informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and to be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.			professional and academic codes of conduct, and to confront ethical issues with due respect.
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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.