

Postgraduate Qualities

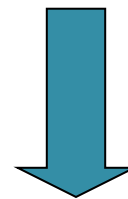
Graduate Certificate



A graduate certificate allows degree graduates to pursue further study at an advanced undergraduate level. It is a bridging qualification to postgraduate study to develop educational, professional, or vocational knowledge in a new discipline, profession, or subject area, and/or to broaden or deepen skills or knowledge already gained in an undergraduate degree.

A person with a graduate certificate is able to demonstrate some outcomes of a bachelor's degree in a new area of study.

Graduate Diploma



A graduate diploma allows degree graduates to pursue a significant body of study at an advanced undergraduate level. The diploma is a bridging qualification to postgraduate study aiming to broaden knowledge and skills in a familiar subject or discipline or to develop knowledge in a new area.

A person with a graduate diploma is able to demonstrate the outcomes of a bachelor's degree in a new area of study.

PG Diploma



A postgraduate diploma is designed to extend and deepen an individual's knowledge and skills by building on the principal subject(s) of the qualifying degree, graduate diploma, or graduate certificate. A postgraduate diploma prepares an individual for independent research and scholarship. A postgraduate diploma may be awarded with distinction.

A graduate of a postgraduate diploma is able to show evidence of advanced knowledge in a specialist field of enquiry or professional practice and engage in rigorous intellectual analysis, criticism, and problem-solving.

Master Degree



Master degrees qualify individuals who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for research, and is a pathway for further learning, professional practice, and/or scholarship.

Master degrees usually build on a bachelor degree, graduate diploma, bachelor honours degree, or a postgraduate diploma. They may also build on extensive professional experience. Their outcomes are demonstrably in advance of undergraduate study, and require individuals to engage in research and/or advanced scholarship. Master degrees are constituted in one discipline or coherent programme of study. They may be undertaken through taught courses or research, or a combination of both.

A graduate of a master degree is able to

- show evidence of advanced knowledge about a specialist field of enquiry or professional practice
- demonstrate mastery of sophisticated theoretical subject matter
- critically evaluate the findings and discussions in literature
- research, analyse, and argue from evidence
- work independently and apply knowledge to new situations
- engage in rigorous intellectual analysis, criticism, and problem-solving (Eastern Institute of Technology, 2014)

A graduate of a master degree that includes supervised research of not fewer than 90 credits at level 9 is also able to

- demonstrate a high order of skill in the planning, execution, and completion of a piece of original research or creative scholarly work
- apply such skills learned during the study programme to new situations (Eastern Institute of Technology, 2014)

The research should be completed to internationally recognised standards and demonstrate that the graduate has a capacity for independent thinking (Eastern Institute of Technology, 2014). A master graduate will demonstrate qualities fitting for the master qualification (see Table 1).

Table 1

Qualities of the Master Graduate

Academic Excellence	Critical Thinking and Effective Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth and extensive knowledge, understanding and skills at internationally recognised levels in their chosen discipline(s) • A breadth of knowledge, understanding, and skills beyond their chosen discipline(s) • An ability to participate in the creation of new knowledge and understanding through research and inquiry • A contextual understanding of past and present knowledge and ideas • An intellectual curiosity and a willingness to question accepted wisdom and to be open to new ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A capacity for independent, conceptual, and creative thinking • A capacity for problem identification, the collection of evidence, synthesis, and dispassionate analysis • A capacity for attentive exchange, informed argument, and reasoning • An ability to communicate effectively for different purposes and in different contexts • An ability to work independently and as part of a team • A diverse set of transferable and generic thinking and communication skills
Learning and Personal Development	Active Citizenship (Social responsibility)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An openness to, and an interest in, life-long learning through directed and self-directed study • An awareness of personal strengths and weaknesses • A capacity for self-reflection, self-discovery, and personal development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness and appreciation of ethical and moral issues • An awareness and appreciation of social and cultural diversity • An understanding of social and civic responsibilities, and of the rights of individuals and groups • An appreciation of the concepts of enterprise and leadership in all aspects of life • A readiness for citizenship in an inclusive society

Note. These are the qualities we expect students to have achieved by the end of their master’s programme.
 From *AG130-6 Graduate Profile–Guideline* by Eastern Institute of Technology, 2014
 (<http://staffnet/search/Pages/Everything.aspx?k=Graduate%20Profile>).

Master Programme Student Outcomes: Summary

By the end of a master programme at EIT, a student should

1. Have an understanding and a critical awareness of contemporary issues within their discipline
2. Have a comprehensive knowledge of research and its application to their specialty area of practice
3. Manage complex issues logically and creatively, making sound decisions in the absence of evidence, and communicate their judgements clearly to others within their industry/profession
4. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems
5. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and develop new skills
6. Have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment through demonstrating
 - initiative and personal responsibility
 - decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - independent learning ability, which is required for continuing professional development

References

Eastern Institute of Technology. (2014). *AG130-6 Graduate Profile – Guideline*.

<http://staffnet/search/Pages/Everything.aspx?k=Graduate%20Profile>

University of Aberdeen. (n.d.). *Aberdeen graduate attributes*.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/graduateattributes/#attributes>

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