

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

DOCTORATE OR MASTER'S DEGREE

Doctoral (D) level - Doctorates

Doctorates tend to be at least 3 years long. PhD and DPhil generally refer to qualifications gained from original research, whilst those Doctorates with a large taught element tend to include the discipline name, such as EdD: Doctorate in Education.

Doctorates are awarded for the creation and interpretation of knowledge, which extends the forefront of a discipline, usually through original research. Holders of Doctorates will be able to conceptualise, design and implement projects for the generation of significant new knowledge and/or understanding and will have the qualities needed for employment requiring the ability to make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, and innovation in tackling and solving problems.

Master's (M) level - Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Certificates and Postgraduate Diplomas

Master's Degrees may be research-based (often MPhil), taught programmes (e.g. MA, MSc, and MBA), or a mix. Most last at least a year; others may be extended programmes integrating undergraduate study (MEng, Mchem).

The Oxford and Cambridge MAs can be awarded to holders of their Honours Degrees but do not require additional academic achievement.

Much of the study undertaken at Master's level will have been at, or informed by, the forefront of an academic or professional discipline. Students will have shown originality in the application of knowledge, and they will understand how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research. They will be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, and will show originality in tackling and solving problems. They will have the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative in complex and unpredictable professional environments.

National Qualification Framework Level 7 & 8

Level 7 qualifications recognise highly developed and complex levels of knowledge which enable the development of in-depth and original responses to complicated and unpredictable problems and situations. Learning at this level involves the demonstration of high level specialist professional knowledge and are appropriate for senior professionals and managers. Level 7 qualifications are at a level equivalent to Masters Degrees, Postgraduate Certificates and Postgraduate Diplomas.

Level 8 qualifications recognise leading experts or practitioners in a particular field. Learning at this level involves the development of new and creative approaches that extend or redefine existing knowledge or professional practice.

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DOCTORATE OR MASTER'S DEGREE CONTINUED

Entry Standards

- Honours Degree or equivalent.

Career Progression

- Good progression for Honours Degree achiever
- Mode of academic learning could be either full time or part-time study
- A Master's Degree, plus relevant work experience will enable an employee to gain full membership or fellowship of a professional institution and registration as Chartered Engineer (CEng)