



# Excerpt from *The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies*

## 4.15 Descriptor for a higher education qualification at Level 6 on the FHEQ

Bachelor's degree with honours The descriptor provided for this level of the FHEQ is for any bachelor's degree with honours which should meet the descriptor in full.

This qualification descriptor should also be used as a reference point for other qualifications at Level 6 of the FHEQ, including bachelor's degrees and graduate diplomas.

Bachelor's degrees with honours are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- **a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study**, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline
- **an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline** conceptual understanding that enables the student: to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline

to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline

- an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
- the ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline).

**Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:**

- apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
- critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
- communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

**And holders will have:**

- **the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:**
- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
- the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature. a)

Holders of a bachelor's degree with honours will have developed an understanding of a complex body of knowledge, some of it at the current boundaries of an academic discipline.

Through this, the holder will have developed analytical techniques and problem-solving skills that can be applied in many types of employment.

The holder of such a qualification will be able to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions, to reach sound judgements and to communicate them effectively.

b) Holders of a bachelor's degree with honours should have the qualities needed for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable circumstances.

c) Bachelor's degrees with honours form the largest group of higher education qualifications.

Typically, learning outcomes for these courses would be expected to be achieved on the basis of study equivalent to three or four full-time academic years and lead to qualifications with titles such as Bachelor of Arts, BA (Hons) or Bachelor of Science, BSc (Hons).

In addition to bachelor's degrees at this level are short courses and professional 'conversion' courses, based largely on undergraduate material, and taken usually by those who are already graduates in another discipline, leading to, for example, **graduate certificates** or graduate diplomas.

## **Reference**

QAA. (2024). [online].. [Viewed 4/3/24]. Available from:  
[https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/the-frameworks-for-higher-education-qualifications-of-uk-degree-awarding-bodies-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=3562b281\\_11](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/the-frameworks-for-higher-education-qualifications-of-uk-degree-awarding-bodies-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=3562b281_11)