

Qualifications Framework Level Definitions (Summary)

Level	Knowledge	Skills*1	Responsibilities and Autonomy*2
8	Interdisciplinary perspectives, knowledge and understanding leading to a new professional practice and/or knowledge at the frontier of the learner's field of study/professional practice.	The most advanced professional skills necessary to solve critical issues for research and innovation and to redefine existing knowledge and professional practices.	Authority, autonomy, academic and professional integrity and persistent engagement in developing new ideas and processes at the frontier of the learner's field of study/professional practice.
7	Highly specialized knowledge, including the most advanced knowledge in the learner's field of work/study; knowledge and understanding in different fields.	A combination of independent and critical insights and interdisciplinary knowledge in the learner's field of practice/study; problem-solving skills necessary to study, develop and innovate new knowledge and methodologies.	Management of work or studies that require an innovative approach to solve complex and unpredictable problems; contributions to, and evaluation of, professional knowledge/practices and management.
6	Advanced knowledge and deep understanding of the learner's field of work/study, including critical thinking of theories and principles.	Advanced skills to demonstrate expertise and innovativeness necessary to solve complex and unpredictable challenges in the learner's field of work/study.	Responsibility to manage technical and professional activities and to make decisions in an unpredictable context of work/study; responsibility to manage professional development of individual and/or groups.
5	Comprehensive, professional, factual and theoretical knowledge in the learner's field of work/study, and critical recognition of such knowledge.	Comprehensive cognitive science techniques and practical skills necessary to solve abstract issues in a creative manner.	Independent management and supervision of work/study activities that involve unpredictable changes; review and development of the learner's and others' performances.
4	Factual and theoretical knowledge in a broad-based context of work/study.	A series of cognitive and practical skills necessary to develop solutions to specific problems in the learner's field of work/study.	Self-management in a context of work/study that is usually predictable but possibly changing; supervision of others' daily work, and evaluating/improving their work/study activities.
3	Knowledge about facts, principles, processes and general concepts in the learner's field of work/study.	Cognitive and practical skills necessary to complete tasks and solve problems by selecting and using basic methods, approaches, materials and information.	Responsibility to complete work or studies; ability to adapt the learner's own behavior to a specific problem-solving context.
2	Basic knowledge in the learner's field of work/study.	Skill to carry out tasks by adopting simple rules and approaches, and basic cognitive and practical skills necessary to use relevant information to solve daily issues.	A certain level of autonomy to work or study under supervision.
1	Basic general knowledge.	Basic skills necessary to carry out simple tasks.	Ability to work or study in a structured context under direct supervision.

*1 Generic (cognitive) and professional (practical) skills are described.

*2 Abilities to apply knowledge and skills independently and responsibly are described.

Level Criteria

- Level 8: 15-20 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 35-40), Doctoral Degree
- Level 7: 10-15 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 30-35), Master's Degree, Master of xxx (Professional)
- Level 6: 5-10 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 25-30), Advanced Diploma, Bachelor's Degree, Bachelor's Degree (Professional)
- Level 5: 2-5 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 22-25), Diploma, Associate Degree, Associate Degree (Professional), Associate
- Level 4: 0-2 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 20-22), Diploma, Associate Degree, Associate Degree (Professional), Associate
- Level 3: High school graduate (at the age of 18), specialized training college (1)
- Level 2: Junior high school graduate (at the age of 15)
- Level 1: Elementary school graduate (at the age of 12)