

# University Awards

## Introduction

**1.** This section outlines the awards made by University College Dublin and reflect the diversity and range of educational opportunities provided. Programme award levels are drafted with reference to:

- a) the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ);
- b) the European Qualifications Framework;
- c) the European Higher Education Area 'Bologna Framework';
- d) Quality and Qualifications Ireland; and
- e) the requirements of professional, statutory or regulatory bodies associated with particular programmes of study, some of which grant a licence to practise.

**2.** The Irish National Framework of Qualifications is a framework through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other in a coherent way. These levels are described in terms of general (non-subject-specific) indicators of a person's knowledge, skill and competence (i.e. standards for their learning achievements). The university confers the following awards:

- a) Major Awards: a named award on the National Framework of Qualifications
- b) Minor Awards: partial completion of the outcomes of the Major Award
- c) Special Purpose Awards: standalone award with a distinct identity which reflects their clearly defined purpose
- d) Supplemental Awards: learning that is additional to a Major award

**3.** The university offers the following awards for its taught and research programmes which are aligned to the National Framework of Qualifications. Each award requires the accumulation of credits and/or the completion of a programme of study and/or research as outlined below.

**4.** With the exception of grade neutral awards, awards are classified based on an award Grade Point Average (GPA) .

## University Awards Table- Taught Programmes

	Award Type	Credit Range	Minimum UCD Level Requirements	GPA Award Classification
<b>NFQ Level 6</b>				
Certificate of Continuing Education	Special Purpose	5-15		Greater than or equal to 3.68 <b>Distinction</b>
Diploma of Continuing Education	Special Purpose	20-30		
<b>NFQ Level 7</b>				
Certificate of Continuing Education	Special Purpose	5-15		Greater than or equal to 2.48 And less than 3.68 <b>Merit</b>
Professional Certificate	Special Purpose	5-15		
Professional Diploma	Special Purpose	20-30		
University Certificate	Minor Award	20-40	20 credits at UCD Level 1 or above	
University Diploma	Minor Award	60-120	45 credits at UCD Level 1 or above	
<b>NFQ Level 8</b>				
Certificate of Continuing Professional Development	Supplemental	5-10		Greater than or equal to 2.00 and less than 2.48 <b>Pass</b>
Professional Certificate	Special Purpose	5-10		
Professional Diploma	Special Purpose	20-30		
University Certificate	Minor Award	20-40	20 credits at UCD Level 3 or above	
Diploma of Continuing Education	Special Purpose	20-30		Greater than or equal to 3.68 <b>First class honours</b> Greater than or equal to 3.08 and less than 3.68 <b>Second class honours, Grade I</b> Greater than or equal to 2.48 and less than 3.08 <b>Second class honours, Grade II</b> Greater than or equal to 2.00 and less than 2.48 <b>Pass</b>
Higher Diploma	Major Award	60-120	30 credits at UCD Level 3 or above	
Honours Bachelor's Degree	Major Award	180-360	40 credits at Level 3 or above	
<b>NFQ Level 9</b>				
Certificate of Continuing Professional Development	Supplemental	5-10		<b>Distinction</b> <b>Merit</b> <b>Pass</b> As above
Professional Certificate	Special Purpose	5-15		
Professional Diploma	Special Purpose	20-30		
Graduate Certificate	Minor Award	30-40	20 credits at Level 4 or above	Greater than or equal to 3.68 <b>First class honours</b> Greater than or equal to 3.08 and less than 3.68 <b>Second class honours, Grade I</b> Greater than or equal to 2.48 And less than 3.08 <b>Second class honours, Grade II</b> Greater than or equal to 2.00 And less than 2.48 <b>Pass</b>
Graduate Diploma	Major Award	60-80	45 credits at Level 4 or above	
Master's Degree/ Professional Master's Degree	Major Award	90-180	70 credits at Level 4 or above	

## University Awards Table – Research Programmes

	Award Type	Registration Period	Taught Credit Requirements
Research Master's Degree	Major Award	3-6 trimesters (FT) 5-9 trimesters (PT)	No taught programme requirement
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD)	Major Award	9-12 trimesters (FT) 15-18 trimesters (PT)	Minimum 30 taught credits
Doctor of Medicine Degree (MD)	Major Award	6 trimesters (FT) 12 trimesters (PT)	Maximum 20 taught credits
Doctor of Nursing Degree (DN)/ Doctor of Midwifery Degree (DM)	Major Award	9 trimesters (FT) 18 trimesters (PT)	Minimum 135 taught credits
Doctor of Governance Degree (DGov)	Major Award	12-18 trimesters (PT)	Minimum 90 taught credits
Doctor of Veterinary Medical Specialisation Degree (DVMS)	Major Award	9-12 trimesters (FT)	Minimum 20 taught credits
Doctor of Educational Psychology Degree (DEdPsych)	Major Award	9 trimesters (FT) 15 trimesters (PT)	Minimum 60 taught credits
Doctor of Clinical Psychology Degree (DPsychSc)	Major Award	9 trimesters (FT)	Minimum 60 taught credits