

# Bachelor Honours Degree: An Explanation

## Bachelor Honours Degree defined

The Bachelor Honours Degree is described in the AQF as follows:

*The purpose of the Bachelor Honours Degree qualification type is to qualify individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a specific context to undertake professional work and as a pathway for research and further learning.*

*Bachelor Honours Degree qualifications are located at level 8 of the Australian Qualifications Framework. Graduates at this level will have advanced knowledge and skills for professional or highly skilled work and/or further learning. The volume of learning of a Bachelor Honours Degree is typically 1 year following a Bachelor Degree. A Bachelor Honours Degree may also be embedded in a Bachelor Degree, typically as an additional year.*

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## Bachelor Honours Degree explained

The Bachelor Honours Degree is a qualification type that prepares graduates from the same discipline:

- for a higher level qualification involving research, or
- to advance the knowledge, skills and application gained in their Bachelor Degree, or
- for professional practice for which higher level of learning outcomes are required for entry.

The defining difference between the Bachelor Honours Degree and the Bachelor Degree is the development of advanced knowledge and the requirement for research in the former.

Research must be evident in all Bachelor Honours Degrees. The type of research and the balance between research and coursework is likely to vary depending on the purpose of the qualification.

The Bachelor Honours Degree can be achieved as either a stand-alone Bachelor Honours Degree following the completion of a Bachelor Degree or as part of a cluster of qualifications comprising a Bachelor Degree and Bachelor Honours Degree.

If two qualification types are clustered together, the *AQF Qualification Specifications* for each qualification must be met.

As it depicts a qualification type, the term 'Honours' may not be used to recognise meritorious achievement for an AQF qualification. Other forms of recognition of merit may be used for this or any qualification type; this is a decision for the organisations authorised to issue AQF qualifications.

## Bachelor Honours Degree applied

It is the responsibility of organisations developing and/or accrediting qualifications to exercise professional judgment to ensure that design of programs of learning leading to qualifications enables students to achieve the learning outcomes for both the qualification type and the discipline. Decisions about design of qualifications must take into account students' likelihood of successfully achieving qualification outcomes and also must ensure that integrity of qualification outcomes is maintained. Those developing and/or accrediting qualifications should be able to provide a pedagogical rationale to justify a decision to cluster the qualifications.

## See also

[AQF explanation on research](#)

[AQF explanation on clustered qualifications](#)

[AQF explanation on volume of learning](#)