

Requirements for permission to use an alternative title for AQF Level 9 Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications Version 2

1 Alternative title for Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications

The title 'Master of ...' is the title used for the Masters Degree. The *AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy* permits the use of an alternative title for Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications for six professions as an exception to the rule¹. The *Policy* places limitations on the use of the title for permitted exceptions. The *Policy* allows for further exceptions to be permitted in accordance with the *AQF Qualifications Type Addition and Removal Policy*.

2 Permission to use an alternative title for Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications

2.1 Permission to use an alternative title may be granted by the AQF delegate.

2.2 Permission will be for a profession or discipline to be added to the list of already permitted professions/disciplines that may use the title 'Doctor of' for Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications.

2.3 A clear industry, professional or community need, a sound educational rationale, and support from the relevant industry, professional, provider and government stakeholders is required.

2.4 The *AQF Qualification Type Addition and Removal Policy* requires the following criteria to be met:

- The qualification meets the AQF specifications for the level 9 Masters Degree (Extended)
- The use of the title is justified against demonstrated and reputable practice for the profession in Australia and/or nationally and is in the best interest of graduates
- There is a defined industry, professional or community need, and
- There is a sound educational reason for the addition.

2.5 A decision by the AQF delegate to permit the use of an alternative title will have national effect. The AQF delegate's consideration will take into account the potential impact nationally for education, students and the workplace.

Once permission is granted, the use of the alternative title will be available to any organisation authorised to accredit Masters Degrees (Extended) in Australia.

¹ *AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy* in *Australian Qualifications Framework Second Edition January 2013*, pages 68-74

3 Applications for permission to use an alternative title for 9 Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications²

3.1 The AQF will consider applications that provide robust evidence against each of the requirements set out in Section 5 'Evidentiary requirements for permission to use an alternative title for AQF level 9 Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications' and evidence that national consultation with the identified stakeholders has occurred.

3.2 A pre-condition of any application is that the qualification for which the alternative title will apply meets the AQF specifications for the Masters Degree (Extended).

Evidence for this pre-condition must come from either the academic board/senate of a self-accrediting university or higher education provider responsible for accrediting the qualification or the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency for non-self-accrediting higher education providers.

3.3 Applications in writing should be submitted to the AQF delegate at the address below or aqfc@aqf.edu.au.

4 Further information about the use of alternative qualification titles

For further information, contact the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Address:

Assistant Secretary

Governance, Quality and Access Branch

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment

LC: C50MA7

GPO Box 9880

Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: (08) 8306 8777

Email: aqfc@aqf.edu.au

Web: www.aqf.edu.au

² Section 3 must be read in conjunction with the *AQF Qualification Type Addition and Removal Policy* in *Australian Qualifications Framework Second Edition January 2013*, pages 86-89

5 Evidentiary requirements for permission to use an alternative title for AQF level 9 Masters Degree (Extended) qualifications

Policy criteria	Required evidence of need and rationale for using alternative title	Required stakeholder consultation for using alternative title
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of the title is justified against demonstrated and reputable practice for the profession in Australia and/or internationally and it is in the best interests of graduates • There is a defined industry, professional or community need • There is a sound educational reason for the addition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The profession in other countries of significance to Australia requires qualifications at this level to be titled this way for professional registration and /or practice and the international mobility of graduates in this profession will be enhanced by holding a qualification of this type with the alternative title • If Australian higher education practice would lead the use of the title internationally, the international implications have been considered • There will be advantages for graduates in this field in the national and/or international job market if they hold a qualification at this level with this title • Graduates generally will not be disadvantaged and the additional academic requirements and hence cost, will not preclude potential students from gaining a professional qualification in the field • The Australian professional registration body(ies) support the use of the alternative title for this qualification type • Professional and employers' bodies support and can accommodate the extended volume of learning, additional complexity and practice-related learning requirements of the qualifications associated with the use of the alternative title and hence the longer lead time for graduates • The current, emerging and/or forecasted workforce needs in Australia indicate support for use of the title and graduates are likely to be more employable • The higher education sector nationally has provided its views on the alternative titling for this qualification type for the profession • Government funding implications for more complex qualifications at a higher level have been considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies (national and state) responsible for registering professionals and accrediting programs for learning for the qualification • Associations for practitioners in the profession • Associations for employers of the profession • Associations for students, including the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations • Vice Chancellors of all Universities and with Higher Education Providers offering AQF level 9 qualifications • Major employers providing placements for students undertaking qualifications in the field • Workforce development organisations, eg Health Workforce Australia, Skills Australia • Commonwealth and State/Territory governments responsible for higher education policy and funding