

AQF qualification titles

The AQF includes a policy regarding the issuance of qualifications and protection of titles of AQF qualifications. The *AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy* (pages 69-74 *AQF Second edition January 2013*) includes the responsibility for, and conditions under which the qualifications may be issued and the requirements for the form of the qualification to be issued. Titles of AQF qualifications may only be used by institutions who are registered to issue those qualifications.

Titles of AQF qualifications are the representation of the qualification type, level and field of study/discipline of the qualification and provide the basis for national and international recognition. AQF qualifications will have titles that unambiguously identify the qualification type, level and field of study/discipline as follows¹:

AQF level	Qualification Type	Qualification Title
	Senior Secondary Certificate of Education	Titles will vary across jurisdictions; the use of the titles will be accompanied by the statement: '(Certificate Title) is a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education within the Australian Qualifications Framework.'
1	Certificate I	Certificate I (Field of study/discipline)
2	Certificate II	Certificate II (Field of study/discipline)
3	Certificate III	Certificate III (Field of study/discipline)
4	Certificate IV	Certificate IV (Field of study/discipline)
5	Diploma	Diploma (Field of study/discipline)
6	Advanced Diploma	Advanced Diploma (Field of study/discipline)
6	Associate Degree	Associate Degree (Field of study/discipline)
7	Bachelor Degree	Bachelor (Field of study/discipline)
8	Bachelor Honours Degree	Bachelor (Field of study/discipline) (Honours)
8	Graduate Certificate	Graduate Certificate (Field of study/discipline)
8	Graduate Diploma	Graduate Diploma (Field of study/discipline)
9	Masters Degree (Research)	Master (Field of study/discipline)
9	Masters Degree (Coursework)	Master (Field of study/discipline)
9	Masters Degree (Extended)	Master (Field of study/discipline) For exceptions that may be used, see below*
10	Doctoral Degree	Doctor (Field of study/discipline)
10	Higher Doctoral Degree	Doctor (Field of study/discipline)

¹ Extract from AQF Second Edition January 2013 pages 72-73

Accrediting authorities may make decisions about which of the words 'in' or 'of' are used in the title.

Whilst it is common to list the qualification title before the field of study/discipline, the reverse order may be used. The field of study/discipline may be expressed broadly or explicitly and may also include sub-categories.

The order and form of the title used for more than one qualification of the same or a different type offered simultaneously will unambiguously represent what the graduate has achieved.

In higher education sector qualifications titles may indicate if the qualification has been achieved through research or coursework.

Exceptions to the use of AQF qualification titles:

- i The use of the title 'Juris Doctor' is permitted for a Masters Degree (Extended) for legal practice.
- ii. The use of the title 'Doctor of ...' is permitted for a Masters Degree (Extended) for five professions: medical practice; physiotherapy; dentistry; optometry and veterinary practice.
- iii Further exceptions may be permitted in accordance with the *AQF Qualification Type Addition and Removal Policy*.

For exceptions:

- The qualification title and a statement that the qualification is an 'AQF level 9 Masters Degree' will appear on relevant certification documents, on any national, state/territory or institutional registers of qualifications, and in institutional information and promotional materials.
- The qualification may not be referred to as a Doctoral Degree in any written, oral or electronic information.

Institutions wishing to make a submission to the AQF Council regarding the addition of professions to these exceptions must follow the policy and requirements set out in the *Requirements for permission to use alternative title for Masters Degree (Extended)*. (See the AQF policy section of the website)

Abbreviating AQF qualification titles.

Qualification titles may be abbreviated for use in postnominals, for example:

CertIIBus - Certificate II in Business

CertIVHosp - Certificate IV in Hospitality

AdvDipBldDes - Advanced Diploma of Building Design

AssocDEng - Associate Degree of Engineering

GradCertIT - Graduate Certificate in Information Technology

Use of titles by graduates

Postnominals use the abbreviation for the qualification type and field of study/discipline of the qualification. They are usually placed immediately following the graduate's title and name.

Individuals who have been awarded a Doctoral Degree at Level 10 on the AQF are entitled to use the title 'Doctor'. The title 'Doctor' will not be used by those who hold an honorary award. An honorary award is not an AQF qualification. It is usually awarded by an issuing organisation to recognise a person's public service or service to the organisation, or in recognition of distinguished contribution by the person in a field of academic endeavour.

As such any certification documentation issued to an honorary award recipient will specify that the award is honorary.

Authority to issue qualifications

Schools sector

Each state or territory has legislative responsibility for authorising the issuance of the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (SSCE). Local titles are used at state or territory level such as the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) in Victoria, the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in New South Wales.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments have legislative responsibility for authorising the issuance of the qualification. The [VET Standards](#) provides the nationally agreed standards for the registration of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and provides the authority for RTOs to issue qualifications.

Higher Education sector

Australian universities are empowered by legislation to issue qualifications. Commonwealth, state and territory governments have established legislation for the issuance of qualifications by other recognised higher education providers. [The Higher Education Standards Framework](#) provides nationally agreed standards for the registration of higher education providers and provides the authority for higher education providers to issue qualifications