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 rule. 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 Council.

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 An AQF Council decision to permit the use of an alternative title will have national effect. The AQF Council’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.

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

3.1 The AQF Council 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 Executive Director, AQF Council at GPO Box 9839, Adelaide, SA, 5001 or aqfc@aqf.edu.au.

4 Further information about the use of alternative qualification titles

For further information, contact the Australian Qualifications Framework Council.

Address: GPO Box 9839, Adelaide, SA, 5001
Telephone: 08 8406 4735
Email: aqfc@aqf.edu.au
Web: www.aqf.edu.au

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy criteria</th>
<th>Required evidence of need and rationale for using alternative title</th>
<th>Required stakeholder consultation for using alternative title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 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</td>
<td>• 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</td>
<td>• Agencies (national and state) responsible for registering professionals and accrediting programs for learning for the qualification</td>
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<td>• There is a defined industry, professional or community need</td>
<td>• If Australian higher education practice would lead the use of the title internationally, the international implications have been considered</td>
<td>• Associations for practitioners in the profession</td>
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<td>• There is a sound educational reason for the addition</td>
<td>• 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</td>
<td>• Associations for employers of the profession</td>
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<td>• 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</td>
<td>• Associations for students, including the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The Australian professional registration body(ies) support the use of the alternative title for this qualification type</td>
<td>• Vice Chancellors of all Universities and with Higher Education Providers offering AQF level 9 qualifications</td>
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<td>• 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</td>
<td>• Major employers providing placements for students undertaking qualifications in the field</td>
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<td>• 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</td>
<td>• Workforce development organisations, eg Health Workforce Australia, Skills Australia</td>
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<td>• The higher education sector nationally has provided its views on the alternative titling for this qualification type for the profession</td>
<td>• Commonwealth and State/Territory governments responsible for higher education policy and funding</td>
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<td>• Government funding implications for more complex qualifications at a higher level have been considered</td>
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