

# AQF 9

## The future of conversion masters degrees

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## AQF 9

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- “The purpose of the Masters Degree (Research) is to qualify individuals *who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for research and scholarship* and as a pathway for further learning.”
- The purpose of the Masters Degree (Coursework) is to qualify individuals *who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for professional practice or scholarship* and as a pathway for further learning.”
- The purpose of the Masters Degree (Extended) is to qualify individuals *who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for professional practice* and as a pathway for further learning.”

## Key terms

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- **specialised** knowledge and *skills for research and/or professional practice* and/or further learning
- Application of Knowledge & Skills:
  - *Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, **expert judgement**, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner or learner*

# Key Components

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## Knowledge

- Graduates at this level will have ***advanced and integrated understanding of a complex body of knowledge*** in one or more disciplines or areas of practice

## Skills

- Graduates at this level will have expert, specialised cognitive and technical skills in a body of knowledge or practice to independently:
  - critically analyse, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories
  - research and apply established theories to a body of knowledge or practice
  - interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to specialist and nonspecialist audiences

# Key outcomes

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Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:

- with ***creativity*** and ***initiative*** to ***new*** situations in professional practice and/or for further learning
- with high level personal autonomy and accountability
- **to plan and execute a substantial research-based**
  - project,
  - capstone experience or
  - piece of scholarship

# Key Questions

- If it takes 3 years to have a broad & coherent understanding at some depth in CS, IS,IT:
- **Is it possible to have a conversion coursework masters degree, developing expertise and specialist knowledge** in
  - Computer Science?
  - Information Systems?
  - Information Technology?

Consider:

- If a business graduate wishes to then do a law qualification, they do a B.Laws with advanced standing (& no electives)
- If a business graduate wishes to then do an IT qualification, they do a B.Inf.Tech with advanced standing (& no electives)

OR: if we do offer a Masters:

- Must such a AQF 9 qualification be focused in areas of specialisation in which expertise can be developed within 4 semesters?
  - Information Security
  - Business Process Management
  - .....(insert your specialisation here)