

NLQF levels

Entry level

Context	A familiar, stable living and working environment
Knowledge	Possesses basic knowledge of simple facts and ideas related to the living environment
Skills:	
Application of knowledge	Reproduces knowledge and applies it
	Executes simple identifiable (professional) tasks automatically
Problem-solving skills	Recognises simple problems in everyday life
	Solves problems
Learning and development skills	Develops under the guidance of someone else
Information skills	Obtains and processes information about simple facts and ideas associated with the living environment
Communication skills	Communicates with peers on the basis of conventions that apply to that context
Responsibility and autonomy	Works together with peers
	With guidance, has a limited level of responsibility for results of simple routine tasks and study.

Level 1

NLQF

Context	A discernible living and working environment
Knowledge	Possesses basic knowledge of simple facts and ideas related to a profession and knowledge domain
Skills:	

Knowledge application	Reproduces and applies knowledge
	Executes simple discernible (professional) tasks based on automatic processes.
Problem-solving skills	Recognises simple problems in professional practice and in the knowledge domain
	Solves these problems
Learning and development skills	Develops under guidance of someone else
Information skills	Obtains and processes information about simple facts and ideas associated with a profession and knowledge domain
Communication skills	Communicates with peers, superiors and clients based on conventions that apply to the context and professional practice
Responsibility and autonomy	Works together with peers, supervisors and clients
	With guidance, carries responsibility for results of simple routine tasks and study

EQF

Knowledge	General basic knowledge
Skills	Required basic skills to execute simple tasks
Responsibility and autonomy	Working or studying under direct supervision in a structured context

Level 2

NLQF

Context	A discernible living and working environment
Knowledge	Possesses basic knowledge of facts, ideas, processes, materials, resources and concepts of and associated with, a profession and knowledge domain
Skills:	
Knowledge application	Reproduces and applies knowledge

	Executes simple (professional) tasks using selected standard procedures
Problem-solving skills	Recognises simple problems in professional practice and in the knowledge domain
Learning and development skills	Asks for support in further development after reflection and assessment of own (learning) results
Information skills	Obtains and processes basic information about facts, ideas, processes, materials, resources and concepts of and associated with a profession and knowledge domain
Communication skills	Communicates with peers, superiors and clients based on conventions that apply to the context and professional practice.
Responsibility and autonomy	Works together with peers, superiors and clients
	Carries responsibility for results of simple tasks and study

EQF

Knowledge	Basic knowledge of facts of a professional or educational domain
Skills	Required cognitive and practical basic skills for using relevant information to execute tasks and solve routine problems using simple rules and resources
Responsibility and autonomy	Working or studying under supervision with some independence

Level 3

NLQF

Context	A discernible, varied living and working environment
Knowledge	Possesses knowledge of materials, resources, facts, core concepts, simple theories, ideas,

	methods and processes of and associated with, a profession and knowledge domain
Skills:	
Knowledge application	Reproduces and applies knowledge
	Identifies limitations of existing knowledge in professional practice and in the knowledge domain and takes action
	Executes (professional) tasks that require tactical and strategic insight based on own preference and a combination of standard procedures and methods
Problem solving skills	Identifies complex problems in professional practice and the knowledge domain
	Solves them systematically by identifying and using data
Learning and development skills	Asks for support in further development after reflection and assessment of own (learning) results
Information skills	Obtains, processes and combines information about materials, resources, facts, core concepts, simple theories, ideas, methods and processes of and associated with a profession and knowledge domain
Communication skills	Communicates with peers, superiors and clients based on conventions that apply to the context and professional practice
Responsibility and autonomy	Works together with peers, superiors and clients
	Carries responsibility for results of a defined set of tasks and study

EQF

Knowledge	Knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts of a professional or educational domain
Skills	A range of required cognitive and practical skills to execute tasks and solve problems by choice and application of basic methods, resources, materials and information

Responsibility and autonomy	Takes responsibility by completing tasks in the professional or study domain. In solving problems, adapts own behaviour to circumstances
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Level 4

NLQF

Context	A discernible, varied living and working environment, also international
Knowledge	Possesses broad and specialist knowledge of materials, resources, facts, abstract concepts, theories, ideas, methods and processes of and associated with a profession and knowledge domain
Skills:	
Knowledge application	Reproduces, analyses and applies knowledge
	Evaluates and integrates data and develops strategies for the execution of various (professional) tasks
	Identifies limitations of existing knowledge in professional practice and in the knowledge domain and takes action
	Analyses fairly complex (professional) tasks and executes them
Problem-solving skills	Recognises and analyses fairly complex problems in professional practice and the knowledge domain
	Solves them systematically and creatively by identifying and using data
	Learning and development skills
	Develops by reflection and assessment of own (learning) results
Information skills	Obtains, processes and combines broad and specialist information about materials, resources, facts, abstract concepts, theories, ideas, methods and processes of and related to a profession and knowledge domain

Communication skills	Communicates with peers, superiors and clients based on conventions that apply to the context and professional practice
Responsibility and autonomy	Works together with peers, superiors and clients
	Carries responsibility for results of own activities, work and study
	Carries partial responsibility for the results of the work of others

EQF

Knowledge	Factual knowledge and theoretical knowledge in broad contexts of a professional or educational domain
Skills	A broad range of required cognitive and practical skills to solve specific problems in a professional or educational domain
Responsibility and autonomy	Self-management within the guidelines of professional or educational contexts that are usually predictable but may be subject to change
	Supervise routine tasks of others and take a certain degree of responsibility for the evaluation and improvement of professional or educational activities

Level 5

NLQF

Context	An unfamiliar, varied living and working environment, also international
Knowledge	Possesses extensive, in-depth or specialist knowledge of a profession and knowledge domain
	Possesses detailed knowledge of some professional and knowledge domains and an understanding of a limited range of basic theories, principles and concepts

	Possesses limited knowledge and understanding of some important current topics and specialisms associated with the profession and knowledge domain
Skills:	
Knowledge application	Reproduces and analyses knowledge and applies it, also in other contexts, to provide an answer to problems related to a profession and knowledge domain
	Uses procedures in a flexible and inventive way
	Identifies limitations of existing knowledge in the professional practice and in the knowledge domain and takes action
	Analyses complex (professional) tasks and executes them
Problem-solving skills	Recognises and analyses complex problems in professional practice and in the knowledge domain and solves them creatively by identifying and using data
Learning and development skills	Develops through reflection and assessment of own (learning) results
Information skills	Obtains, processes, combines and analyses broad, in-depth and detailed information about a limited range of basic theories, principles and concepts of and associated with, a profession and knowledge domain, as well as limited information about some important current topics and specialisms associated with the professional and knowledge domain, and conveys this information
Communication skills	Focused communication with peers, superiors and clients based on conventions that apply in the context and professional practice.
Responsibility and autonomy	Works together with peers, superiors and clients
	Carries responsibility for results of own activities, work and study
	Carries partial responsibility for the results of activities and work of others and for managing processes

EQF

Knowledge	Broad, specialist factual and theoretical knowledge within a professional or educational domain and awareness of the limitations of that knowledge
Skills	A broad range of required cognitive and practical skills for elaborating creative solutions to abstract problems
Responsibility and autonomy	Provide management and supervision in contexts of professional or educational activities where unpredictable changes may occur
	Critical view on and improvement of own and others' performance

Level 6

NLQF

Context	An unfamiliar, varied living and working environment, also international
Knowledge	Possesses advanced specialist knowledge and critical insight into theories and principles of a profession, knowledge domain and broad scientific area
Skills:	
Knowledge application	Reproduces and analyses knowledge and applies it, also in other contexts, in such a way that it demonstrates a professional and scientific approach in both professional and knowledge domain
	Applies complex specialist skills to the results of research
	With guidance, successfully completes practical research using methodological knowledge
	Creates and puts depth into argumentations. Critically evaluates and combines knowledge and insights from a specific domain

	Identifies limitations of existing knowledge in professional practice and in the knowledge domain and takes action
	Analyses complex professional and scientific tasks and executes them
Problem-solving skills	Recognises and analyses complex problems in professional practice and in the knowledge domain and solves them in a tactical, strategic and creative way by identifying and using data
Learning and development skills	Develops by self-reflection and self-assessment of own (learning) results
Information skills	Collects and analyses broad, in-depth and detailed professional or scientific information in a responsible, critical way, about a limited range of basic theories, principles and concepts of and associated with a profession or knowledge domain, as well as limited information about some important current topics and specialisms associated with the profession and knowledge domain and conveys this information
Communication skills	Focused communication with peers, specialists, non-specialists, superiors and clients based on conventions that apply in the context and professional practice.
Responsibilities and autonomy	Works together with peers, specialists and non-specialists, superiors and clients
	Carries responsibility for results of own work and study and the result of the work of others
	Carries partial responsibility for management of processes and professional development of persons and groups
	Collects and interprets relevant data to form an opinion that is based on the assessment of relevant social, professional, scientific or ethical elements

EQF

Knowledge	Advanced knowledge of a working or educational domain, implying critical insight into theories and principles
Skills	Advanced skills demonstrating absolute craftsmanship an innovative capacity in solving complex and unpredictable problems in a specialist professional or educational domain
Responsibilities and autonomy	Managing complex technical or professional activities or projects; take responsibility to take decisions in unpredictable professional or educational contexts
	Take responsibility to manage the professional development of persons and groups

Level 7

Context	An unfamiliar, varied living and working environment with a high degree of uncertainty, also international
Knowledge	Possesses exceptionally specialised and advanced knowledge of a profession, knowledge domain and scientific area and on the crossroad between various professions, knowledge domains and scientific areas
	Possesses a critical understanding of a range of theories, principles and concepts, including the primary ones associated with a profession, knowledge domain and scientific area
	Possesses extensive, detailed knowledge and critical understanding of some important current topics and specialisms associated with the profession or knowledge domain and scientific areas
Skills:	

Knowledge application	Reproduces, analyses, integrates and applies knowledge, also in other contexts and handles complex matter
	This knowledge shapes the foundation for original ideas and research
	Uses the knowledge obtained at a higher abstraction level. Thinks conceptually. Creates and deepens argumentation
	Uses methodological knowledge to succeed independently at fundamental research
	Provides an original contribution to the development and application of ideas, often in a research context
	Identifies limitation of existing knowledge in professional practice and in the knowledge domain on the crossroad between various professional practices and knowledge domains and takes action. Analyses complex professional and scientific tasks and executes them
Problem-solving skills	Recognises and analyses complex problems in professional practice and in the knowledge domain and solves them in a tactical, strategic and creative way
	Contributes in the professional practice and in the knowledge domain to the (scientific) solution of complex problems by identifying and using data
Learning and development skills	Develops independently for the most part
Information skills	Collects and analyses broad, in-depth and detailed scientific information about a range of theories, principles and concepts of and associated with, a profession or knowledge domain in a responsible, critical way, as well as information about some important current topics and specialisms associated with the profession and knowledge domain and conveys this information
Communication skills	Focused communication with peers, specialists, non-specialists, superiors and clients based on conventions that apply to the context and professional practice

Responsibility and autonomy	Works together with specialists and non-specialists, peers, superiors and clients
	Carries responsibility for results of own work and study and the result of the work of others
	Carries responsibility for managing complex processes and the professional development of persons and groups
	Formulates assessments based on incomplete or limited information and takes social, scientific and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of the own knowledge and assessment into account

EQF

Knowledge	Very specialist knowledge that is partially highly advanced in a professional or educational area, as a basis for original ideas and/or research
	Critical awareness of knowledge problems in a profession and on the crossroad between various professions
Skills	Specialised skills in problem solving, that are required in the context of research and/or innovation for the development of new knowledge and procedures and integration of knowledge from various fields of expertise
Responsibility and autonomy	Managing and transforming complex and unpredictable professional or educational contexts that require new strategic approaches
	Taking responsibility for contributing to the professional knowledge and working methods and/or to critically evaluate the strategic performance of teams

Level 8

NLQF

Context	An unfamiliar, varied living and working environment with a high degree of uncertainty, also international
Knowledge	Possesses the most advanced knowledge possible in a profession, knowledge domain and scientific area and on the crossroad between various professions, knowledge domains and scientific areas.
	Possesses knowledge obtained by personal research or work, leading to an important contribution to the development of the professional and scientific area
	Possesses critical insight into a professional and scientific area including a critical understanding of the primary and current theories, principles and concepts
Skills:	
Knowledge application	Reproduces, analyses and integrates the knowledge in an authoritative manner and applies this, also in other contexts and handles complex matter. This knowledge forms the basis of original ideas and research
	Uses the knowledge obtained at a higher abstraction level. Thinks conceptually. Creates and deepens argumentation
	Independently completes complex fundamental research based on methodological knowledge successfully
	Helps re-define the limits of knowledge by delivering original research encompassing a substantial body of work, in part deserving of national or international assessed publication

	Identifies limitations of existing knowledge in professional practice and in the knowledge domain on the crossroad between various professional practices and knowledge domains and takes action. Analyses complex professional and scientific tasks and executes them
Problem-solving skills	Recognises and analyses complex problems in professional practice and in the knowledge domain and solves them in a tactical, strategic and creative way
	Contributes in the professional practice and in the knowledge domain to the (scientific) solution of complex problems by identifying and using data
Learning and development skills	Largely develops independently and achieves technical, social or structural progress in society
Information skills	Collects and analyses broad, in-depth and detailed scientific information about a range of theories, principles and concepts of and associated with, a profession or knowledge domain in a responsible, critical manner, as well as information about some important current topics and specialisms associated with the professional and knowledge domain and conveys this information
Communication skills	Focuses communication with peers, specialists, non-specialists, superiors, clients and the broad scientific community and society as a whole based on conventions that apply in the context and professional practice
Responsibilities and autonomy	Works together with peers, specialists, non-specialists, superiors, clients and the broader scientific community and society as a whole
	Carries responsibility for results of own work and study and for the results of the work of others
	Carries responsibility for managing complex processes and the professional development of persons and groups
	Employs scientific integrity to design, develop, execute and apply a complex fundamental research process.

EQF

Knowledge	The most advanced knowledge in a professional or educational area and on the crossroad between various fields of expertise
Skills	The most advanced and specialist skills and techniques, and evaluation skills/techniques required to solve critical problems in research and/or innovation and expanding and re-defining existing knowledge or professional working methods
Responsibility and autonomy	Demonstrate a great deal of authority, innovation, autonomy, scientific and professional integrity and continuous involvement in the development of ground-breaking ideas or processes for professional or educational contexts, including research