Qualifications Framework for Danish Higher Education

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Qualification levels

The four levels of higher education in Denmark are described below.

Academy Profession level	
	Persons obtaining degrees at this level
Knowledge and understanding	• Must possess knowledge of the practice and central applied theories and methodologies of the profession and the subject area. • Must be able to understand the practice and central applied theories and methodologies as well as the profession's application of theories and methodologies.
Skills	• Must be able to apply the central methodologies and tools of the subject area as well as be able to apply the skills related to work in the profession. • Must be able to evaluate practice-oriented issues as well as list and choose possible solutions. • Must be able to communicate practice-oriented issues and possible solutions to collaboration partners and users.
Competences	• Must be able to handle development-oriented situations. • Must be able to participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration with a professional approach. • Must be able to acquire new knowledge, skills and competences related to the profession in a structured context.
Bachelor's level	
	Persons obtaining degrees at this level
Knowledge and understanding	• Must possess knowledge of the theories, methodologies and practice of a profession or one or more subject areas. • Must be able to understand and reflect on theories, methodologies and practice.
Skills	• Must be able to apply the methodologies and tools of one or more subject areas as well as apply skills related to work within the subject area(s) or in the profession. • Must be able to evaluate theoretical and practical issues as well as explain the reasons for and choose relevant solution models. • Must be able to communicate academic issues and solution models to peers and non-specialists or collaboration partners and users.
Competences	• Must be able to handle complex and development-oriented situations in study or work contexts. • Must be able to independently participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration with a professional approach. • Must be able to identify their own learning needs and organise their own

	learning in different learning environments.
Master's level	
	Persons obtaining degrees at this level
Knowledge and understanding	• Must possess knowledge of one or more subject areas which, in selected fields, is based on the highest international research within a subject area. • Must be able to understand and, on a scientific basis, reflect on the knowledge of the subject area(s) as well as be able to identify scientific issues.
Skills	• Must master the scientific methodologies and tools of the subject area(s) as well as master general skills related to work within the subject area(s). • Must be able to evaluate and select among the scientific theories, methodologies, tools and general skills of the subject area(s), and set up, on a scientific basis, new analysis and solution models. • Must be able to communicate research-based knowledge and discuss professional and scientific issues with both peers and non-specialists.
Competences	• Must be able to manage work situations and developments that are complex, unpredictable and require new solution models. • Must be able to independently initiate and carry out discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume professional responsibility. • Must be able to independently take responsibility for their own professional development and specialisation.
PhD level	
	Persons obtaining degrees at this level
Knowledge and understanding	• Must possess knowledge at the highest international level within the research field. • Must have made a significant contribution to the development of new knowledge and understanding within the research field based on scientific studies.
Skills	• Must master the scientific methodologies and tools as well as master other skills related to research and development tasks within the field. • Must be able to analyse, evaluate and develop new ideas, including design and develop new techniques and skills within the subject area. • Must be able to participate in international discussions within the subject area and disseminate scientific findings and progress to a wide audience.
Competences	• Must be able to plan and carry out research and development tasks in complex and unpredictable contexts. • Must be able to independently initiate and participate in national and international collaboration on research and development with scientific integrity. • Must be able to independently initiate research and development projects and, through these, generate new knowledge and new skills which develop the research field.

Descriptions of ordinary higher education degrees in Denmark (degree type descriptors)

	Academy Profession Degree (Erhvervsakademigrad)	**Professional Bachelor's Degree (Professionsbachelorgrad)**	**Bachelor's Degree (Bachelorgrad)**	**Master's Degree (Kandidatgrad)**	**PhD Degree (Ph.d.-grad)**
Knowledge and understanding					
Knowledge field	Must possess development-based knowledge of the practice and central applied theories and methodologies of the profession and the subject area.	Must possess development-based knowledge of the practice and applied theories and methodologies of the profession and the subject area.	Must possess research-based knowledge of theory, methodology and practice within one or more subject areas.	Must possess knowledge of one or more subject areas which, in selected fields, is based on the highest international research within a subject area.	Must possess knowledge at the highest international level within the research field.
Understanding and reflection level	Must be able to understand the practice and central applied theories and methodologies as well as the profession's application of theories and methodologies.	Must be able to understand the practice, applied theories and methodologies as well as reflect on the practice and application of theories and methodologies of the profession.	Must be able to understand and reflect on theories, scientific methodologies and practice.	Must be able to understand and, on a scientific basis, reflect on the knowledge of the subject area(s) as well as be able to identify scientific issues.	Must have made a significant contribution to the development of new knowledge and understanding within the research field based on scientific studies.
Skills					
Type of skills	Must be able to apply the central methodologies and tools of the subject area as well as be able to apply the skills related to work in the profession.	Must be able to apply the methodologies and tools of the subject area as well as master the skills related to work in the profession.	Must be able to apply the scientific methodologies and tools of one or more subject areas as well as apply general skills related to work within the subject area(s).	Must master the scientific methodologies and tools of the subject area(s) as well as master general skills related to work within the subject area(s).	Must master the scientific methodologies and tools as well as master other skills related to research and development tasks within the field.
Evaluation and decision-making	Must be able to evaluate practice-oriented issues as well as list and choose possible solutions.	Must be able to evaluate practice-oriented and theoretical issues as well as explain the reasons for and choose relevant solution models.	Must be able to evaluate theoretical and practical issues as well as explain the reasons for and choose relevant analysis and solution models.	Must be able to evaluate and select among the scientific theories, methodologies, tools and general skills of the subject area(s), and set up, on a scientific basis, new analysis and solution models.	Must be able to analyse, evaluate and develop new ideas, including design and develop new techniques and skills within the subject area.

Communication	Must be able to communicate practice-oriented issues and possible solutions to collaboration partners and users.	Must be able to communicate practice-oriented and academic issues and solutions to collaboration partners and users.	Must be able to communicate academic issues and solution models to both peers and non-specialists.	Must be able to communicate research-based knowledge and discuss professional and scientific issues with both peers and non-specialists.	Must be able to participate in international discussions within the subject area and disseminate scientific findings and progress to a wide audience.
Competences					
Action space	Must be able to handle development-oriented situations.	Must be able to handle complex and development-oriented situations in work or study contexts.	Must be able to handle complex and development-oriented situations in study or work contexts.	Must be able to manage work situations and developments that are complex, unpredictable and require new solution models.	Must be able to plan and carry out research and development tasks in complex and unpredictable contexts.
Collaboration and responsibility	Must be able to participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration with a professional approach.	Must be able to independently participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume responsibility within the framework of professional ethics.	Must be able to independently participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration with a professional approach.	Must be able to independently initiate and carry out discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume professional responsibility.	Must be able to independently start up and participate in national and international collaboration on research and development with scientific integrity.
Learning	Must be able to acquire new knowledge, skills and competences related to the profession within a structured context.	Must be able to identify their own learning needs and develop their own knowledge, skills and competences related to the profession.	Must be able to identify their own learning needs and organise their own learning in different learning environments.	Must be able to independently take responsibility for their own professional development and specialisation.	Must be able to independently initiate research and development projects and, through these, generate new knowledge and new skills which develop the research field.

Formal matters					
ECTS	90-150[1]	180-240[23]	180[4]	120[5]	180
Admission requirements	Completion of upper secondary education or relevant vocational training	Completion of upper secondary education with specific requirements for subjects and level or vocational training supplemented with requirements for completion of specific upper secondary school subjects and levels or Academy profession degree or Diploma degree	Completion of upper secondary education	Qualifying Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree
Further education	Professional Bachelor and Diploma study programmes	Some Master's study programmes (kandidat), possibly via entrance courses, Master and Diploma study programmes	Master's (kandidat*)*, Master and Diploma study programmes	PhD and Master study programmes	-
Main institution type[6]	Academy of Professional Higher Education	University Colleges	Universities	Universities	Universities
Knowledge base	Business and profession-based as well as development-based	Business and profession-based as well as development-based	Research-based	Research-based	Research

[1] The study programme comprises a period of work placement of at least three months.
[2] The study programme comprises a period of work placement of at least six months.
[3] A Professional Bachelor's study programme may also be planned as an independent extension to one or more Academy Profession study programmes with a duration of at least 90 ECTS, including a period of three-month work placement.
[4] Propaedeutics courses may be approved in connection with the Bachelor's study programme corresponding to a maximum of 60 ECTS. In connection with some study programmes, it may be approved that the scope of the study programme exceed 180 ECTS due to a paid work placement.
[5] For Master's study programmes (kandidatuddannelse) organised with a view to teaching at upper secondary school, it may be approved that the study programme be extended with 30 ECTS when the elective course is outside of the scope of the central study programme. Some Master's study programmes are approved to have a scope corresponding to up to 180 ECTS.
[6] Specifies the type of institution which generally offers the type of degree in question. There are exceptions to the main rule, as, e.g., an Academy of Professional Higher Education may be approved to offer Professional Bachelor's study programmes, in the same way as the Diploma study programme in Economics and Business Administration is offered by universities.

Descriptions of the higher education degrees of the further adult education system in Denmark (degree type descriptors)

	Academy Profession Degree (VVU-grad)	**Diploma Degree (Diplomgrad)**	**Master Degree (Mastergrad)**
Knowledge and understanding			
Knowledge field	Must, within a specialised area or in a wider perspective within the subject area, possess development-based knowledge of the practice and central applied theories and methodologies of the profession and the subject area.	Must, within a specialised area or in a wider perspective within the subject area, possess development-based knowledge of the practice, applied theories and methodologies of the profession and the subject area.	Must, within a specialised area or in a wider perspective of a subject or an interdisciplinary area, possess knowledge and understanding which, in selected areas, is based on the highest international research.
Understanding and reflection level	Must be able to understand the practice and central applied theories and methodologies as well as the profession's application of theories and methodologies.	Must be able to understand the practice, applied theories and methodologies as well as to reflect on the practice and application of theories and methodologies of the profession.	Must be able to understand and, on a scientific basis, reflect on the knowledge of the subject area(s) as well as be able to identify scientific issues.
Skills			
Type of skills	Must be able to apply central methodologies and tools as well as be able to apply the skills related to work in the area selected.	Must be able to apply methodologies and tools and master the skills related to work in the area selected.	Must be able to apply the scientific methodologies and tools of the subject area as well as master general skills related to work in the area selected.
Evaluation and decision-making	Must be able to evaluate practice-oriented issues as well as list and choose possible solutions.	Must be able to evaluate practice-oriented and theoretical issues as well as explain the reasons for and choose relevant solution models.	Must be able to evaluate theoretical and practical issues as well as set up, on a scientific basis, new analysis and solution models.
Communication	Must be able to communicate practice-oriented issues and solution proposals to	Must be able to communicate practice-oriented and academic	Must be able to communicate and discuss academic issues and

	collaboration partners and users.	issues and solutions to collaboration partners and users.	solution models with both peers and non-specialists.
Competences			
Action space	Must be able to handle development-oriented situations within the specialisation selected.	Must be able to handle complex and development-oriented situations in work contexts.	Must be able to handle and develop work situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solution models.
Collaboration and responsibility	Must be able to participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration with a professional approach.	Must be able to independently participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume responsibility within the framework of professional ethics.	Must be able to independently initiate and carry out discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration and to assume professional responsibility.
Learning	Must be able to develop their own practice in a structured context.	Must be able to develop their own practice.	Must be able to independently take responsibility for their own professional development.
Formal matters			
ECTS	60	60	60
Admission requirements	Completion of upper secondary education, vocational training or basic training for adults as well as two years' relevant work experience	Academy Profession Degree or completion of special preparatory course as well as two years' relevant work experience	Bachelor's Degree, Professional Bachelor's Degree or Diploma Degree as well as two years' relevant work experience
Further education	Diploma study programmes	Master study programmes	
Main institution type[7]	Academies of Professional Higher Education	University Colleges	Universities
Knowledge base	Business and profession-based as well as development-based	Business and profession-based as well as development-based	Research-based

[7] Specifies the type of institution which generally offers the type of degree in question. There are exceptions to the main rule, as, e.g., an Academy of Professional Higher Education may be approved to offer Professional Bachelor study programmes, in the same way as the Diploma study programmes in Economics and Business Administration is offered by universities.