AQF 9

The future of conversion masters degrees

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AQF 9

• “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

• 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 judgment, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner or learner
Key Components

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

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)