

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 collaborators 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 collaborators 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 higher education degrees in Denmark (degree type descriptors)

This is a translation of Annex 3 to the Accreditation Order ([Ministerial Order no. 311 of 18 February 2026](#)). In the event of any discrepancies, the Danish text shall prevail.

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

Knowledge and understanding

	Academy Profession Degree (erhvervs-akademigrad)	Professional Bachelor's Degree (professionsbachelorgrad)	Bachelor's Degree (bachelorgrad)	Professional Master's Degree (professions-mastergrad)	Master's Degree (kandidatgrad)	PhD Degree (ph.d.-grad)
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 that is research-, development-, and practice-based of one or more subject areas, and which, in selected areas, is internationally state-of-the-art.	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 practice-related challenges and issues in need of development.	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

	Academy Profession Degree (erhvervsakademigrad)	Professional Bachelor's Degree (professionsbachelorgrad)	Bachelor's Degree (bachelorgrad)	Professional Master's Degree (professionsmastergrad)	Master's Degree (kandidatgrad)	PhD Degree (ph.d.-grad)
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 and practice-related methodologies and tools of the subject area(s) as well as contribute to further development of skills related to work within the profession.	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 practice-related approaches, methodologies, tools and scientific theories, in order to contribute to further professional development and solution models applied in the profession.	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 collaborators and users.	Must be able to communicate practice-oriented and academic issues and solutions to collaborators and users.	Must be able to communicate academic issues and solution models to both peers and non-specialists.	Must be able to communicate practice-based, development-oriented and research-based knowledge and discuss practice-oriented and professional issues and solutions with both peers, professional partners and citizens.	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

	Academy Profession Degree (erhvervs-akademigrad)	Professional Bachelor's Degree (professionsbachelorgrad)	Bachelor's Degree (bachelorgrad)	Professional Master's Degree (professions-mastergrad)	Master's Degree (kandidatgrad)	PhD Degree (ph.d.-grad)
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 practice-related solution models.	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 within a framework of professional ethics.	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 specialization in relation to professional practice.	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.

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

Knowledge and understanding

	Academy Profession Degree (VU-grad)	Diploma Degree (diplomgrad)	Master Degree (mastergrad)
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

	Academy Profession Degree (VU-grad)	Diploma Degree (diplomgrad)	Master Degree (mastergrad)
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 collaborators and users.	Must be able to communicate practice-oriented and academic issues and solutions to collaborators and users.	Must be able to communicate and discuss academic issues and solution models with both peers and non-specialists.

Competences

	Academy Profession Degree (VVU-grad)	Diploma Degree (diplomgrad)	Master Degree (mastergrad)
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.

Descriptions of Bachelor's, Master's and Master Degrees awarded by higher education institutions in the arts within the Qualifications Framework for Danish Higher Education (degree type descriptors)

Knowledge and understanding

	Professional Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Master of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master Degree from higher education institutions in the arts
Knowledge field	Must possess artistic and development-based knowledge of the practice of the profession and the subject area as well as applied theory and methodology.	Must possess artistically based knowledge of practice and methodologies as well as research-based knowledge of theory within relevant parts of the subject area.	Must possess knowledge within the subject area which, in selected fields, is based on internationally recognised artistic practice, artistic development activities and leading research within relevant subject areas.	Must, within a specialised area or in a wider perspective within a subject area, possess knowledge and understanding which, in selected fields, is based on internationally recognised artistic practice, artistic development activities and leading research within relevant subject areas.

	Professional Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Master of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master Degree from higher education institutions in the arts
Understanding and reflection level	Must be able to understand and reflect on artistic practice and methodologies as well as reflect on the practice of the profession and its application of theory and methodology.	Must be able to understand and reflect on artistic practice and methodologies as well as relevant scientific theory.	Must be able to understand and reflect on the knowledge of the subject area as well as identify artistic challenges and scientific issues.	Must be able to understand and reflect on the knowledge of the subject area as well as identify artistic challenges and relevant scientific issues.

Skills

	Professional Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Master of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master Degree from higher education institutions in the arts
Type of skills	Must be able to apply the artistic and craft-based methodologies, tools and forms of expression of the subject area as well as master the skills related to work within the profession.	Must be able to apply artistic and relevant scientific methodologies, tools and forms of expression as well as general skills related to work within the subject area.	Must master the artistic methodologies, tools and forms of expression of the subject area and be able to apply relevant scientific methodologies and tools as well as master general skills related to work within the subject area.	Must be able to apply the methodologies, tools and forms of expression of the subject area as well as master general skills related to work within the area selected.
Evaluation and decision-making	Must be able to evaluate artistic, practice-oriented and theoretical challenges and issues as well as explain the reasons for and choose relevant forms of expression and solution models.	Must be able to evaluate artistic challenges and practical and theoretical issues as well as explain the reasons for and choose relevant forms of expression and solution models.	Must be able to evaluate and select among the artistic methodologies and tools and scientific theories of the subject area, and to propose new forms of expression and solution models on an artistic or scientific basis.	Must be able to evaluate theoretical and practical issues, and to propose new forms of expression and solution models on an artistic or scientific basis.

	Professional Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Master of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master Degree from higher education institutions in the arts
Communication	Must be able to communicate artistic expressions as well as practice-oriented academic issues and solutions to collaborators and users.	Must be able to communicate artistic expressions and academic issues to both peers and non-specialists.	Must be able to undertake artistic communication activities and discuss professional and relevant scientific issues with both peers and non-specialists.	Must be able to communicate and discuss academic issues and solution models with both peers and non-specialists.

Competences

	Professional Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Bachelor's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Bachelor of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master's Degree from higher education institutions in the arts (Master of Arts/Fine Arts)	Master Degree from higher education institutions in the arts
Action space	Must be able to handle complex and development-oriented situations in study or work 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 or forms of expression.	Must be able to manage and develop work situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solution models or forms of expression.
Collaboration and responsibility	Must be able to independently participate in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration with a professional approach.	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 initiate and carry out discipline-specific and interdisciplinary collaboration and assume professional responsibility.
Learning	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 take responsibility for their own professional development.