



**LEVEL 10**

**CREDITS:**  
360

**PURPOSE:** To provide training for an academic career involving research at the most advanced level

**KEY OUTPUT:** To demonstrate the ability to make an original academic contribution at the frontiers of a discipline or field.  
*This is usually in the form of a doctoral thesis, but can also take the form of a series of peer-reviewed academic articles and papers, and in some fields, creative works and artefacts.*

CREDITS: 360 = NOTIONAL HOURS: 3 600 learning hours required = 1 200 learning hours per year x 3 years → 247 working days a year x 3 years → 5 hours per day, minimum

### LEVEL DESCRIPTOR: LEVEL 10

The level descriptor aims to outline the applied competences expected at each level of study. Each level is a development of the previous level, and outlines a more advanced level of work and engagement. At level 10, PhD candidates are required to demonstrate:

#### SCOPE OF KNOWLEDGE

Expertise and critical knowledge in an area at the forefront of a field, discipline or practice; and the ability to conceptualise new research initiatives and create new knowledge or practice

#### ACCESSING / MANAGING / PROCESSING INFORMATION

The ability to make independent judgements about managing incomplete or inconsistent information or data in an iterative process of analysis and synthesis, for the development of significant original insights into new, complex and abstract ideas, information or issues.

#### KNOWLEDGE LITERACY

The ability to contribute to scholarly debates around theories of knowledge and to processes of knowledge production in an area of study or practice.

#### PRODUCING & COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

The ability to produce substantial, independent, in-depth and publishable work which is innovative, meets international standards and makes a significant contribution, and; to develop a communication strategy to disseminate and defend research in front of a range of audiences.

#### METHOD & PROCEDURE

The ability to develop new methods, techniques, processes, systems or technologies in original, creative and innovative ways appropriate to specialised and complex contexts.

#### CONTEXT & SYSTEMS

An understanding of theoretical underpinnings in the management of complex systems to achieve systemic change, and; to independently design, sustain and manage change within a system of systems.

#### PROBLEM SOLVING

The ability to apply specialist knowledge and theory in critically reflexive, creative and novel ways to address complex practical and theoretical problems.

#### MANAGEMENT OF LEARNING

The ability to demonstrate intellectual independence, research leadership and management of research and research development in a discipline, field or practice.

#### ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The ability to identify, address and manage emerging ethical issues, and to advance processes of ethical decision-making, including monitoring and evaluation of the consequences of these decisions where appropriate.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

The ability to operate independently and take full responsibility for his or her work, and, where appropriate, lead, oversee and be held ultimately accountable for the overall governance of processes and systems.

# WHAT'S INVOLVED IN A PHD?

A Quick Map to the Level of Work Required of You