Graduate attributes glossary

To provide clarity and consistency over what the definition for each graduate attribute is.

Core skills

Digital literacy



Digital IT skills such as word processing, spreadsheets and file management are key in most work environments.

Numeracy & Data analysis



Being able to manage a range of numeracy and data analytical skills and the budget are not only key requirements for many employers, but they are also valuable life skills.

Literacy



Proficient in the use of English - written and spoken.

Sustainability



Graduates with this attribute are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

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Conceptualising skills

Complex problem solving



Complex problem solving involves analysing facts and situations and producing appropriate solutions. A complex problem is one that is not clearly defined and may have different solutions or is made within a context that is subject to change during the decision-making process.

Critical thinking



Critical thinking is the ability to conceptualise, apply, analyse, synthesise, and evaluate information.

Planning & organisation



Being able to think ahead and understand what steps are required to achieve a specific goal with limited resources and within a given timeframe.

Creative & innovative thinking



Considering new ways of doing things and using all of the information available to you to generate good ideas.

Reflective skills



Critical reflection is seen as a metacognitive process and enables you to dissect, de-construct, analyse and gain a deeper understanding of situations you have experienced. It is a key tool for learning and self-development.

People related skills

Teamworking



The ability to work with a variety of people to achieve a common goal.

Communication



This is the art of being able to communicate clearly with a wide range of people, from diverse backgrounds, different age groups and in a variety of ways.

Influencing & negotiating



The ability to change the attitudes, opinions or behaviour of others in order to achieve a particular goal. This can include negotiation, influence (which may be direct or indirect, such as by example).

Networking



Exchanging information and ideas with people with a common profession or special interest and often in a semi-social situation.

Leadership



Leading other people to achieve a particular aim.

Personal attributes

Resilience



The capacity to recover after difficulties.

Adaptability & flexibility



Adaptability includes changing the approach to address a new situation, or new demands. It can also be varying your behaviour based on the situation to best suit those around you. Flexibility is having a willingness to compromise in a particular set of circumstances.

Self-motivation



The attitude that results in action without needing to be told what to do, even when there are setbacks.

Self-belief



Having confidence in your own abilities or judgement.

Professionalism



Acting in a professional manner.

Empathy



The ability to sense other people's emotions, coupled with the ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling.

Inclusivity



Acting in a way that takes in to account the needs of others.