



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

## Component Specification NFQ Level 6

### Design Skills 6N3446

#### 1. Component Details

<b>Title</b>	Design Skills
<b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b>	Scileanna Deartha
<b>Award Type</b>	Minor
<b>Code</b>	6N3446
<b>Level</b>	6
<b>Credit Value</b>	15
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this award is to enable the learner to acquire the knowledge, skill and competence to devise design solutions with due regard for problem parameters, technology and materials.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	Learners will be able to:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Describe the unique purposes of design with regard to specific design traditions and milestones, in the context of a vocational specialism</li><li>2 Explain the principles of design to include; form, function, context-site, ergonomics</li><li>3 Examine key elements of the client designer relationship to include; problem solving, parameters, materials and technologies, manufacturing and or assembly constraints and presentation skills required for the vocational specialism</li><li>4 Locate own and others design process and approach within the appropriate theoretical context, using correct terminology</li></ol>

- 5 Analyse the design problem within an abstract brief, including aspects which are for interpretation or development
- 6 Use relevant design and problem solving methodologies creatively and rigorously to include; primary and secondary research, documentation of cultural context and client or user concerns
- 7 Evaluate materials, processes and implementation parameters required by the brief, budget, context and emerging design solutions
- 8 Provide a range of solutions resolving form, structure and finish, using drawings, models and prototypes as appropriate, for presentation
- 9 Implement appropriate design and project management techniques, meeting design brief objectives and timelines
- 10 Provide design solutions consistent with specific design traditions and practices relevant to the vocational specialism
- 11 Produce a coherent conclusive body of design work for well defined problems, to presentation standard
- 12 Recommend optimum solutions for well defined design briefs
- 13 Demonstrate capacity to interpret, extend and develop briefs and solutions, drawing references and inspiration from a broad base of primary and secondary research, experimentation, intuition and craft and or manufacturing requirements and skills
- 14 Negotiate design solutions as part of a design team and or with a client
- 15 Present work effectively, visually, in written submissions and orally, with appropriate documentation of design solutions and research
- 16 Exercise responsible workshop practice including with regard to planning, administration, health and safety and environmental concerns
- 17 Demonstrate critical awareness of own and others design skills in the context of contemporary practice and traditions within the vocational specialism.

## General Information

All assessment should be planned in accordance with the programme assessment strategy developed as part of the programme submission for validation. See **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes**. Assessment should be undertaken consistently and reflect current assessment guidelines. See [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

All FET assessment is criterion referenced. Successful achievement of the award is based on learners attaining the required standards of knowledge, skill or competence consistent with the **minimum intended programme learning outcomes**.

The techniques set out below are considered the optimum approach to assessment for this component. In exceptional circumstances providers may identify alternative assessment techniques through the provider's application for programme validation which are reliable and valid but which are more appropriate to their context.

Assessment of a number of components may be integrated across programmes for delivery, provided that the learning outcomes of each minor award are assessed.

Group or team work may form part of the assessment, provided each learner's achievement is separately assessed.

All providers are required to submit an assessment plan as part of their application for programme validation. Assessment Plans will include information relating to scheduling and integration of assessment. See current FET validation guidelines at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

## Assessment Techniques

In order to demonstrate that they have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence identified in all the learning outcomes, learners are required to complete the assessment(s) below.

The assessor is responsible for devising assessment instruments (e.g. project and assignment briefs, examination papers), assessment criteria and mark sheets, consistent with the techniques identified below and QQI's assessment requirements.

Programme validation will require providers to map each learning outcome to its associated assessment technique. All learning outcomes **must** be assessed and achieved in accordance with the **minimum intended module learning outcomes** set out in the validated programme.

Portfolio / Collection of Work      100%

## Description

### Portfolio / Collection of Work

*A portfolio or collection of work is a collection and/or selection of pieces of work produced by the learner over a period of time that demonstrates achievement of a range of learning outcomes. The collection may be self-generated or may be generated in response to a particular brief or tasks/activities devised by the assessor.*

### Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

To support the development and implementation of RPL with regard to access, granting credit/exemptions and achievement of awards/parts of awards, providers should refer to **QQI's Statutory Guidelines for Quality Assurance**, the **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes** and the **Principles and Operational Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Further and Higher Education and Training** available at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)

### Grading

Pass	50% - 64%
Merit	65% - 79%
Distinction	80% - 100%

### Specific Validation Requirements

There are no specific validation requirements

### Supporting Documentation

None

### Access

To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience.

### Transfer

Successful completion of this component award enables the learner to transfer to programmes leading to other certificates where this component is a mandatory or an elective requirement.

## 2. FET Award Standards

QQI award standards are determined within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), <http://www.nfq-qqi.com>. QQI determines standards for the education and training awards that it makes itself and that are made by providers to whom it has delegated authority to make an award. Providers offering programmes leading to QQI awards **must** have their programme(s) validated in accordance with current validation policy (see [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)).

Award standards are designed to be consistent with the NFQ's award classes i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental and minor awards. They are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve a particular award. Learning outcomes for FET awards are contained within the associated specifications:

AWARD CLASS	STANDARDS	AWARDS
Major Award	Certificate Specification	Certificate (Levels 1 to 5) Advanced Certificate (Level 6)
Supplemental Award	Supplemental Specification	Supplemental Certificate (Level 3 to 6)
Special Purpose	Specific Purpose Specification	Specific Purpose Certificate (Levels 3 to 6)
Minor Award	Component Specification	Component Certificate (Levels 1 to 6)

Award standards are thresholds, they describe standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made.

Award standards will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. Minor changes may be made by the QQI executive outside the review cycle where necessary. Changes to standards are published on QQI's website. Providers with validated programmes and providers with delegated authority to make awards are responsible for monitoring relevant standards and making necessary responses to changes.

### 3. FET Credit

Every FET certificate and component specification includes an FET credit value (Table 1). FET credit is quantified in multiples of 5 FET credits (up to 50 hours of learner effort). Learner effort is based on the time taken by typical learners at the level of the award to achieve the learning outcomes for the award. It includes all learning time involved including: guided learning hours, self-directed learning and assessment.

**Table 1: FET Credit Values**

NFQ Level	Major Awards Credit Values	Default Credit Values Minor Awards	Other Permitted Minor Award Credit Values	Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Credit Value Ranges
1	20	5	10	
2	30	5	10	
3	60	10	5,20	>5 and <60
4	90	10	5,15,20	>5 and <90
5	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120
6	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120

### Guide to Level

Learning outcomes at this level include a comprehensive range of skills which may be vocationally-specific and/or of a general supervisory nature, and require detailed theoretical understanding. The outcomes also provide for a particular focus on learning skills. The outcomes relate to working in a generally autonomous way to assume design and/or management and/or administrative responsibilities. Occupations at this level would include higher craft, junior technician and supervisor.

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Sub-strand</b>	<b>Nature of learning</b>
Knowledge	Breadth	Specialised knowledge of a broad area
	Kind	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant depth in some areas
Know How & Skill	Range	Demonstrate a comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools
	Selectivity	Formulate responses to well defined abstract problems
Competence	Context	Utilise diagnostic and creative skills in a range of functions in a wide variety of contexts
	Role	Exercise substantial personal autonomy and often take responsibility for the work of others and/or for the allocation of resources; form and function within, multiple and complex heterogeneous groups.
	Learning to Learn	Learn to take responsibility for own learning within a managed environment.
	Insight	Express an internalised, personal world view, reflecting engagement with others.

*Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI*