

What's the difference between the UCD Higher Diploma in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work, the Graduate Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health, and the MSc in Occupational Safety and Health?

Since 2007-8, the Centre for Safety and Health at Work in the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science has offered a modularised taught Masters programme, the *MSc in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)*, to a limited number of students. In 2010-11, we introduced a *Graduate Diploma in OSH*, which is essentially the MSc minus the dissertation.

The taught *GradDip/MSc in OSH* is a 60/90-credit, level 9 (NFQ), two-year part-time multidisciplinary graduate programme, which is designed for practicing Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) professionals, who have not previously achieved a higher (third level) qualification in occupational safety and health. Applicants to the GradDip/MSc **must be Honours graduates of a level 8 degree, in a cognate discipline**, and should be working in the area of OSH (although this is not absolutely essential, we give priority to applicants who are working in OSH who apply on time); MSc applicants must have an interest in carrying out research in the area. Applicants must decide at the time of application / acceptance whether they are applying for the GradDip or the MSc, as transfer from the GradDip to MSc may not be possible.

The *Higher Diploma in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work* (HDipSHWW) is a 90-credit, level 8 (NFQ), two-year, part-time multidisciplinary programme, designed to meet the multidisciplinary academic competency needs of practicing OSH professionals. It is suitable for persons with a professional interest in Safety and Health in the workplace. Applicants must be at least 23 years of age, be working (priority given to those who are involved in OSH and apply on time), and have at least 3 years work experience at the time of application. Applicants should have educational qualifications of at least matriculation standard (Leaving Certificate with two honours, or equivalent) including knowledge of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Applicants do not have to be degree graduates, although many are.

The *HDipSHWW* and the *GradDip/MSc in OSH* are both recognised by the UK Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) for granting Chartered Membership of the Institution, subject to appropriate experience.

Both programmes are designed to be completed over two full years (6 semesters for HDip and MSc; 5 semesters for the GradDip). In first year of each programme, lectures and classes are normally held on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and in second year of each programme, lectures and classes are normally held on Tuesdays from 9 am. to 9 p.m., in both cases in UCD, Belfield, but occasionally learning activities take place outside of these times, and appropriate notice is provided.

The programmes share teaching on a number of modules (you will see modules with similar names, but different codes, on the brochures), so students attend many of the same lectures, but there are two important differences:

- students on each programme will complete assessment at different levels (same lectures, different expectations from assessment tasks); the learning outcomes of the HDip programme are at level 3 in the UCD system (Level 8 NFQ) and much of the assessment is based on work-related assignments; the learning outcomes for the GradDip/MSc programme are at level 4 in the UCD system (Level 9 NFQ), and the assignments tend to be shorter, but expect a high level of analysis and should be evidence-based.
- The credit size of many of the modules (the amount of student effort in terms of time required) is greater in the HDip, because work-related experiential learning is included in the workload, evidenced by the larger work-based assessment, in addition to which most modules on the HDip are also assessed by end of semester examination – thus many modules are 10 credit modules. On the GradDip/MSc, most of the modules are 5-credit modules, as the research for assignments tends to be desk-based, and there are fewer examinations; this is partly because MSc students will be working throughout the programme on their 30-credit dissertation.

It is important that you consider carefully before you decide which programme to apply for, as it is not possible to transfer from one programme to another once you have commenced the programme (because of the difference in levels and credits). If you are sponsored by your employer, ensure that they understand which programme you are planning to accept.

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The following table shows the UCD Minor, Special Purpose and Supplemental Awards with associated levels and credit ranges:

Award	Award Type	Level	Credits
University (level 7) Certificate	Minor	7	20-40
University Diploma	Minor	7	60-120
University (level 8) Certificate	Minor	8	20-40
Graduate Certificate	Minor	9	30-40
Professional Certificate	Special Purpose	7, 8 or 9	5-15
Professional Diploma	Special Purpose	7, 8 or 9	20-30
Certificate of Continuing Education	Special Purpose	6 or 7	5-15
Diploma of Continuing Education	Special Purpose	6 or 7	20-30
Certificate of Continuing Professional Development	Supplemental Award	8 or 9	5-10

The following table shows the UCD Major Awards with associated levels and Credit ranges:

Award	Award Type	Level	Credits
Honours Bachelor Degree*	Major	8	180-360
Higher Diploma	Major	8	60-120
Professional Diploma in Education	Major	8	60
Graduate Diploma	Major	9	60-80
Masters Degree (taught)	Major	9	90-120
Professional Master of Education (taught)	Major	9	120
Masters Degree (research)	Major	9	90-180
Doctoral Degree (Doctor of Medicine(MD))	Major	10	180
Doctoral Degree (research)	Major	10	270-360
Doctoral Degree (professional)	Major	10	270-360

Note: Some OSH professionals, who have completed the HDipSHWW, who are also degree graduates, may have an interest in the MSc. Such persons have already completed many of the taught modules of the MSc, albeit at a lower level (UCD level 3 instead of UCD level 4), so we have developed a mechanism to permit degree **graduates** with a HDipSHWW, to transfer to the MSc, without having to repeat ALL of the material already covered at level 3. This is called PRAPEL (Progression to MSc in OSH using Accreditation for Prior and Experiential Learning). Interested candidates should contact us through cshw@ucd.ie

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Build on current qualifications (likely to be levels 6 - 10) and work-experience

Level 7

Non-graduates

Graduates

Introduction to all aspects of safety and health at work
Feeder but not pre-requisite for other programmes

Certificate in Safety and Health at Work
Blended on-line programme

Level 8

Prepare for Professional Practice
Develop a professional and practical knowledge of OSH subjects

Work-based learning pathway

Higher Diploma in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

Diplomates who are also Hons Graduates in cognate discipline ≥ 2.1

PRAPEL Assessment
Research / evidence-based pathway using diagnostic assessment to provide Accelerated route for graduate diplomates

Diplomates who are not Graduates

Question knowledge
Focus on critical thinking and management skills. in an OSH context

BSc (Hons) (Fallow in 2016) Occupational Safety and Health Management

Level 9 Taught

Specialise in a specific area of OSH through Graduate Study in UCD or elsewhere

Pursue MSc in a variety of specialised areas
Environmental, Risk or Quality Management, Health Risk Management, Legal Studies, MBA, etc.

Non-graduates HDip Diplomates ≥ 2.1

Professional Certificate in Environmental Management
Blended on-line programme

Prepare for **Professional** Practice
Develop a deep knowledge of OSH subjects

Research / evidence-based pathways

MSc in Occupational Safety and Health

Nested
Grad Cert Occupational Health (exit)
Grad Cert Occupational Safety (exit)
Grad Diploma Occupational Safety and Health

Level 9/10 Research

Question and create knowledge, Focus career

MSc (Research) or PhD in a focused aspect of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work