

European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 8

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What is EQF L8?

The European Qualifications Framework Level 8 (EQF L8) reflects doctoral level education, either studied by completing a PhD or a Professional doctorate. A doctorate, at a basic level, is high-level research training, where the student undertakes a large body of focused research under

the guidance of more experienced supervisors. Doctoral research education and training should signal the beginning of a research career, and is a fundamental requirement to facilitate a future in research.

Knowledge	Skills	Responsibility and Autonomy
Knowledge at the most advanced frontier of a field of work or study and at the interface between fields	The most advanced and specialised skills and techniques, including synthesis and evaluation, required to solve critical problems in research and/or innovation and to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice	Demonstrate substantial authority, innovation, autonomy, scholarly and professional integrity and sustained commitment to the development of new ideas or processes at the forefront of work or study contexts including research, research governance and ethics.

Adapted from: <https://europa.eu/europass/en/description-eight-eqf-levels>

Why is EQF L8 Education important?

Radiography includes a diverse range of skills, specialisms and expertise. Radiographers work at a range of clinical and academic levels. For those who are wishing to follow a research career or include research in their role, EQF L8 education raises the profile of the profession and the personal profile of the individual, through appropriate training to support research. This helps the profession to raise its professional profile through creation of their own evidence base. Undertaking and leading research can also increase job satisfaction, improve outcomes for patients and deliver more cost-effective services. The format and education for PhDs differs between countries across Europe and the prevalence of radiographers who have completed PhDs differs as well. Completing a PhD can lead to an academic pathway and in some countries clinical-academic radiographers and research radiographers. Developing more academic radiographers to EQF L8 will improve the creation of the evidence base for the profession and increase capacity for further supervision, with the goal of supporting improvements in patient care.

Capacity for PhDs in radiography across Europe

Building the capacity and promoting the importance of Doctoral level education being available and accessible to the radiography profession across Europe is a key goal of the EFRS. This could be through promoting institutions who are able to provide PhDs for radiographers, which might be useful for those with limited access to PhDs in their own countries, but also about promoting to external stakeholders the importance of understanding why support and investment in level 8 education is key, improving radiographer' KSC in line with the developments in healthcare. Based on this, funding routes for PhDs shall be considered.

Further steps after EQF8

Upon completion of a PhD, the knowledge and skills, and their consequently expertise learned may need consolidation and post-doctoral positions are useful to help progress into an independent researcher.



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