Award Types in the Framework

Each Qualification on the National Qualifications Framework of Jamaica (NQF-J) describes what a learner needs to know, or what they must be able to do.  It is generally agreed that the achievement of learners can be recognised in a number of contexts, and their knowledge and skills will be transferable between qualifications and education and training providers.  The Qualification Titles will allow for comparability and facilitate their understanding, as well as improved regional and international recognition of the Qualifications offered in Jamaica.

The award types in the NQF-J consist of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates. These are further elaborated below:

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| Qualification Title | Qualification Level | Description |
| Doctorate | **NQFJ Level 8** | A Doctoral Degree recognises a substantial contribution to knowledge and practice through the form of new knowledge or significant and original adaptation, application and interpretation of existing knowledge.  A Doctoral programme (whether research or professional) may be defined as a period of in-depth, post-graduate, academic, professional or vocational study and research beyond the Masters level.  Candidates for a Doctoral programme are normally required to hold a Master’s Degree. |
| Masters | **NQFJ Level 7)** | A Master’s Degree is a qualification that is normally designed to extend the principal subject or subjects of the qualifying degree (at the Bachelors level) or may build on relevant knowledge and skills derived from advanced occupational experience.  The Master’s Degree has a range of between 35 – 45 credits and builds upon the undergraduate degree. |
| Post Graduate    Certificate  Diploma | **NQFJ Level 6** | Diplomas or certificates awarded beyond Level 7 may be termed “Graduate” or “Post Graduate.” These qualifications denote competence in a specialised field. They must have at least 30 credits contributing to the qualification at Level 8. |
| Bachelors | **NQFJ Level 5** | A Bachelor’s Degree provides a systematic, coherent introduction to the knowledge, ideas, principles, and to the analytical and problem-solving techniques of a recognised major subject or subjects. Programme content is taken to sufficient depth and progressively developed to a high level, which can provide a basis for graduate and post-graduate study and professional careers.  A Bachelors or first degree denotes completion of a programme of four years duration, beyond the standard of Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), or 3 years beyond the established core of Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE).  A Bachelor’s Degree requires a minimum of 120 credits for the four-year programme, or a minimum of 90 credits for the 3 year programme. |
| Associate/  Advanced Diploma | **NQFJ Level 4** | An Associate Degree is a programme designed to recognise and facilitate a learner’s successful progression to a Bachelor’s degree or directly to employment.  These degrees focus on learning within a work context, underpinned by both vocational and academic understanding, and enable learners to demonstrate learning outcomes that are explicitly relevant to employment and professional requirements.  The Associate Degree will have a minimum of 60 credits. |
| Advanced Certificate | **NQF Level 3** | The Diploma is a qualification that commonly has a wider theoretical base than a certificate and more specialised, technical, professional or managerial competencies. These qualifications often build on prior qualifications or experience and recognise capacity for initiative and judgment across a broad range of educational and vocational areas, and in technical, professional and or managerial roles. Credit load will vary but should have at least 30 credit hours. |
| Certificate II | **NQFJ Level 2** | Advanced Certificates are often used to prepare candidates for both employment and further education and training.  Entry to the Advanced Certificate is normally from a Secondary Certificate or of a relevant qualification from at least Level 3. Advanced Certificates may be used in a wide range of context and are often used to prepare candidates for both employment and further education and training. The credit load will not typically exceed 30 credit hours. |
| Certificate I | **NQFJ Level 1** | A first level qualification, usually vocational in nature emphasizing job entry level skill development. Completion of a preparatory programme leading to further study in a given academic or vocational area. The credit load will vary but does not typically exceed 15-20 credits. |
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| Pre-entry  Access II |  | Demonstrates functional literacy; Entry is open. Learner can make simple choices with guidance. |
| Pre-entry Access I |  | Demonstrates elementary literacy and numeracy skills; Entry is open. Persons are prepared to carry out basic repetitive skills with supervision and without responsibility for others. |