

Graduate Attributes Framework

The 8 Huddersfield Graduate Attributes capture the key skills that employers are looking for. Find out what they are by using this handy guide.

University of
Huddersfield
Inspiring global professionals

Attribute	Examples of how the attributes can be developed in an academic context, via extra-curricular activities, and in the workplace		
	Academic	Extra-curricular	Workplace
Self-motivated – you have the ability to do what needs to be done without being prompted by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake self-directed learning. Effective time management. Manage personal performance. Make judgements around priorities and deadlines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively seek out opportunities to develop skills and experiences. Take responsibility for your decision-making and actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find something useful to do when you are not busy. Willing to take on new challenges.
Commercially aware – you have an understanding of the wider environment in which an organisation operates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider your academic work in its' wider industry context. Engage with professional bodies. Seek out work-based learning opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the factors that affect an organisation or society and how these can influence their operation. Aware of the wider environment beyond your own role in an organisation or society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how your role contributes to the overall aims and strategies of the business you work for. Understand both the organisational and customer viewpoints. Display professionalism and integrity in the workplace.
Enterprising – you are able to adapt your thinking and behaviour to suit changing circumstances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in inter-disciplinary learning. Approach problems from more than one angle to find a solution. Able to assess, prioritise and adapt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to go out of your comfort zone. Adapt your skills and knowledge to excel in unfamiliar circumstances. Embrace new opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative and creative in your approach. Agile and adaptable to changing circumstances. Able to communicate thinking and ideas to people at all levels.
Resilient – you are driven, resolute and determined and able to deal positively with challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can take feedback constructively and build on it. Confidently set and achieve targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolute and determined to achieve your stated goals. Upbeat in the face of obstacles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal well with criticism or difference of opinion. Calm and level headed in demanding and high pressure situations.
Effective collaborator – you work well with others and are able to understand and assess people's behaviours, attitudes and interpersonal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect others' views and are able to work well on group assignments. Able to develop effective working relationships with other students and academic staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of working in groups in a variety of different roles. Aware of and able to manage your own emotions and feelings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work well with others regardless of personality or work style differences. Recognise and respond positively to the behaviours and attitudes of others. Emotionally intelligent, you are aware of how others in the room are feeling.
Confident leader – you are able to enthuse a group and motivate them to work towards an identified goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can identify group priorities and delegate tasks appropriately. Able to articulate complex information in an accessible way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspire and engage others. Support and encourage the development of others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote successful change through effective communication. Confident in your own abilities, you build trust amongst colleagues.
Globally and socially aware – you welcome new ways of thinking and can anticipate the impact of external situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the wider ethical, global, political and social aspects of your studies. Anticipate potential impact and consequences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how your actions can enhance the wellbeing of others. Engage effectively with activities which will give your university experience a global perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to work across different countries and cultures and understand the international perspective. Work with people from different backgrounds.
Plans personal growth and development – you understand your life goals; you are able to explore graduate occupations and identify suitable opportunities; you are able to devise and implement a plan for achieving your goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how your degree skills and knowledge link to graduate jobs. Identify areas for academic improvement and plan practical steps. Able to integrate insights from degree experience into graduate career plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover new things about yourself and strengthen your skills. Consider what you can learn about your life goals and personal values. Able to integrate insights from extra-curricular experience into graduate career plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to identify how to develop abilities to become more employable. Able to learn from experience to inform value-led and self-direct career development. Able to integrate insights from experience of work into graduate career plan.

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An introduction for use with students

Graduate attributes are the academic abilities, transferable skills and personal qualities that all students will have the opportunity to develop as part of their University of Huddersfield experience.

University life offers you the opportunity to get involved in a multitude of new experiences whether that is in the classroom, the sports field, the union, the local community or across the world. Thousands of people graduate with a degree every year so you need to think about what you will have to show for your time at University that makes you stand out. Pretty much everything you get involved with at University is designed to help you develop abilities, skills and qualities that will support your future as an individual and a professional and we refer to these collectively as our Graduate Attributes.

Understanding and developing your graduate attributes throughout your time at University won't only help you be a better student but will ensure you are equipped for whatever comes next whether you want to work for a multi-national company or set up your own business, continue your study or travel the world, the attributes will help you on your journey and make sure you stand out from the crowd.

Although a good degree is important for success in the graduate job market, employers will expect candidates to be able to talk about their time at University with reference to the skills and qualities that they've developed along with specific examples. We've ensured that our attributes reflect the demands of graduate employers so it is important that you spend a little time reflecting on ways in which you've developed these attributes throughout your own university experience.

For more support with how you can develop your Graduate Attributes get in touch with the Careers and Employability Service:

hud.ac.uk/careers

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