

Minimum Entry Requirements for MNQF 2009
Maldives Qualifications Authority, Ministry of Education, Male', Maldives

Level	Qualification(s)	Minimum Credits	Minimum Entry Requirement	
			General Entry	Alternative Entry
Level 1	Certificate I	10 credits (3 weeks full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Education OR Ability to communicate in the language of instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 years of age
Level 2	Certificate II	40 credits (15 weeks full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Education OR MNQF Level 1 qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age and work experience of one year in a job that requires reading, writing and communication in the language of instruction
Level 3	Certificate III	40 credits (15 weeks full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Education OR MNQF Level 2 qualification 	
Level 4	Certificate IV	120 credits of which 60 credits at Level 4 (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Secondary Education OR MNQF Level 3 qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 years of age and completion of Foundation Study at MNQF Level 3 OR 18 years old and completion of basic education and 1 year work experience
Level 5	Diploma	120 credits of which 90 credits at Level 5 (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Secondary Education OR MNQF Level 4 qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Lower Secondary Education and completion of Foundation Study at MNQF Level 4. OR 20 years old AND 1-pass in a Lower Secondary School Exam and 1 year work experience
		240 credits of which 90 credits at Level 5 and a further 90 credits at level 4 or higher (2 years (60 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Secondary Education MNQF Level 3 qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Secondary Schooling and completion of Foundation Study at MNQF Level 3. 16 years of age and completion of Foundation Study at MNQF Level 3 OR 18 years old and Completion of basic education and 1 year work experience
Level 6	Advanced Diploma/ Associate Degree/ Foundation Degree	120 credits of which 90 credits at Level 6 (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNQF Level 5 qualification in the relevant field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years old AND a MNQF level 4 qualification with 2 years of work experience in the proposed field of study
		240 credits of which 90 credits at Level 6 (2 years (60 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Secondary Education OR MNQF Level 4 qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Lower Secondary Education and completion of Foundation Study at MNQF Level 4. OR 20 years old AND 1-pass in a Lower Secondary School Exam and 1 year work experience
	Professional Certificate	40 credits (15 weeks full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNQF Level 5 qualification in the relevant field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years old AND a MNQF level 4 qualification with 2 years of work experience in the proposed field of study

Level 7	Bachelor's Degree	360 credits (3 years full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Secondary Education OR MNQF Level 4 qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Lower Secondary Education and completion of Foundation Study at MNQF Level 4. OR 20 years old AND 1-pass in a Lower Secondary School Exam and 1 year work experience
	Professional Diploma	120 credits of which 90 credits at Level 7 & 30 credits from level 4 and above (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNQF Level 6 qualification in the relevant field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years old AND a MNQF level 5 qualification with 2 years of work experience in the proposed field of study
	Professional Certificate	40 credits (15 weeks full-time)		
Level 8	Bachelor's Degree with honours	480 credits (4 years full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Secondary Education OR MNQF Level 4 qualification in the relevant field OR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Lower Secondary Education and completion of Foundation Study at MNQF Level 4. OR 20 years old AND 1-pass in a Lower Secondary School Exam and 1 year work experience
	Graduate / Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's Degree at MNQF level 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 years old AND one pass in a Lower Secondary School Exam and an MNQF Level 4 qualification or Combination of qualifications equivalent to the above AND 5 yrs experience in the relevant field
	Graduate / Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits (15 weeks full-time)		
Level 9	Master's Degree	120 credits (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's Degree at MNQF level 7 OR level 8 MNQF Level 8 Graduate Diploma in the field of specialization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 years old AND, a MNQF Level 6 Advanced Diploma AND 4 years experience in the proposed field of study OR 25 years old AND, a MNQF Level 5 Diploma and 8 years experience in the proposed field of study OR 25 years old AND, a MNQF Level 4 Certificate and 10 years experience in the proposed field
		240 credits (2 years full-time)		
	Advanced Professional Diploma	120 credits (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNQF level 8 Qualification 	
Advanced Professional Certificate	60 credits (20 weeks full-time)			

Level 10	Doctoral Degree	4 – 5 years full-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNQF Level 7 Qualification
	Doctoral Degree	2 – 5 years full-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNQF Level 9 Qualification OR • Bachelor’s Degree with honours at MNQF level 8
	Higher Professional Diploma	120 credits (1 year (30 weeks) full-time)	
	Higher Professional Certificate	60 credits (20 weeks full-time)	

Explanation of Terms used in MNQF

1. Basic Education:

Completion of the 7th year of a School

2. Lower Secondary Education:

Minimum 3 passes in nationally recognized secondary school examinations. (Note 1: This will include certifications awarded through national systems normally after 10 years of formal schooling. Note 2: A pass at this level is considered a pass usually classified as acceptable for entrance to pre-university courses. For example at GCE O/L, a pass is considered C and above.)

3. Completion of Secondary Schooling

Completion of the final grade of a lower Secondary School programme. This is normally after 10 years of schooling.

4. Higher Secondary Education:

Minimum 2 passes in nationally recognized Higher Secondary School examinations. (Note 1: This will include certifications awarded through national systems normally after 12 years of formal schooling. Note 2: A pass at this level is considered a pass usually classified as acceptable for university entrance. For example at GCE A/L, a pass is considered E and above.)

5. Foundation Study at a MNQF level:

Foundation study at a MNQF level is a programme of study that provides the entry requirements to an MQA approved course of study at the next MNQF level. Foundation Study programmes may only be conducted at MNQF levels 3 and 4.

Foundation Study at a MNQF level will have the following features:

- A Foundation Study programme at a MNQF level need to be approved by MQA.
- A Foundation Study programme may lead to a stand-alone qualification registered with MQA.
- Courses that provide entry through Foundation Study programmes need to state this intent on application for course approval.
- A Foundation Study programme may only be conducted for a minimum duration of one academic year of full-time study leading to 120 credits.
- A Foundation Study programme at a MNQF level may be designed:
 - to deliver the characteristic generic outcomes specified by the level descriptors of MNQF; or
 - to deliver a programme of study to develop a general academic studies foundation required for entry into courses of study at the next MNQF level; or
 - a combination of a and b.
- A foundation study programme at a MNQF level may provide entry to more than one MQA approved courses of study at the next MNQF level