Advancing your academic career at Heriot-Watt

Teaching & Scholarship
Where’s your role?

Teaching
Dominant

Grade 6
Teaching Assistant

Grade 7
Assistant Professor

Grade 8
Assistant Professor

Grade 9
Associate Professor

Grade 10
Professor
What’s expected at each grade?

As you progress through the grades you continue to build on your previous grade level descriptors.............
Teaching and learning support

Grade 6
Teaching Assistant

- Teach as a member of a teaching team in a developing capacity within an established programme of study, with the assistance of a mentor if required.
- Teach in a developing capacity in a variety of settings from small group tutorials to large lectures.
- Transfer knowledge in the form of practical skills, methods and techniques.
- Identify learning needs of students and define appropriate learning objectives.
- Ensure that content, methods of delivery and learning materials will meet the defined learning objectives.
- Planning, and authoring (or revising) new course material as part of the School/Institute’s teaching programmes.
- Develop the skills of applying appropriate approaches to teaching, challenge thinking, foster debate and develop the ability of students to engage in critical discourse and rational thinking.
- Supervise the work of students, provide advice on study skills and help them with learning problems.
- Select appropriate assessment methods, assess the work and progress of students on this basis and provide constructive feedback to students.

Grade 7
Assistant Professor

- Design teaching material and deliver either across a range of subjects or within a discipline area.
- Use appropriate teaching, learning support and assessment methods.
- Supervise student projects, field trips and, where appropriate, placements.
- Identify areas where current provision is in need of revision or improvement.
- Contribute to the planning, design and development of objectives and material.
- Select appropriate assessment methods, assess the work and progress of students on this basis and provide constructive feedback to students.

Grade 8
Assistant Professor

- Design, develop and deliver a range of programmes of study (sometimes for entirely new courses) at various levels.
- Review on a regular basis course content and materials, updating when required.
- Develop and apply innovative and appropriate teaching techniques and material which create interest, understanding and enthusiasm amongst students.
- Ensure that course design and delivery comply with the quality standards and regulations of the university and School/Institute.

Grade 9
Associate Professor

- Provide leadership in the planning, organisation and development of learning and teaching activities on a School/Institute or subject basis.
- Lead the development and clarification of academic standards for the subject area. Develop the quality assurance framework within the Institution’s overall framework e.g. for the validation and revalidation of courses and student admission and assessment.
- Encourage the development of innovative approaches to course delivery and ensure that teaching delivery achieves the educational standards of the School/Institute.
- Develop and implement initiatives contributing to and deriving from the University’s wider learning and teaching strategies.
Grade 6 Teaching Assistant

- Reflect on practice and the development of own teaching and learning skills.

Grade 7 Assistant Professor

- Engage in subject, professional and pedagogy research as required to support teaching activities.
- Conduct individual or collaborative scholarly projects.
- Identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds for own scholarly activities.
- Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to teaching and appropriate external activities.
- Develop and produce learning materials and disseminate the results of scholarly activity.

Grade 8 Assistant Professor

- Establish a portfolio of pedagogic and practitioner research and other scholarly activities, independently attract external resources for the purpose.
- Publish original research and scholarship in the international literature, and develop an international reputation in research and scholarship.
- Make presentations or exhibitions at international conferences and other similar events, demonstrating evidence of esteem within the subject e.g. through personal invitations to speak or present.
- Lead collaborative partnerships with other educational institutions or other bodies.
- Lead bids for consultancy and other additional funds.

Grade 9 Associate Professor

- Establish a portfolio of pedagogic and practitioner research and other scholarly activities, independently attract external resources for the purpose.
- Contribute to the development of Subject and School/Institute teaching and learning strategies.
- Work in conjunction with others to apply subject knowledge to practice.
- Develop and promote the use of innovative assessment methods.

Grade 10 Professor

- Lead a pedagogic and practitioner research group, including the supervision of Approved Tutors/Teachers and postgraduate students.
- Lead research into learning and teaching methodologies and disseminate best practice within and out with the University.
- Lead bids for consultancy and other additional funds.
Communication

Grade 6
Teaching Assistant

- Deal with routine communication using a range of media.
- Communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
- Preparing proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g., for funding and accreditation purposes.
- Communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.

Grade 7
Assistant Professor

Routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge and understanding as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media.

Grade 8
Assistant Professor

- Disseminate conceptual and complex ideas of a wide variety of audiences using appropriate media and methods to promote understanding.

Grade 9
Associate Professor

- Be routinely involved in complex and important negotiations internally and with external bodies.
- Contribute to the communication of the wider University strategy within the School/Institute.

Grade 10
Professor
Liaison and network

Grade 6
Teaching Assistant

- Liaise with colleagues and students.
- Participate on School/Institute committees; for example, teaching groups, recruitment groups, examination boards, etc.
- Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
- Join external networks to share information and ideas.

Grade 7
Assistant Professor

- Participate and possibly take leadership role on School/Institute committees; for example, teaching groups, recruitment groups, examination boards, etc.
- Participate in and develop internal and external networks, for example to contribute to student recruitment, secure student placements, market the institution, facilitate outreach work, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.
- Other external examples include: working with learned societies, professional institutions, editorial boards, organising committees of international conferences, funding organisations and government bodies.

Grade 8
Assistant Professor

- Lead and develop internal networks, for example, by chairing School/Institute/University committees, recruitment groups, examination boards, or quality/process reviews.
- Lead and develop external networks. Examples might include: working with or as an external examiner; working with or as an assessor or reviewer; leading an industrial coordination group; being a member of a journal editorial board; participating in specialist groups within learned societies, professional institutions or government bodies; participating in organising committees of international conferences; etc.
- Develop links with external contacts, such as other educational bodies, employers, and professional bodies, so as to foster teaching and scholarship collaborations, to inform learning and teaching strategy development, and to ensure courses remain relevant and are preparing students for professional careers; or otherwise substantially enhance the reputation or performance of the School/Institute.
- Promote and market the work of the School/Institute in the subject area both nationally and internationally.

Grade 9
Associate Professor

- Chair and participate on internal committees and participate in University decision making and governance.
- Take a leading role in senior external groups, e.g. committees in learned societies or professional institutions, editorial boards, organising committees of international conferences, funding organisations or government advisory groups.
- Lead and develop internal and external networks to foster collaboration and share information and ideas and to promote the subject and the University.
- Promote and market the work of the School/Institute in the subject area both nationally and internationally.

Grade 10
Professor
Managing people

Grade 6
Teaching Assistant

• Agree responsibilities.
• Manage own teaching, scholarly and administrative activities, with guidance if required.
• Supervise students on taught courses when carrying out projects, fieldwork and placements.
• Assist students in capacity of personal mentor.

Grade 7
Assistant Professor

• Advise and support colleagues with less experience and encourage their personal and professional development.
• Depending on the area of work, could be expected to supervise the work of others, for example Approved Teachers/Tutors.
• Co-ordinate the work of others to ensure modules are delivered to the standards required.

Grade 8
Assistant Professor

• Provide academic leadership to those working within programme areas, as course leader or equivalent, by for example co-ordinating the work of a team by agreeing objectives and work plans.
• Contribute to the development of teams and individuals through the appraisal system and provide advice on personal development.
• Co-ordinate the work of others to ensure that courses are delivered effectively or organising the work of a team by agreeing objectives and work plans.

Grade 9
Associate Professor

• Exercise academic leadership for all subject area teaching and scholarly activities.
• Act as line manager for matters relating to the employment of staff and ensuring the work is allocated fairly, according to skills and capacity.
• Contribute to the development of teams and individuals through the appraisal system and provide advice on personal development.
• Appraise and advise staff on personal and career development plans.

Grade 10
Professor

• Resolve problems affecting the quality of course delivery and student progress within of own areas of responsibility, referring more serious matters to others, as appropriate.
• Exercise academic leadership for all subject area teaching and scholarly activities.
• Act as line manager for matters relating to the employment of staff and ensuring the work is allocated fairly, according to skills and capacity.
• Contribute to the development of teams and individuals through the appraisal system and provide advice on personal development.
• Appraise and advise staff on personal and career development plans.
• Collaborate with academic colleagues on course development and curriculum changes.
• Attend and contribute to subject group meetings.
• Collaborate with colleagues to identify and respond to students’ needs.

• Act as a responsible team member, leading where agreed, and develop productive working relationships with other members of staff.
• Could be required to take the lead in a local project.
• Collaborate with colleagues to identify and respond to students’ needs.

• Lead teams within areas of responsibility. Ensure that teams within the School/Institute work together.
• Act to resolve conflicts within and between teams.

• Promote a collegiate approach and develop team spirit and team coherence.
• Foster interdisciplinary team working.
• Develop and communicate a clear vision of the strategic direction of the School/Institute.
Pastoral care

**Grade 6 Teaching Assistant**
- Use listening, interpersonal and pastoral care skills to deal with sensitive issues concerning students and provide support.
- Appreciate the needs of individual students and their circumstances.
- Act as student mentor, giving first line support.
- Refer students as appropriate to services providing further help.

**Grade 7 Assistant Professor**
- Act as student mentor, giving first line support.
- Be responsible for first line pastoral care of a group of students within a specified area.

**Grade 8 Assistant Professor**
- Responsible for dealing with referred issues for students within own educational programmes.
- Provide first line support for colleagues, referring them to sources of further help if required.

**Grade 9 Associate Professor**
- Responsible for the initial resolution of all student issues within and out with standard procedures.
- Take overall responsibility for the welfare of staff drawing on specialist advice and support as required.
- Ensure that an appropriate framework is developed and used for pastoral care issues.

**Grade 10 Professor**
### Initiative, problem-solving and decision-making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Grade 9</th>
<th>Grade 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistant</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Grade 6 Teaching Assistant**
  - Develop initiative, creativity and judgement in applying appropriate approaches to teaching and learning support and scholarly activities.
  - Respond to pedagogical and practical challenges.
  - Share responsibility in deciding how to deliver modules and assess students.
  - Contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues on academic content, and on the assessment of students’ work.

- **Grade 7 Assistant Professor**
  - Identify the need for developing the content or structure of modules with colleagues and make proposals on how this should be achieved.
  - Develop ideas for generating income and promoting the subject.
  - Develop ideas and find ways of disseminating and applying the result of scholarship.
  - Sole responsibility for the design and delivery of own modules and assessment methods.
  - Collaborate with colleagues on the implementation of assessment procedures.
  - Advise others on strategic issues such as student recruitment and marketing.
  - Contribute to the accreditation of courses and quality control processes.
  - Tackle issues affecting the quality of delivery within scope of own level of responsibility, referring more serious matters to others, as appropriate.

- **Grade 8 Assistant Professor**
  - Resolve problems affecting the delivery of courses within own educational programme and in accordance with regulations.
  - Make decisions regarding the operational aspects of own educational programme.
  - Contribute to decisions which have an impact on other related programmes.
  - Monitor student progress and retention.
  - Provide advice on strategic issues such as ensuring the adequate balance of student recruitment and population, staff appointments, and student and other performance matters.
  - Develop teaching and learning strategy consistent with institutional strategy.
  - By own initiative, take responsibility for strategic development of new courses or appropriate areas of activity and contributing to the development of such ideas leading to demonstrable business benefit to the institution.

- **Grade 9 Associate Professor**
  - Independently devise and implement major strategic initiatives leading to substantial and long term business benefits to the University.
  - Determine academic standards within own areas of responsibility.
  - Contribute to the determination of the academic standards framework across the Institution.
  - Determine the final allocation of resources within own area of responsibility.
  - Act as the final arbiter in local disputes. Be party to strategic decisions at Institutional level.
  - Lead the development of new and creative approaches in responding to teaching and learning challenges.
  - Initiate new and original solutions to problems.
  - Provide advice to external bodies.

- **Grade 10 Professor**
  - Independently devise and implement major strategic initiatives leading to substantial and long term business benefits to the University.
  - Determine academic standards within own areas of responsibility.
  - Contribute to the determination of the academic standards framework across the Institution.
  - Determine the final allocation of resources within own area of responsibility.
  - Act as the final arbiter in local disputes. Be party to strategic decisions at Institutional level.
  - Lead the development of new and creative approaches in responding to teaching and learning challenges.
  - Initiate new and original solutions to problems.
  - Provide advice to external bodies.
Planning and managing resources

**Grade 6 Teaching Assistant**
- Use teaching resources and related facilities as appropriate.
- Plan and manage own teaching and tutorials as agreed with mentor.

**Grade 7 Assistant Professor**
- As module leader or tutor, coordinate with others (such as support staff or academic colleagues) to ensure student needs and expectations are met.
- Manage projects relating to own area of work and the organisation of external activities such as placements and field trips.
- Be responsible for administrative duties in areas such as admissions, timetabling, examinations, assessment of progress and student attendance.

**Grade 8 Assistant Professor**
- Responsible for the delivery of own educational programmes.
- Contribute to the overall management of the School/Institute in areas such as resource management, business and programme planning.
- Be responsible for setting standards and monitor progress against agreed criteria for own area of responsibility.
- Be involved in School/Institute level strategic planning and contribute to the Institution's strategic planning processes.
- Plan and deliver consultancy or similar programmes and ensure that resources are available.
- Contribute to the management of quality, audit and other external assessments.

**Grade 9 Associate Professor**
- Take overall responsibility for the organising and deployment of resources within own areas of responsibility.
- Contribute to Institutional planning and strategic development.
Sensory, physical and emotional demands

Grade 6
Teaching Assistant

Grade 7
Assistant Professor

- Sensory and physical demands will vary from relatively light to a high level depending on the discipline and the type of work and will involve carrying out tasks that require the learning of certain skills.
- Balance with help the competing pressures of teaching scholarship and administrative demands and deadlines.

Grade 8
Assistant Professor

Balance the pressures of teaching and administrative demands and competing deadlines.

Grade 9
Associate Professor

Like all the elements, this builds on the demands in the profiles at lower levels. In this case, there is no additional demand.

Grade 10
Professor

Like all the elements, this builds on the demands in the profiles at lower levels. In this case, there is no additional demand.
Work environment

Grade 6 Teaching Assistant

Grade 7 Assistant Professor

Grade 8 Assistant Professor

Grade 9 Associate Professor

Grade 10 Professor

Is required to be aware of the risks in the work environment and their potential impact on their own work and that of others.

When supervising students or other staff, conduct risk assessment and take responsibility for their health and safety on the basis of training received.

Depending on area of work (e.g. laboratories, workshops, studios) may be expected to take responsibility for conducting risk assessments, minimising hazards and maintaining safety standards for students and staff working in areas under their responsibility.

• Take overall responsibility for health and safety in own areas of responsibility.
• Ensure that appropriate risk management processes are in operation.
Expertise

**Grade 6 Teaching Assistant**

- Possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline to work within established teaching programmes.
- Engage in continuous professional development.
- Able to engage the interest and enthusiasm of students and inspire them to learn.
- Develop familiarity with a variety of strategies to promote and assess learning.
- Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on academic content and issues relating to student need.

**Grade 7 Assistant Professor**

- Possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop courses and subject streams and the provision of learning support.
- Use a range of delivery techniques to enthuse and engage students.

**Grade 8 Assistant Professor**

- Possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline to work within established teaching programmes.
- Engage in continuous professional development.
- Able to engage the interest and enthusiasm of students and inspire them to learn.
- Develop familiarity with a variety of strategies to promote and assess learning.
- Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on academic content and issues relating to student need.

**Grade 9 Associate Professor**

- Required to be an internationally recognised authority in the subject area.
- Examples of international recognition include: lecturing in overseas institutions, international teaching collaborations, publishing pedagogical papers in international journals, speaking at international conferences or seminars; as a frequent collaborator with overseas academics; or as specialist reviewer or consultant, used regularly by public, professional and overseas bodies.

**Grade 10 Professor**

- Be an internationally leading authority in the subject.
- For example: as an author of a widely used text-book or an internationally cited monograph or series of articles; as a frequent speaker at international conferences or seminars; as a frequent collaborator with overseas academics; or as specialist reviewer or consultant, used regularly by public, professional and overseas bodies.
- Possess in depth knowledge of specialism to enable the development of new knowledge, innovation and understanding in the field.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of institutional management systems and the wider higher education environment, including equal opportunities issues.