In April 2013, the Learning and Teaching Board approved a series of HWU Graduate Attributes, for students on all undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes.

The four HWU Graduate Attributes are:
- Specialist
- Creative
- Professional
- Global

An over-arching strapline summarises the four attributes and emphasises the distinctive quality of the HWU graduate:

**professionally educated, globally employable**

This series of attributes aims to ensure that the Heriot-Watt University graduate is readily identifiable and is distinct from the graduates of other HEIs. The four attributes must be regarded as a collective; it is the particular combination of these four qualities which defines the HWU graduate.

The attributes reflect the ethos and key values of Heriot-Watt University; they also take account of the HW graduate characteristics which the University's Strategic Plan states will be developed in our students.

The series of bullet points explains the particular qualities and skills which the HWU graduate will be able to demonstrate. These are intentionally aspirational, reflecting the characteristics which HWU graduates will acquire while at the University, and also develop further during their professional life.

**Progressing the Graduate Attributes**

The Graduate Attributes form a core part of the Enhancing Student Learning Strategic Objective within the University’s new Learning and Teaching Strategy.

From 2014/15, a Curriculum Working Group of the Learning and Teaching Board will consider how to support Schools in embedding the Graduate Attributes into their programmes, and how relevant Professional Services can assist in developing the HWU Attributes.

**References and Further Information**

Contact: qualityenhancement@hw.ac.uk; see Learning and Teaching Policy Bank: [http://www.hw.ac.uk/committees/ltb/ltb-policies.htm](http://www.hw.ac.uk/committees/ltb/ltb-policies.htm)
Learning and Teaching Strategy: [http://www.hw.ac.uk/committees/ltb/lt-strategy.htm](http://www.hw.ac.uk/committees/ltb/lt-strategy.htm)