The HWU Graduate Attributes

Key Aim
*Through their experience at Heriot-Watt University, all students will develop the skills and qualities of the four graduate attributes.*

A Distinctive Set of HWU Graduate Attributes
The following four attributes reflect the ethos and key values of Heriot-Watt University; they also take account of the HW graduate characteristics which the University’s new Strategic Plan stated would be developed in our students:

- Specialist
- Creative
- Professional
- Global

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, rather than each on its own, which defines the HWU graduate.

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

*The HWU Graduate: professionally educated, globally employable*

Each attribute is expanded by a series of bullet points which explains the particular qualities and skills which the HWU graduate will be able to demonstrate. These qualities and skills are intentionally aspirational, reflecting the characteristics which HWU graduates will not only acquire during the period of study at the University, but also develop further during the course of their professional life.
The HWU Graduate Attributes

- Possesses a breadth and depth of knowledge in their specialist area
- Applies, through research and enquiry, a systematic and critical approach
- Adopts an informed, analytical approach to identifying and resolving problems
- Is adept at utilising and applying knowledge in practical or academic contexts

- Demonstrates critical thinking, imagination and intellectual agility
- Strives to be innovative and experimental in advancing knowledge and in creating solutions
- Is flexible and able to adapt to rapidly changing environments
- Seeks and progresses opportunities for change and growth

- Is able to apply their knowledge and skills in international and multi-cultural academic or professional contexts
- As a global citizen, is aware of and takes responsibility for the social, civic and ethical impact of their actions
- Appreciates and responds to cross-cultural diversity
- Is aware of, and responds to, key challenges

- Acts with integrity and an ethical approach, accepting personal responsibility
- Values and is adept at team-working and collaboration
- Communicates in a confident, informed and inclusive way
- Is adept at evaluating, managing and presenting information
- Takes on increased responsibility
- Has an appetite for lifelong learning
- Is reflective and critical
- Is reliable, dedicated and self-motivated