**Frequently Asked Questions**

Food and Fibre Degree-level Apprenticeship Framework

**How is Te Ao Māori being incorporated into the work-based degree?**

HTK Group has reviewed the existing Te Ao Māori education models in relation to a Food and Fibre Work-based Degree and identified Te Ao Māori touchpoints across the entire study programme lifecycle.

**Will this programme include current curriculum?**

While it will include current curriculum from across the food and fibre provision offerings, the strawman curricula are different from current curricula. What would be the same are course descriptors for common core courses. Specialist level 5 and many level 6 courses will have partial alignment with course descriptors with the remainder of the learning being work aligned. Beyond that (probably for all level 7 courses), learning will be adapted to align with the nature of work the employee does at their workplace. What won't change (to ensure equivalence with other Bachelor degrees) are the graduate outcomes.

**Will the programme be available throughout the country?**

While the intention is to have the programme available throughout the country, this will not be confirmed until industry clarifies the need for this type of programme. It will also require a provider to be confident it has critical mass in their catchment area to justify developing and delivering a particular major.

**Do you have to complete all three tiers of the degree to gain a qualification?**

No, each study programme will be recognised as its own qualification, so you can study to the level that best suits you i.e. level 5 diploma, level 6 diploma, or bachelor's degree. If, for example, you completed the level 5 diploma, you could take a break for a year or two and then enrol in year two of the level 6 diploma or the bachelor’s degree. If you completed the level 6 diploma, you would be entitled to enrol in year three of the bachelor’s degree immediately or after a break from studying.

**What time-period would it take to complete a Bachelor of Food and Fibre?**

It is expected that a degree could take four to five years to complete while working full time. However, this could be reduced if the learner had relevant experience or if their employer was more generous in allowing more study time each week. Relevant work experience means they may skip the first- or second-year diplomas and could complete the bachelor’s degree somewhere between one and three years. Someone may also enter and exit at Level 5 or Level 6 Diploma dependent on the learner/worker and employer needs.

**What would be the cost outlay for an employer to put an employee through a Bachelor of Food and Fibre?**

Enrolment fees are considered unlikely to be less than current course fees for equivalent on-campus courses. However, we won’t know what those fees will be until providers have developed their study programmes and have a better understanding of the level of support they (the provider) will need to give to employers for the study programme to be successful. Overseas work-based degree study programmes generally require employers to release their employees for off-the-job learning for an average of 20% of their weekly paid hours.

**How would a learner be assessed at the workplace?**

The provider and employer would agree how knowledge and technical skills should be assessed for work-based learning, and the employer is solely responsible for determining if the employee has achieved that standard based on the quality of work-related outcomes and would provide confirmation to the provider. The trainee would also be required to maintain a portfolio of evidence, that could include photos, videos, and written personal reflections on what worked, what didn’t and what they would do differently. This evidence would then be assessed by the provider.

**What is the role of the provider?**

Provide a mix of on-campus courses, scheduled online courses (trainee accesses from the workplace) and on-demand online courses (trainee accesses outside of work hours). All of these courses would be delivered during the academic calendar – semester 1: late February to mid-June, or semester 2: late July to mid-November. It is expected that, from time to time, the provider would also organise weekend tutorials to give the employee the opportunity to both learn and mix with others in the region doing work-based learning.

**What is the role of the employer?**

The employer would agree to the learner taking certain amount of time off to complete study requirements. The employer would be solely responsible for assessing the quality of work-related outcomes against agreed success criteria, and would be required to provide an attestation to this effect to the provider.

**What is the role of the learner?**

The learner would be required to complete the various courses, including a mix of on-campus courses, scheduled online courses (trainee accesses from the workplace) and on-demand online courses (trainee accesses outside of work hours). The learner would also need to maintain a portfolio of evidence (photos, videos, personal reflections) that outlined what worked, what didn’t work and what they would do differently etc for any work-related training. This evidence would be assessed by the provider.

**Could this programme provide a qualification for all 14 industries in the food and fibre sector?**

Yes, the diplomas and degree, would provide a qualification that was suitable for all industries in the food and fibre sector subject to proven industry demand and critical mass in a region to justify a provider investing in developing those study programmes.

**What majors would be offered for this type of degree?**

The current framework proposes majors in Plant, Animal, Forestry or Aquaculture.

**How would the curriculum be different for each major?**

There is common core curriculum across each degree major, with unique specialisms for each major, allowing room for electives in the third tier.  An example for the Plant Major is outlined below:

