

DRAFT Defined Award Standards for
Anatomy, Physiology, Human Growth, Development & Biology
(Minor Award, NFQ Level 5)

Award Title	Anatomy, Physiology, Human Growth, Development & Biology
Teideal as Gaeilge	[To be translated]
Award Class	Minor Award
Level	NFQ Level 5 EQF Level 4
Credit Value	25 FET Credits
Mandatory/Elective	Mandatory

Purpose

This award is intended to equip the learner with a broad understanding of human biology, anatomy, physiology, and growth and development across the lifespan. Learners will gain the scientific and interpersonal skills necessary to apply biological principles in health, social care, and laboratory settings, demonstrating competence in analysing systems, supporting development, and promoting well-being.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:

1. Explain the structure and function of the human body and its systems, including the skeletal, muscular, nervous, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, excretory, endocrine, reproductive, lymphatic, and integumentary systems, highlighting their interdependence and roles in maintaining homeostasis.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of cellular biology, including the structure and function of animal and plant cells, major organelles, cellular metabolism, DNA/RNA processes, and principles of inheritance.
3. Identify the processes of human growth and development, from conception to old age, including physical, intellectual, emotional, and social changes, and evaluate the impact of genetic, environmental, and social factors on individual development.

4. Distinguish between normal and abnormal biological processes, such as benign and malignant growth, hormonal imbalances, and infections, and explain the role of the immune system, including both active and passive immunity.
5. Apply scientific knowledge and practical skills in a laboratory or field context, including microscopy, experimentation, microbiology, ecological surveys, and the use of safety procedures and laboratory documentation.
6. Discuss the principles and applications of genetics and biotechnology, including genetic engineering, mutation, blood group compatibility, and selective breeding in agriculture and healthcare.
7. Demonstrate effective interpersonal and reflective skills, including empathy, communication, self-awareness, and the ability to respond appropriately to the developmental and emotional needs of individuals across various care settings.
8. Analyse the interaction between psychological, biological, and environmental systems, and apply this knowledge to support well-being, learning, and social functioning in community, healthcare, or educational settings.
9. Demonstrate responsibility in observing ethical practices, maintaining accurate records, following safety protocols, and respecting the dignity and needs of individuals throughout their life stages.

Access

To access programmes leading to the above awards, learners should have achieved the knowledge, skills, and competence associated with NFQ Level 4 in the areas of literacy, numeracy, digital skills, communication, and personal effectiveness.

Learners must be able to communicate effectively with colleagues in the workplace through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This may be through a formal qualification or relevant life and work experience demonstrating equivalent learning.

Transfer

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Progression

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Learners may be assessed based on their prior knowledge and experience. This must be conducted in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the provider.

Specific Validation Requirements:

- Garda Vetting.

- Access to clinical learning environment (work base learning) with up-to-date equipment, fixtures and fittings, cleaning agents and materials, disinfectants, antiseptics, sterilisers, waste disposal and personal protective equipment.
- Access to an environment and equipment replicating the clinical setting (classroom).
- Work-based learning hours to be set in the application for validation.

Sector Specific Requirements:

- CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Assisted Mobility Training (Safe People Moving and Positioning Training) in accordance with current legislation and workplace health and safety policies.