

# Meta-skills — stepping up from HNC to HND in NextGen: HN

## Advice for learners

### The meta-skills outcome is the same at HNC and HND

If you are continuing from a Next Generation (NextGen) Higher National Certificate (HNC) to a Higher National Diploma (HND), you'll already be familiar with meta-skills and the meta-skills outcome. The outcome is the same at both levels, and you have opportunities to keep developing your meta-skills as you study the new subjects and projects of your HND qualification. The assessment requirements and standards for meta-skills are also the same. You don't need to produce anything more complex at HND, but your course as a whole will have stepped up a level.

### Why is the outcome the same?

First, the outcome stays the same to help you build on your meta-skills, and better understand their relevance to you and your subject area. This process reflects the way you continually develop skills in your day-to-day experiences and interactions, and fits with working practices such as appraisals, performance reviews and continuing professional development.

Second, the broad outcome and evidence requirements give you continuity, so you don't have to go back to basic learning about meta-skills. This, in turn, gives you autonomy, so you can take your development forward in a way that's meaningful to you.

Your self-assessment can pick up where you left off. You don't have to write or produce more than at HNC, or meet a certain level of development. You can extend goals, or pick new ones, and you can choose to work on the same or different meta-skills. You shouldn't feel that you're just doing the same thing as before — the important thing is to make your development meaningful to your current qualification and your next steps.

### Approaches at HND level

Your approach to planning or recording your meta-skills development and reflective practice doesn't have to be the same at HNC and HND levels.

After this academic year, you may be looking for a job, an apprenticeship, or going on to a degree. Employers and university admissions departments, for example, want you to be able

to demonstrate the skills you have and articulate how you have developed them. Think about what skills you'd like to work on, or improve further, to help you get ready for this.

Keep in mind how your experiences are preparing you for these next steps. Your reflection should still make the connections between these and the meta-skills you are developing. Capturing those experiences and reflections will help you when you come to complete applications, personal statements and prepare for interview. Our [SQA Academy](#) resources contain some helpful activities and advice, especially the [Developing Meta-Skills](#) module.