Qualifications can Cross Boundaries

A guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland

How to use this leaflet:

- This leaflet provides information that allows you to look at the ways qualifications are organised in the UK and Ireland.
- It shows which qualifications in other countries are broadly comparable in terms of the level of challenge to your qualifications (or those that you are interested in taking).
- On the left side of the principal table you will find the main stages of education or employment - you can find where you are in these stages.
- To the right of this you can see the nearest levels and similar kinds of qualifications that are used in the other countries.
- This makes it possible to draw broad comparisons in terms of the level of challenge, rather than direct equivalences, between qualifications and their levels for each country.
- The back page indicates how UK and Irish qualifications frameworks relate to qualifications frameworks in Europe.
- This leaflet is updated periodically. Check one of the websites for the most up-to-date version.

For more information or comparability with these frameworks see http://ec.europa.eu/eqf/home_en.htm and www.enic-naric.net.
Main stages of education/employment
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree, Vocational Qualifications</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree, Professional Development Award (PDA), Award</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Master’s Degree, Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>Master’s Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)</td>
<td>Master’s Degree, Vocational Qualifications</td>
<td>Master’s Degree, Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>Master’s Degree, Integrated Master’s Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree, Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree, Higher National Diploma (HND), Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>Higher National Certificate (HNC), Foundation Degree</td>
<td>Honours Degree, Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>Foundation Degree, Higher National Diploma (HND), Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Vocational Qualifications</td>
<td>Foundation Degree, Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>Ordinary Bachelor Degree</td>
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<td>Entry Level Certificate (sub levels 1-3), Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (ESQ)</td>
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*The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA but is not part of the FHEQ.

The table gives an indication of how you can compare qualifications across national boundaries. Examples of major qualifications at each level are provided. For more detail of the qualifications that are current and legacy at the time of publication in each country, you will need to consult the website given at the head of each column.

This leaflet is designed to give some information to help you begin this process; for example, by telling you what your qualification, or qualifications you are interested in studying, are broadly comparable to in other countries.

Qualifications can cross boundaries - a guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland. Seventh edition published September 2019

www.qaa.ac.uk
www.obao.gov.uk
www.cce.org.uk
www.cfhe.net

Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training.

Higher education
Advanced Skills Training
Entry to professional graduate employment
Specialised education and training
Qualified/Skilled worker
Entry to higher education
Completion of secondary education
Progression to skilled employment
Continuation of secondary education
Secondary education: initial entry into employment or further education

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www.ccea.org.uk
www.ofqual.gov.uk
www.cqfw.net
www.qqi.ie
www.scqf.org.uk
www.sfqf.org.uk