

Useful links

The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI)
www.nqai.ie

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) www.nfq.ie

Qualifications Recognition www.qualrec.ie

ENIC-NARIC (European Network of Information Centres)
/National Academic Recognition Information Centres
www.enic-naric.net

FETAC www.fetac.ie

HETAC www.hetac.ie

European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning
(EQF) www.ec.europa.eu/eqf/home_en.htm

Bologna Framework
www.nqai.ie/documents/bolognasummary.pdf

Europass www.europass.ie

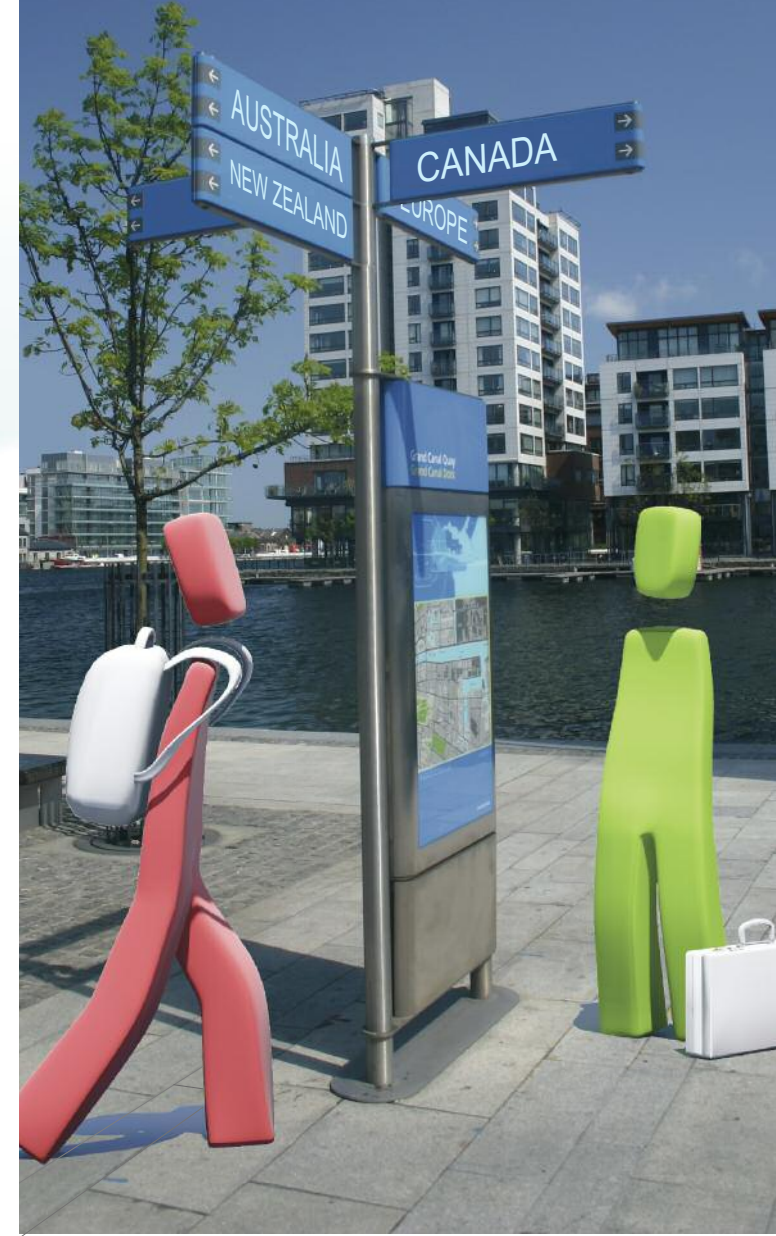
Department of Education and Skills www.education.ie



Údarás Náisiúnta
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann
National Qualifications
Authority of Ireland

www.nqai.ie

TRAVELLING WITH YOUR IRISH QUALIFICATION?



Travelling with your Irish qualification?

This leaflet aims to provide advice on the initial steps involved in getting your Irish qualification recognised abroad – whether you are travelling for work or for further study.

Recognition of qualifications can be categorised as follows:

- Recognition of qualifications for academic purposes i.e. for access to further learning and for access to unregulated professions.
- Recognition of qualifications for the purpose of access to regulated professions.

Understanding the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

The National Framework of Qualification (NFQ) is a system of ten levels encompassing all education and training from the very initial stages to the most advanced stages regardless of whether the learning is achieved in schools or colleges, at work or in the home or community. To cater for all learning, different award-types are available. Major Awards are the main class of award made at a level - for example, the Leaving Certificate, the Advanced Certificate or the Honours Bachelor Degree. There are 16 major awards in the Framework which can be seen in the detailed 'fan diagram' over page. The other award-types available are Minor Awards, Special Purpose Awards and Supplemental Awards.

The NFQ aims to make the qualifications system easier to understand, thus facilitating recognition of qualifications both at home and abroad.

With information on the full title of your qualification and awarding body, you can determine how it 'fits' into the Irish education system. Further details are available at www.nfq.ie



What level is my qualification on the NFQ?

For information on the level of your qualification please consult the detailed 'fan diagram' over page. For 'legacy' or older awards made before the introduction of the NFQ please consult www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/images/LegacyFan.JPG

Are there specific qualifications agreements in place with other countries?

Increasingly, learners and workers are travelling to other countries to access employment and further education. Irish qualifications can be compared with those in other countries, for example: Qualifications Can Cross Boundaries – A Rough Guide to Comparing Qualifications in the UK and Ireland www.qualrec.ie/uk.html

Details of additional Recognition Agreements can be found at www.qualrec.ie/qualification-recognition-service-agreements.html

National Framework of Qualifications

Creaitoire Náisiúnta na gCáilíochtaí

Who should I contact?

Each country has the responsibility to recognise foreign qualifications within its own jurisdiction. An international network known as ENIC-NARIC (European Network of Information Centres/National Academic Recognition Information Centres) facilitates the recognition of academic qualifications throughout Europe and further afield, including the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. For further information and contact details for each centre view www.enic-naric.net. The Irish ENIC-NARIC, Qualifications Recognition, is based at the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI). Qualifications Recognition is responsible for both academic recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland and promoting recognition of Irish qualifications abroad. Further details are available on www.qualrec.ie

A separate network known as the NRP (National Reference Point) is in place which facilitates the recognition of vocational qualifications throughout Europe. Further details are available on www.qualrec.ie/about-us-nrp.html

Europass

Europass is an initiative which aims to help you make your skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe - whether you are enrolling in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad. Further details are available at www.europass.ie



Recognition for trade qualifications

Individual countries have specific organisations responsible for recognition of trade qualifications. Contact information may be obtained through the ENIC-NARIC network.

Examples include:

AUSTRALIA: Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) provides information and advice regarding the recognition of overseas trades qualifications and skills. Further details are available at www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Programmes/TRA/

CANADA: In Canada trade certification is a provincial responsibility, thus each province is responsible for issuing and recognising qualifications in its own jurisdiction. Further details are available at www.red-seal.ca

NEW ZEALAND: Recognition may be gained through the 'Skilled Migrant Category' operated by Immigration New Zealand. Further details are available at www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/skilledmigrant/

Recognition for regulated professions

A number of directives and agreements are in place which regulate the qualifications people must hold in order to practice in such professions. In general, a competent authority is in place in each country which oversees each profession or specific area of regulated work. For information on professional recognition in Ireland, please see 'Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications' on the website of the Department of Education and Skills www.education.ie

Planning ahead...

The relevant ENIC-NARIC body or NRP (National Reference Point) /authority in the country to which you are travelling will be able to give advice on the specific procedures you must undertake to obtain recognition of your qualification. You should ensure that you have all relevant original

documentation relating to your qualification such as:

- a **parchment confirming the qualification you hold**
- **transcripts (list of subjects and results) for each year of your studies**

If you need a replacement parchment and/or transcripts, you must contact the appropriate awarding body. Recognised awarding bodies in Ireland are indicated on the 'fan diagram' in this leaflet.

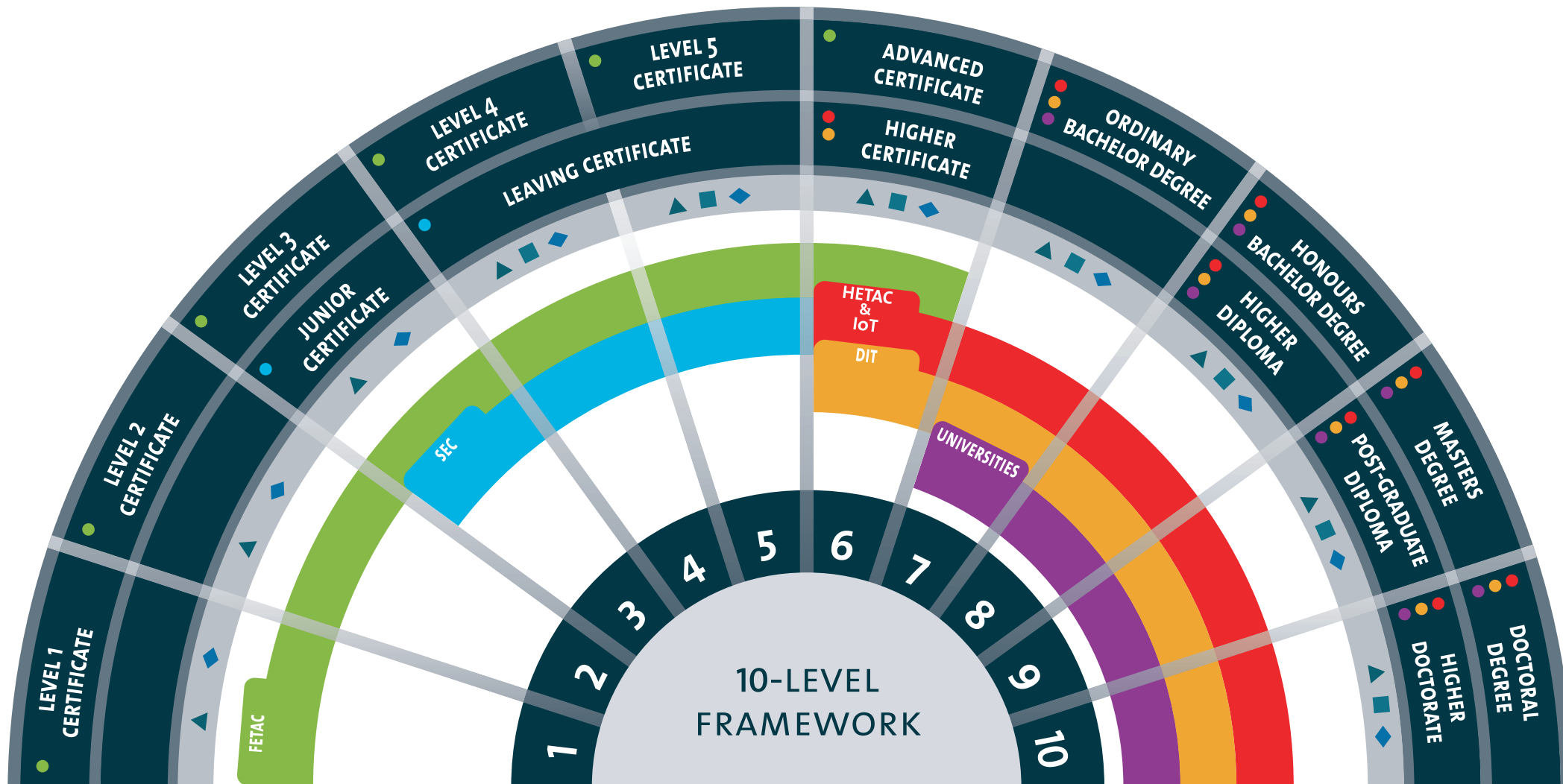
Overarching frameworks

The **European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF)** www.ec.europa.eu/eqf/home_en.htm is an overarching Framework which acts as a translation device, making it easier to compare further, higher and school qualifications across Europe. The higher education levels of the EQF (6-8) are compatible with the cycles of the **Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA)** or the **'Bologna' Framework**. Ireland verified the compatibility of its NFQ to the Bologna Framework in 2006 and to the EQF in 2008.



The major awards of the **National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)** www.nfq.ie are set out below, together with confirmation on alignment to the 'Bologna' Framework and referencing to the EQF.

EQF Level	EHEA Framework (Bologna)	National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Level	NFQ Major Award-Types
EQF Level 1		NFQ Level 1	Level 1 Certificate
		NFQ Level 2	Level 2 Certificate
EQF Level 2		NFQ Level 3	Level 3 Certificate Junior Certificate
EQF Level 3		NFQ Level 4	Level 4 Certificate Leaving Certificate
EQF Level 4		NFQ Level 5	Level 5 Certificate Leaving Certificate
EQF Level 5		NFQ Level 6	Advanced Certificate
	Short Cycle within First Cycle		Higher Certificate
EQF Level 6	First Cycle	NFQ Level 7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree
		NFQ Level 8	Honours Bachelor Degree; Higher Diploma
EQF Level 7	Second Cycle	NFQ Level 9	Masters Degree; Post-Graduate Diploma
EQF Level 8	Third Cycle	NFQ Level 10	Doctoral Degree; Higher Doctorate



AWARDING BODIES

- FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education & Science)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- IoT - Institutes of Technology (make their own awards at specified levels under Delegated Authority from HETAC)
- DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology
- Universities

AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four types of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- ▲ **Major Awards:** are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ **Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- ◆ **Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ◆ **Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement