



Decision and Implementation – the status and governance of national qualifications frameworks

An English and UK Perspective

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Key Governance issues



- **What is the purpose of the framework?**
- **What powers are needed to ensure the integrity of the framework?**
- **Who can reasonably exercise those powers and how will they be accountable to policy makers?**



Qualifications Frameworks Across the UK



Main stages of education/employment	Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk/ assuringstandardsandquality/qualifications LEVEL	Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk www.ccea.org.uk LEVEL	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales www.cqfw.net LEVEL	National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland www.nfq.ie LEVEL	The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework www.scqf.org.uk LEVEL
Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment	8 Doctoral Degrees	8 Vocational Qualifications Level 8	8 Doctoral Degrees	10 Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate	12 Professional Development Awards, Doctoral Degrees
Higher education	7 Master's Degrees, Integrated Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificates	7 Fellowships, NVQ Level 5, Vocational Qualifications Level 7	7 Master's Degrees, Integrated Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificates	9 Master's Degree, Post-graduate Diploma	11 SVQ Level 5, Professional Development Awards, Postgraduate Diplomas, Master's Degrees, Integrated Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Certificates
Advanced skills training	6 Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, Bachelor's Degrees, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates	6 Vocational Qualifications Level 6	6 Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, Bachelor's Degrees, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates	8 Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma	10 Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, Professional Development Awards, Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates
Entry to professional graduate employment	5 Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diplomas (HND)	5 NVQ Level 4, Higher National Diplomas (HND), Vocational Qualifications Level 5	5 Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diplomas (HND)	7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree	9 Bachelor's/Ordinary Degrees, Professional Development Awards, SVQ Level 4, Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates
Specialised education and training	4 Higher National Certificates (HNC), Certificates of Higher Education (CerteHE)	4 Vocational Qualifications Level 4, Higher National Certificates (HNC)	4 Higher National Certificates (HNC), Certificates of Higher Education (CerteHE), NVQ level 4, Essential Skills Wales (ESW), Wider Key Skills (WKS), Higher Apprenticeship Framework	6 Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate	8 Higher National Diplomas, SVQ Level 4, Professional Development Awards, Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)
Qualified/Skilled worker		3 NVQ Level 3, Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Advanced Diplomas (England)	3 NVQ Level 3, ESW, WKS, Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Advanced, Apprenticeships Framework	5 Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	7 Professional Development Awards, Higher National Certificates, Certificates of Higher Education (CerteHE), SVQ Level 3, Scottish Baccalaureate, Advanced Highers
Entry to higher education		2 NVQ Level 2, Vocational Qualifications Level 2, GCSEs at grade A*-C, ESOL skills for life, Higher Diplomas (England), functional skills Level 2 (England) (English, mathematics & ICT), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	2 NVQ Level 2, Vocational Qualifications Level 2, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Intermediate, GCSEs grade A*-C, ESW, WKS, Foundation Apprenticeship Framework	4 Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	6 Highers, SVQ Level 3, Professional Development Awards, National Progression Awards, National Certificates
Completion of secondary education		1 NVQ Level 1, Vocational Qualifications Level 1, GCSEs at grade D-G, ESOL skills for life, Foundation Diplomas (England), functional skills Level 1 (England) (English, mathematics & ICT), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	1 NVQ Level 1, ESW, WKS, Vocational Qualifications Level 1, GCSEs at grade D-G, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Foundation	3 Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate	5 Intermediate 2, Credit Standard Grade, SVQ Level 2, National Progression Awards, National Certificates
Progression to skilled employment.					4 Intermediate 1, General Standard Grade, SVQ Level 1, National Progression Awards, National Certificates
Continuation of secondary education.					3 Access 3, Foundation Standard Grades, National Progression Awards, National Certificates
Secondary education. Initial entry into employment or further education					2 Access 2, National Progression Awards, National Certificates
					1 Access 1
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training	<p>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 in another country, you will need to consult the website given at the head of each column.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Qualifications can cross boundaries - a rough guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland, July 2011</p> 				

Questions?

