

Comparing Qualifications across countries

This table provides information that allows you to look at the ways qualifications are organised in Ireland and the UK. On one side of the table you will find the main stages of education or employment - you can find where you are in these stages. The columns show the different national qualifications frameworks. You can look at a level and/or qualification in one country and then see the nearest levels and similar kinds of qualifications that are used in the other countries. This makes it possible to draw broad comparisons between qualifications and their levels, rather than direct equivalences, for each country. However, please note data in this table is likely to need updating in Autumn 2008.

The Information is taken from: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ier/glacier/qual/compare>

Main stages of education / employment	England & Northern Ireland National Qualifications Framework	Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales	National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland	The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework	England, Wales and Northern Ireland framework for higher education qualifications: FHEQ
Professional or postgraduate education or employment	Level 8 Highly specialist Diploma from a professional body	Level 8 Doctoral degree	Level 10 Doctoral Degree Higher Doctorate	Level 12 PDA, Doctorates	Level D Doctoral degree
Intermediate / higher education	Level 7 Fellowships, NVQ Level 5	Level 7 Masters Degree	Level 9 Masters Degree, Post-graduate Diploma	Level 11 SVQ 5, PDA, Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters, Postgraduate Certificates	Level M Masters Degree, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates
Advanced skills training	Level 6 NVQ Level 4	Level 6 Honours Degree	Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma	Level 10 Honours Degree, PDA, Graduate Diploma/Certificate	Level H Bachelors Degrees with Honours, Graduate Certificates and Diplomas
Entry to professional graduate employment	Level 5 NVQ Level 4	Level 5 Foundation Degree, HND, HNC	Level 7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree	Level 9 Ordinary Degree, PDA, SVQ 4, Graduate Diploma/Certificate	Level I Ordinary Bachelors Degree, Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education and other Higher Diplomas
Specialised education and training	Level 4 NVQ Level 4, HND	Level 4 Certificates of Higher Education, HNC	Level 6 Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate	Level 8 Higher National Diploma, SVQ 4, PDA, Diploma of Higher Education	Level C Certificates of Higher Education
Entry to higher education	Level 3 NVQ, VRQ, A Level	Level 3 NVQ, VRQ, A Level, Welsh Bacclaireate Qualification Advanced	Level 5 Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	Level 7 Advanced Higher, PDA, SVQ 3, Higher National Certificate, Certificate of Higher Education	Level 6 Higher, SVQ 3, Progression Development Award (PDA), NPA, National Certificate
Continuation of secondary education. Progression to skilled employment. Completion of secondary education	Level 2 NVQ, VRQ, GCSEs at grade A*- C, ESOL skills for life	Level 2 NVQ, VRQ, Welsh Bacclaireate Qualification Intermediate GCSEs grade A*- C	Level 4 Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	Level 5 Intermediate 2, Credit Standard Grade, SVQ 2, NPA, National Certificate	Level 5 Intermediate 2, Credit Standard Grade, SVQ 2, NPA, National Certificate
Secondary education Initial entry into employment or further education	Level 1 NVQ, VRQ, GCSEs at grade D-G, ESOL skills for life	Level 1 NVQ, VRQ, GCSEs at grade D-G, Welsh Bacclaireate Qualification Foundation	Level 3 Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate	Level 4 Intermediate 1, General Standard Grade, Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) 1, NPA , National Certificate	Level 4 Intermediate 1, General Standard Grade, Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) 1, NPA , National Certificate
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training	Entry level Entry Level Certificate ESOL skills for life	Entry level Entry Level Certificate (sub- levels 1-3)	Level 2 Level 2 Certificate	Level 3 Access 3, Foundation Standard Grade, NPA , National Certificate	Level 3 Access 3, Foundation Standard Grade, NPA , National Certificate
	Entry level Entry Level Certificate ESOL skills for life	Entry level Entry Level Certificate (sub- levels 1-3)	Level 1 Level 1 Certificate	Level 2 Access 2, National Progression Award (NPA), National Certificate	Level 2 Access 2, National Progression Award (NPA), National Certificate
	Entry level Entry Level Certificate ESOL skills for life	Entry level Entry Level Certificate (sub- levels 1-3)	Level 1 Level 1 Certificate	Level 1 Access 1	Level 1 Access 1