


Main stages of education / employment	<b>Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland</b> <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/fheq">www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/fheq</a>	<b>Qualifications and Credit Framework/National Qualifications Framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland*</b> <a href="http://www.ofqual.gov.uk">www.ofqual.gov.uk</a>	<b>Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales</b> <a href="http://www.cqfw.net">www.cqfw.net</a>	<b>National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland</b> <a href="http://www.nfq.ie">www.nfq.ie</a>	<b>The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework</b> <a href="http://www.scfq.org.uk">www.scfq.org.uk</a>	
	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	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), Higher National Certificates (HNC), 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 (CertHE)	4 Vocational Qualifications Level 4	4 Higher National Certificates (HNC), Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)	6 Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate	8 Higher National Diplomas, SVQ Level 4, Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)	
Qualified/Skilled worker	<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><b>Qualifications can cross boundaries</b>            – a rough guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland. July 2009.</p> 	3 NVQ Level 3, Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Advanced Diplomas	3 NVQ Level 3, Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Advanced	5 Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	7 Professional Development Awards, Higher National Certificates (HNC), Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE) SVQ Level 3, 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, functional skills Level 2 (English, mathematics & ICT)	2 NVQ Level 2, Vocational Qualifications Level 2, GCSEs at grade A*–C, ESOL skills for life, Higher Diplomas, functional skills Level 2 (English, mathematics & ICT)	2 NVQ Level 2, Vocational Qualifications Level 2, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Intermediate, GCSEs grade A*–C	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, functional skills Level 1 (English, mathematics & ICT)	1 NVQ Level 1, Vocational Qualifications Level 1, GCSEs at grade D–G, ESOL skills for life, Foundation Diplomas, functional skills Level 1 (English, mathematics & ICT)	1 NVQ Level 1, 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 2, National Progression Awards, National Certificates
Progression to skilled employment.		<p>Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training</p>	Entry Level	Entry Level	2 Level 2 Certificate	4 Intermediate 1, General Standard Grade, Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) 1, National Progression Awards, National Certificates
Continuation of secondary education.	Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1–3), ESOL skills for life, functional skills Entry Level (English, mathematics & ICT)		Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1–3), ESOL skills for life, functional skills Entry Level (English, mathematics & ICT)	3 Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate	3 Access 3, Foundation Standard Grades, National Progression Awards, National Certificates	
Secondary education Initial entry into employment or further education	Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1–3), ESOL skills for life, functional skills Entry Level (English, mathematics & ICT)		Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1–3), ESOL skills for life, functional skills Entry Level (English, mathematics & ICT)	2 Level 2 Certificate	4 Access 2, National Progression Awards, National Certificates	
				1 Level 1 Certificate	2 Access 1	

\* The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) will eventually replace the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).