

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

OVERVIEW & AGENDA

INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW AND PRESENTATION OF THE IRISH NQF
ANGELA LAMBKIN

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE IRISH NQF AND HOW DID IT GAIN PUBLIC TRUST-
QA IN THE IRISH NQF
JOHN O'CONNOR, BEATA SOKOLOWSKA

LIFE-LONG LEARNING POLICY IN THE IRISH NQF
BARBARA KELLY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (30 MINS)
ALL

CLOSE

Education in Ireland



Education is compulsory for children in Ireland from the ages of 6 to 16 or until students have completed 3 years of second-level education.

The Irish education system is made up of primary, second, third-level and further education.

State-funded education is available at all levels as well as private schools.

QQI



- Agency of the Department of Further, Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science
- Independent body directed by a Board
- Established 2012 following legislation amalgamating previous agencies
- Staff complement around 80 pax
- Budget/grant from Department/Income from services provided

Tertiary Education in Ireland (2018)

- Population of Ireland – c. 5m
- 162,000 full-time students (in public higher education institutions)
- 25,000 full-time post - graduate students (in public higher education institutions)
- 320,000 beneficiaries of Further Education and Training (in public FET institutions)

Post School: tertiary education & training Ireland



Further education/VET

Education and training which takes place after second-level schooling but which is not part of the third-level system. It includes programmes such as [Post-Leaving Certificate](#) courses; the [Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme](#) (second-chance education for the unemployed); programmes in [Youthreach](#) for early school-leavers; other literacy and basic education; and self-funded evening adult programmes in second-level schools.

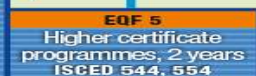
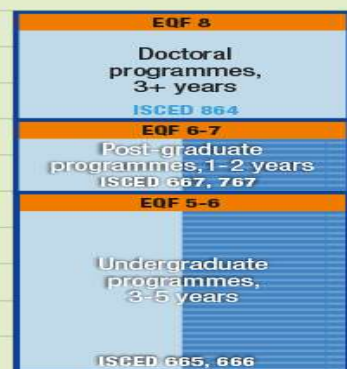
Apprenticeship now spans further and higher education and training in Ireland

[Third-level education](#) is made up of a number of sectors.

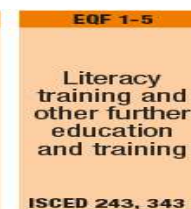
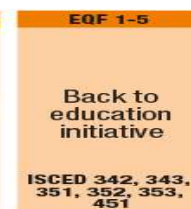
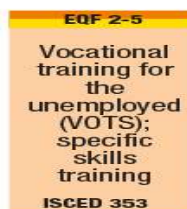
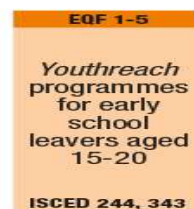
The university sector, the technological sector and the colleges of education are substantially funded by the State. In addition there are a number of independent private colleges.

There are universities which are autonomous and self-governing. They offer degree programmes at bachelor, masters and doctorate level.

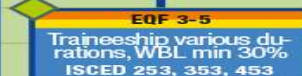
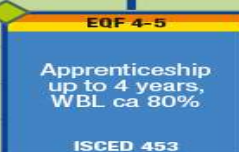
TERTIARY LEVEL



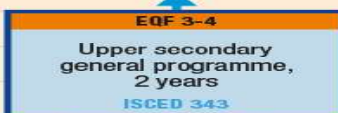
SECOND CHANCE AND ADULT LEARNING



POST-SECONDARY LEVEL



SECONDARY LEVEL



18+ 12+

18 13
17 12
16 11

15 10
14 9
13 8

AGE YEARS in E&T

- General education programmes
- VET programmes
- Programmes combining VET and general education
- Also available to adults
- Officially recognised vocational qualifications
- Qualifications allowing access to the next education level

- Giving access to tertiary education
- End of compulsory education
- Possible progression routes
- Possible, but atypical study paths
- WBL Work-based learning, either at the workplace or a VET institution

Tertiary Education in Ireland

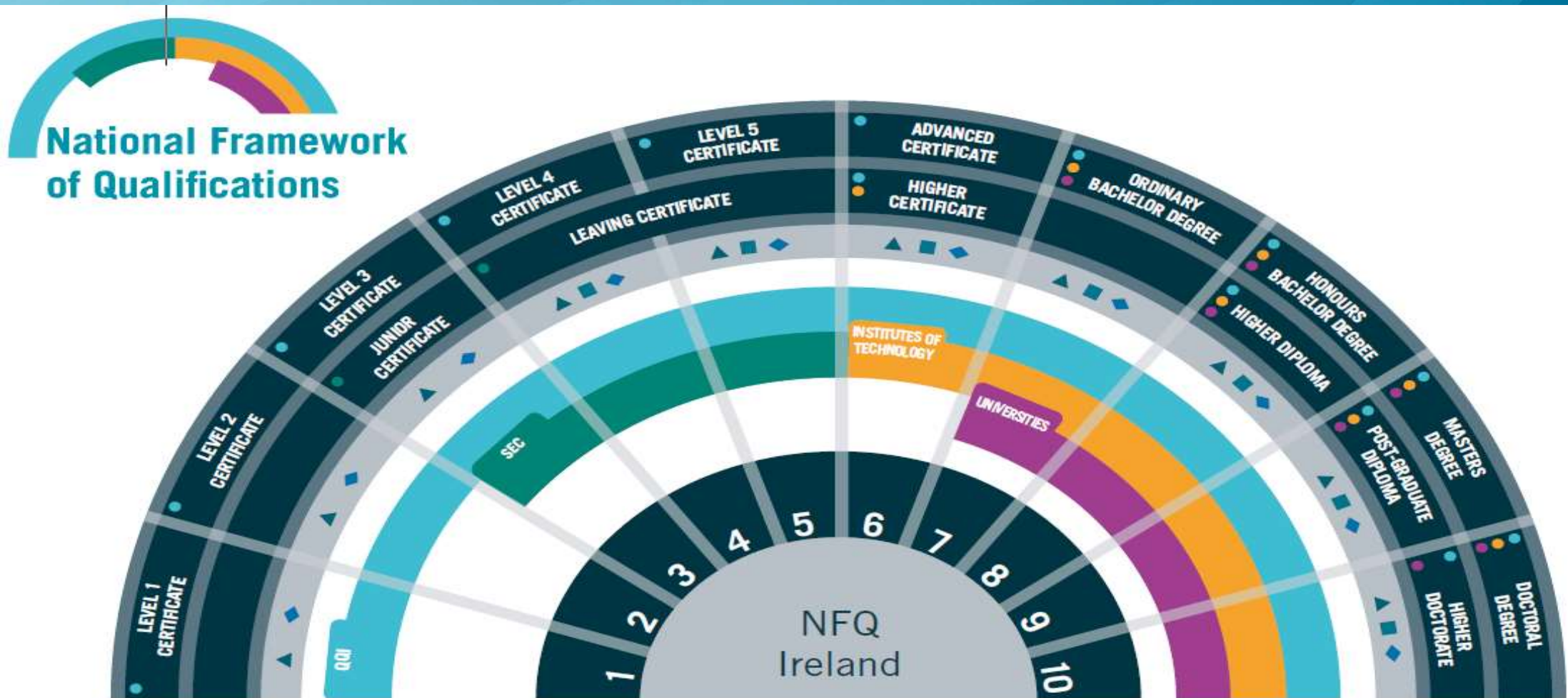
- 7 (public) universities
- 1 Technological University (so far) (2 in process)
- 11 (public) Institutes of Technology
- Private & community providers/institutions
- 16 regional (Further) Education and Training Boards



QQI functions

- Maintenance of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Institutional Quality Assurance of self-awarding public HE providers
- Validation and certification of programmes of private HE providers
- Validation and certification of programmes of public and private FET providers
- Irish NARIC – qualifications recognition
- Regulation of English Language Education Providers

Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)



National Framework
of Qualifications



What is the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) ?



- The NFQ is a system of levels for qualifications
- Ten NFQ levels are defined by the [NFQ Grid of Level Indicators](#)
- The NFQ also includes a range of award-types and award classes
- One framework to encompass all awards for all aspects of education and training
- A simple, transparent frame of reference
- Most widely recognised macro-level infrastructure for qualifications in Ireland



Objectives of the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)



The NFQ has been designed to facilitate:

- Communication about qualifications (e.g. on their comparability)
- The design and specification of specific qualifications
- The design of programmes of education and training leading to qualifications
- Processes for the recognition of prior learning
- The design and specification of learning pathways

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) – Key Milestones

2003



After an extensive period of public engagement and consultation, the NFQ was established as the single national entity through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other.

The NFQ was self-certified as compatible with the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area (QF EHEA), the first national Qualification Framework to complete this exercise.



2006

2009



The NFQ was referenced to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) the first national Qualifications Framework to complete this exercise.

2009 Report of the International Panel on Implementation and Impact of the Irish NFQ.

[VIEW REPORT](#)

2018



2018 NFQ Impact Assessment At a Glance.

2019

Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Amendment) Act.

Ireland submits its single updating report re-referencing the NFQ to EQF and re-confirming compatibility of the NFQ with QF-EHEA.

2020

2012

The Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act reaffirms the statutory basis of the NFQ and entrusts maintenance and development of the NFQ to QQI.

2016

Reflections and Trajectories - Qualifications Policy Insights as a companion paper to the Policy Impact Assessment of the NFQ.



2017

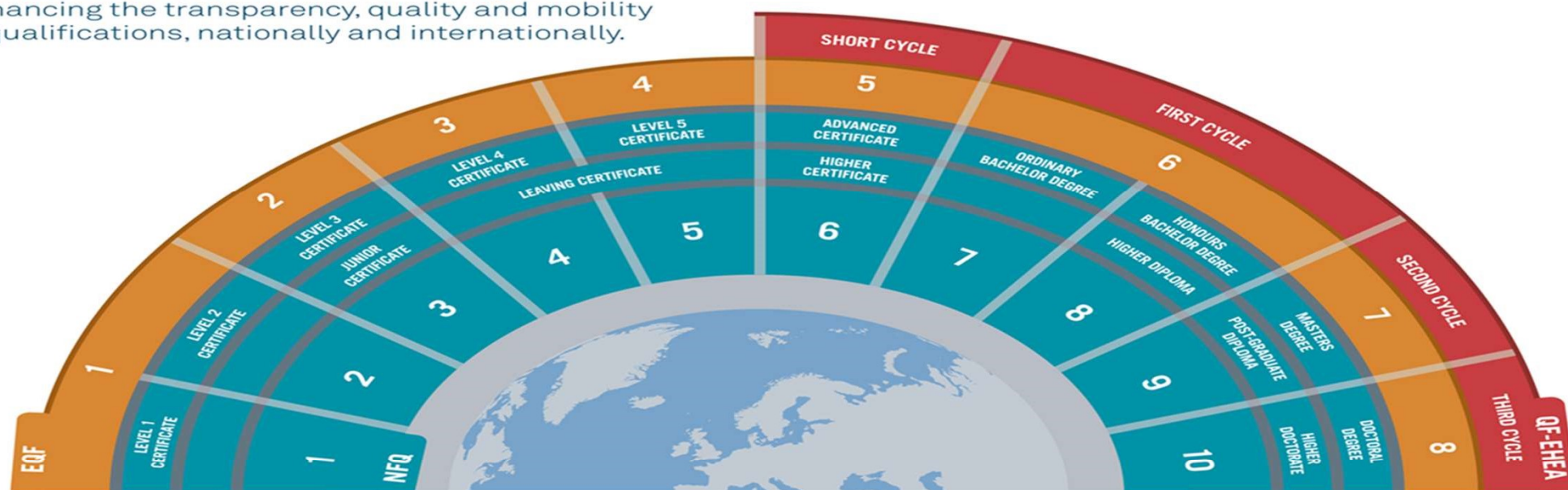


NFQ Policy Impact Assessment.

European Orientation of the NFQ

Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global

Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.



- NFQ
- EQF
- QF-EHEA

Irish National Framework of Qualifications
European Qualifications Framework
Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area

Useful links



- The [NFQ Grid of Level Indicators](#)
- [Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications](#)
- [Descriptors for Minor, Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Types](#)
- [National Qualifications Frameworks - Reflections and Trajectories](#)
- [Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines](#)
- [NARIC Ireland](#)

References



Irish Register of Qualifications (<https://irq.ie>)
www.nfq.ie

Key Milestones in the Development of the NFQ
<https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Key-Milestones-in-the-Development-of-the-National-Framework-of-Qualifications.aspx>

www.education.ie
www.gov.ie

Discussion



Clarifications

Questions

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