



<b>Main stages of education/employment</b>  Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training	<b>Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland</b> <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk">www.qaa.ac.uk</a>	<b>Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland</b> <a href="http://www.ofqual.gov.uk">www.ofqual.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.ccea.org.uk">www.ccea.org.uk</a>	<b>Credit and Qualifications 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.cqi.ie">www.cqi.ie</a>	<b>Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework</b> <a href="http://www.sccqf.org.uk">www.sccqf.org.uk</a>
	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL
Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment	8 Doctoral Degree	8 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	8 Doctoral Degree, Vocational Qualifications	10 Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate	12 Doctoral Degree, Professional Apprenticeship, Professional Development Award (PDA), Award
Higher education Advanced Skills Training	7 Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificate	7 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	7 Master's Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)	9 Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma	11 Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Entry to professional graduate employment	6 Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Bachelor's Degree, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	6 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	6 Honours Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Professional Certificate in Education	8 Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma	10 Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Specialised education and training	5 Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diploma (HND)	5 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)	5 Foundation Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)	7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree	9 Bachelor's/Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Apprenticeship, Technical Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Qualified/Skilled worker Entry to higher education Completion of secondary education	4 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	4 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Certificate (HNC)	4 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Vocational Qualifications	6 Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate	8 Higher National Diploma (HND), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Technical Apprenticeship, Higher Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
Progression to skilled employment Continuation of secondary education	3 Access to HE Diploma*	3 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, GCE AS and A Level	3 Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced, Vocational Qualifications, GCE, AS and A Level, Access to HE	5 Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	7 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Modern Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Scottish Baccalaureate, Advanced Higher, Award
Secondary education. Initial entry into employment or further education	<p>*The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA but is not part of the FHEQ</p> <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 that are current and legacy at the time of publication in each 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>	2 Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade A*-C and grade 9-4, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualification (NI)	2 Welsh Baccalaureate National, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade A*-C	4 Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	6 Higher, Modern Apprenticeship, Foundation Apprenticeship, National Progression Award (NPA), National Certificate, PDA, SVQ, Award
<p><b>Qualifications can cross boundaries</b> - a guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland, Seventh edition published September 2019</p> 		1 Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade D-G and grade 3-1, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	1 Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade D-G	3 Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate	5 National 5, Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate, Award
		Entry Level Entry Level Certificate (sub levels 1-3), Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	Entry Level Entry Level Qualifications, Essential Skills Qualifications	2 Level 2 Certificate	4 National 4, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate Award
				1 Level 1 Certificate	3 National 3, NPA, National Certificate, Award
					2 National 2, NPA, National Certificate, Award
					1 National 1, Award