

UK Qualification Comparison Chart*

Main Stages of education / employment	Qualifications and Credit Framework/National Qualifications Framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk		Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales www.cqfw.net		National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland www.nfq.ie		The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework www.scfq.org.uk		Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/fheq	
	Level		Level		Level		Level		Level	
Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment	8	Vocational Qualifications Level 8	8	Doctoral Degrees	10	Doctoral Degree Higher Doctorate	12	Professional Development Awards Doctoral Degrees	8	Doctoral Degrees
	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 Postgraduate Diploma	11	SVQ Level 5 Professional Development Awards Postgraduate Diplomas Master's Degrees Integrated Master's Degrees Postgraduate Certificates	7	Master's Degrees Integrated Master's Degrees Postgraduate Diplomas Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Postgraduate Certificates
Higher education Advanced skills training	6	Vocational Qualifications Level 6	6	Bachelor's Degree 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 Diploma Graduate Certificates	6	Bachelor's Degrees with Honours Bachelor's Degrees Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Graduate Diplomas Graduate Certificates
Entry to professional graduate employment	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	5	Foundation Degrees Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE) Higher National Diplomas (HND)
Specialised education and training	4	Vocational Qualifications Level 4	4	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)	6	Advanced Certificate Higher Certificate	8	Higher National Diplomas (HND) SVQ Level 4 Professional Development Awards Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)	4	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
Qualified/Skilled worker Entry to higher education Completion of secondary education	3	NVQ Level 3 Vocational Qualifications Level 3 GCSE AS and A Level Advanced Diplomas	3	NVQ Level 3 Vocational Qualifications Level 3 GCSE 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	3	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
Progression to skilled employment Continuation of secondary 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 Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Intermediate GCSEs grade A* - C	4	Level 4 Certificate Leaving Certificate	5	Intermediate 2 Credit Standard Grade SVQ 2 National Progression Awards National Certificates	2	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
	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	4	Intermediate 1 General Standard Grade Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) 1 National Progression Awards National Certificates	1	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
Secondary education initial entry into employment or further education	Entry Level	Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1 - 3) ESOL skills for life Functional Skills Entry Level (English, mathematics & ICT)	Entry Level	Entry Level Certificate (sub levels 1 - 3)	2	Level 2 Certificate	3	Access 3 Foundation Standard Grades National Progression Awards National Certificates	1	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to training					1	Level 1 Certificate	2	Access 2 National Progression Awards National Certificates	1	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
							1	Access 1		



* Adapted from a table produced by Ofqual, OAA, SCOF, CCEA, CQFW and The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland.