



Guide: Recognition of Academic Qualifications in Ireland



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If you want to work or study in Ireland and your academic qualification is from another country, you may need to get your qualification recognised in Ireland.

You should get your foreign academic qualification recognised before you apply for jobs or courses, to give yourself the best chance of success.

This guide outlines how to get your foreign academic qualification recognised in Ireland. It also explains how the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) can help you compare the level of different qualifications.

If your work requires a professional qualification, such as teaching or accountancy, you will need to have your professional qualification recognised. The process for getting your professional qualification recognised is different to getting your academic qualification recognised.

1. The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

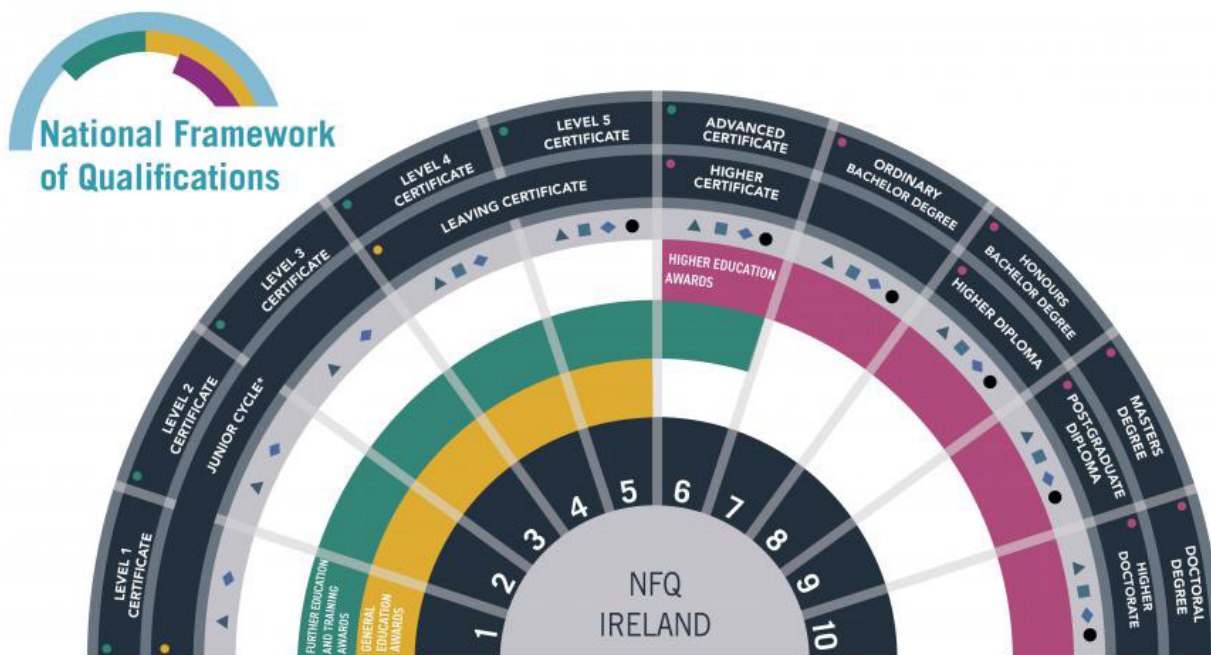
The [National Framework of Qualifications \(NFQ\)](#) is a system of 10 levels which allows you to compare different types and levels of qualifications available in Ireland.

Qualifications on the framework include:

- Junior Cycle (NFQ Levels 2 and 3)
- Leaving Certificate (NFQ Levels 4 and 5)
- Advanced Certificate – Craft / Higher Certificate (NFQ Level 6)
- Ordinary Bachelor Degree (NFQ Level 7)
- Honours Bachelor Degree / Higher Diploma (NFQ Level 8)
- Masters Degree / Postgraduate Diploma (NFQ Level 9)
- Doctoral Degree (NFQ Level 10)

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) is the state agency responsible for promoting the quality, integrity and reputation of Ireland's further and higher education system.

[NARIC Ireland](#), a tool by QQI, provides advice on the academic recognition of a foreign qualification by comparing it, where possible, to a major award type and level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). A comparability statement for each qualification listed is available for download.



CLASSES OF AWARD

- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement
- Professional Awards:** are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships

*Please refer to NCCA website, ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/

IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

- For more information on
- Qualifications
 - Providers
 - Courses
- visit www.irq.ie



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If your qualification is not listed in the database, you can apply for advice on the general academic recognition of your qualification [here](#).

QQI have created a guide about its academic qualification recognition service (NARIC): [English](#) | [Ukrainian](#)

2. How are professional qualifications regulated in Ireland?

The Department of Education is responsible for coordinating the recognition of professional qualifications in Ireland.

It also keeps a database of [competent authorities](#). A competent authority is a regulatory or professional body that can validate professional qualifications that you received outside Ireland. You can find examples of regulated professions and contact details on the table found in Section 3 of this guide.

3. How do you get your foreign qualification recognised?

The first step to getting your foreign qualification recognised is to contact the competent authority for that profession in Ireland. You must do this whether or not your profession is automatically recognised in Ireland.

Examples of regulated professions in Ireland and contact details:

Profession	Required Steps
All regulated professions See full list here .	You need to check if your profession is regulated in Ireland and apply to the relevant competent authority for qualifications recognition .
Architects Dentists Doctors Midwives Nurses Pharmacists Veterinary surgeons	On top of getting your academic qualifications recognised, you need to register with the relevant professional body to practise in Ireland.
Dietitians/dieticians Occupational therapists Radiographers and radiation therapists Social workers Speech and language therapists/ speech therapists Optometrists and dispensing opticians Physiotherapists (can also use the European Professional card)	On top of getting your academic qualifications recognised, to work in Ireland you need to contact the relevant competent authority to get your professional qualifications recognised . You must also apply to CORU to register for these professions to practise in Ireland.

Profession	Required Steps
Nurses responsible for general care Pharmacists Physiotherapists Mountain guides Real estate agents	<p>On top of getting your academic qualifications recognised, you must follow an online procedure to have your professional qualification recognised – the European Professional Card (EPC).</p> <p>You also need to register with the relevant professional body to practise in Ireland.</p>
<p>Some examples of regulated construction industry professions are:</p> Articulated dumper operation Built-up roof felting Crane operation Excavator operation Locating under-ground services Mini digger operation Scaffolding Shot firing Signing, lighting and guarding on roads Slinging/signalling Telescopic handler operation Tractor/dozer operation Roof and wall cladding/sheeting	<p>You need to check if your construction industry profession is regulated in Ireland. Search the EU database of regulated professions by country (Ireland).</p> <p>If your profession is regulated, you need to contact SOLAS to have your qualification recognised.</p> <p>You need to send your request, along with a copy of your qualification to the Construction Services Unit (Operations Section) in SOLAS.</p> <p>Email: rpq@solas.ie.</p>

If you do not find your profession on this [list of competent authorities](#), you can email qualifications@dfheris.gov.ie.

You can also find a list of professions and the links to the relevant application forms here. Please note that not all authorities have made their application form and instructions available online.

Contacting the Relevant Competent Authority

When you know who is the competent authority that can validate your professional qualifications, you should contact them as soon as possible to understand the recognition procedure for your profession.

We have put together an email template that you can use to contact them to ask about the recognition process:

To whom it may concern,

I hope this email finds your well. I am writing to enquire about the process of getting foreign academic qualifications recognised by [Name of Authority/Organisation].

I have successfully completed [Name of Course/Degree] at [Name of Educational Institution] in [Country] and I would like to work as a [Name of Profession] in Ireland.

If you could please send me the instructions for how to apply to get my qualifications recognised, I would really appreciate it.

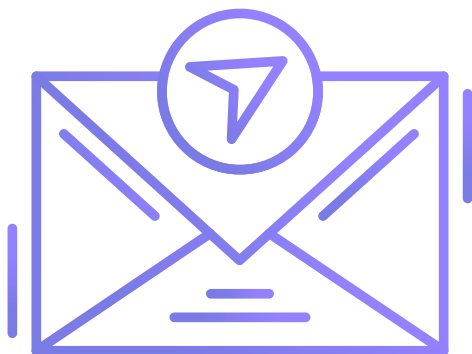
Please feel free to contact me at [Your Phone Number] or [Your Email Address] if you require any additional information or have any queries.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

If you already understand the process to apply for the recognition of your qualifications, then you can use the following template to submit your application to the relevant authority:



To whom it may concern,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to formally request the recognition of my qualifications obtained from [Name of Educational Institution] in [Country]. I have successfully completed [Name of Course/Degree] and believe that my educational achievements align with the requirements and standards set forth by [Name of Authority/Organisation].

I have enclosed the necessary documents, including my academic transcripts, certifications, and any additional supporting materials required for your evaluation. I kindly request you to review my qualifications and assess them for recognition in accordance with the relevant guidelines and criteria of your organisation.

I would appreciate any information regarding the timeline and process for the evaluation of my qualifications. If there are any fees associated with the evaluation process, please inform me, and I will gladly comply with the necessary payments.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to a positive response from your end and the opportunity to contribute my skills and knowledge in Ireland.

Please feel free to contact me at [Your Phone Number] or [Your Email Address] if you require any additional information or have any queries.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

4. What happens after you apply?

After you apply, the competent authority has four months to reply. It may accept your qualification, reject it, or apply a compensation measure.

A compensation measure is where the competent authority considers that your training is significantly different in terms of duration or content from that in the host country. You may be asked to get additional professional experience to complete your training, or to take a training course or an aptitude test.

5. Professional Bodies

A professional body also known as a professional society, is an organisation, usually non-profit, that exists to further a particular profession, to protect both the public interest and the interests of professionals.

Many professional bodies perform professional certification to indicate a person possesses qualifications in the subject area, and sometimes membership in a professional body is equivalent to having a certification, but not always. A membership in a professional body may be required for one to be legally able to practice the profession.

Below you will find a directory of the main professional bodies for each discipline:

- **[The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants \(ACCA\)](#)** aims to offer business-relevant, first-choice qualifications to people of application, ability and ambition around the world who seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.
- **[The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants \(CIMA\)](#)** offers an internationally recognised professional qualification in management accountancy, which focuses on accounting for business.
- **[The Certified Public Accountants Institute \(CPA\)](#)** designation is the most commonly used designation worldwide for professional accountants and the Institute's qualification enjoys wide international recognition. Its current Membership operates in Public Practice, Industry, Financial Services and the Public Sector and CPAs work in over 28 countries around the world.
- **[The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland \(ICAI\)](#)** is the largest and longest established accountancy body in Ireland. It has over 15,000 members, and it is the leading voice of the accountancy profession in Ireland.
- **[Irish Taxation Institute](#)** is the leading professional body for taxation affairs in Ireland. Our 6,000 membership comprises qualified tax advisers, accountants, barristers, solicitors and other business professionals. Our mission is to support an efficient, fair and competitive tax system that encourages economic and social progress.
- **[The Marketing Institute of Ireland \(MII\)](#)** is the professional body for marketing people throughout Ireland, offering membership, qualifications and training. The mission of the Institute is to develop business in Ireland by raising its marketing capability, upholding professional standards, and improving the skills of marketing people so they deliver exceptional business results for the companies that employ them.
- **[The Public Relations Institute of Ireland \(PRII\)](#)** is dedicated to promoting the professional practice of public relations in Ireland, and to serving the best interests of people working in the profession.

- **[The Institute of Public Administration](#)** is Ireland's only consultancy service focused exclusively on public sector development.
- **[The Institute of Management Consultants and Advisers \(IMCA\)](#)** is the Recognised Professional Institute for Management Consultants and Business Advisers in the Republic of Ireland. The principal objective of the IMCA is the advancement of the professions of management consultancy and business advice through the establishment and maintenance of the highest standards of performance and conduct by its members, and by the promotion of the knowledge and skills required for that purpose.
- **[The Institute of Advertising Practitioners in Ireland \(IAPI\)](#)** is the trade association and professional institute for Irish advertising agencies. Its primary role is to promote the highest professional and creative standards in the production of advertising, across all media.
- **[The Institute of Bankers in Ireland](#)** is the leading professional body in banking and financial services in Ireland and aims to develop fully the professional potential of professionals working in these areas.
- **[Insurance Institute of Ireland \(III\)](#)** provides a range of services and privileges which support and encourage the members' professional development. These services are offered at National and Local level.
- **[Irish Association of Social Workers \(IASW\)](#)** the national organisation of professional social workers in the Republic of Ireland.
- **[The Irish Film Institute \(IFI\)](#)** is now one of the most active cultural bodies in Ireland. In recent years we invested in our capacity to do all that we do to a very high standard, recognizing that the arts must operate at a professional level to have the impact it can have in today's Ireland. Our mission is simple: to both promote and preserve film culture in Ireland.
- **[Engineers Ireland](#)** is one of the country's oldest and largest professional bodies. Our primary role is to be the representative voice of the engineering profession in Ireland. Engineers Ireland is different from other engineering bodies in Ireland in that we represent all disciplines of engineering. Engineers Ireland organises a comprehensive national and regional programme of papers, lectures, debates, discussions, seminars, conferences, training courses, site visits and social activities to keep members up to date with all aspects of their profession.
- **[The Society of Chartered Surveyors \(SCS\)](#)** is the professional body for Chartered Surveyors practising in the Republic of Ireland. The Society currently has over 1,800 qualified members, practising in all areas of the Property and Construction Industry.
- **[The Association of Building Engineers \(ABE\)](#)** is the professional body for those specialising in the technology of building.

- **[The Chartered Institute of Building \(CIOB\)](#)** represents on behalf of the public the most diverse set of professionals in the construction industry, setting the pace globally for high standards of professionalism in the built environment. The objective of the Irish Branch of the CIOB is to effectively serve its members and raise the Institute's profile in Ireland.
- **[Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland \(ACEI\)](#)** is a voluntary self-regulatory professional body representing the business and professional interests of firms and individuals engaged in Consulting Engineering. As the voice of the Consulting Engineering profession, it assists in resolving issues of importance for clients and Consultants alike and contributes to the development of relevant public policy through involvement in Working Groups, Government Committees, and the development of model Conditions of Engagement, and policy papers, etc.
- **[Construction Industry Federation \(CIF\)](#)** actively represents and serves over 3,000 members covering businesses in all areas of the Irish construction industry through a network of 13 Branches in three regions throughout Ireland and through its 37 Sector Associations.
- **[The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland \(RIAI\)](#)** is the representative body for professionally qualified architects in Ireland. The RIAI's qualifications for membership are accepted by the Government, the courts and the EU as the required standard. The objects of the RIAI are the advancement of Architecture and the associated Arts and Sciences, the promotion of high standards of professional conduct and practice and the protection of the interests of architectural training and education.
- **[The Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland \(ESAI\)](#)** is an association of individuals working in or with an interest in the environmental area in Ireland. The membership is drawn from all sectors and disciplines, ranging from biology and ecology to engineering, hydrology and management and from professors to amateur naturalists. The association provides a network for people in the environmental area, promotes good environmental practice and better understanding of the environment and provides an expert and up-to-date lobby platform for the environmental concerns in Ireland and abroad.
- **[The Institute of Food Science and Technology of Ireland \(IFSTI\)](#)** is the leading independent qualifying body for food professionals in Ireland.
- **[The Institute of Physics in Ireland](#)** aims to promote the role of physics in education, health, the environment, technology, and scientific literacy. Its membership is wide-ranging and multidisciplinary, including the educational, industrial, medical, and general public sectors. The institute seeks common purpose with other learned societies to promote science and science-based learning and to influence science policy in the two jurisdictions on the island.

- [**The Institute of Chemistry in Ireland**](#) is the professional body representing chemists in Ireland. Its members are chemists who satisfy the requirements of the Institute with regard to qualifications and experience. The Institute promotes the study of chemistry, sets professional standards and organises lectures, meetings and social events for its members. It offers advice and comment to Government in areas relevant to the profession. Irish Chemical News, the official journal of the Institute is published twice yearly.
- [**The Institute of Biology Ireland**](#) represents professional biologists and promotes education, research and the application of biological knowledge. The Institute endorses professional competence through the maintenance of a register of professional biologists.
- [**The Academy of Medical Laboratory Science \(AMLS\)**](#) is the professional body for Medical Scientists in Ireland. The Academy functions as the Designated Authority with the approval of the Minister of Health and Children, in evaluating the education and training necessary to practise medical laboratory science in Ireland.
- [**ICS Ireland**](#) provides leadership and direction on a number of key strategic issues, including competitiveness, skills and education, research & development, trade, human resources, the knowledge economy.
- [**Technology Ireland**](#) promotes the interests of the software and IT services industry and provide member companies with access to a number of key stakeholders and services. Technology Ireland assists software companies to start, manage and grow their companies with a view to enabling members to become successful internationally.
- [**An Bord Altranais - Nursing Board**](#) promotes high standards of professional education, training and practice and professional conduct among nurses and midwives.
- [**Nursing & Midwifery Council**](#) establishes standards of education, training, conduct and performance for nursing and midwifery in the UK and ensures those standards are maintained, thereby safeguarding the health and wellbeing of the public. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) has [**registration information for nurses and midwives who trained outside Ireland**](#).
- [**The Teaching Council of Ireland**](#) has information about registering as a teacher when you have qualified outside Ireland.

6. Useful Links

- [Pathways to Progress](#)
- [Recognition of Foreign Qualifications](#)
- [How to Get Your Foreign Qualification Recognised in Ireland](#)
- [Recognition of Professional Qualifications](#)
- [CORU – Regulating Health Social Care Professionals](#)
- [Pathways to Progress – List of Professions and Relevant Application Forms](#)