

**QQI**Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Circular

Reference:	2016/02 QQI CL
Title:	QQI Validation Policies and Criteria
Issued by:	Regulation Section, Quality Assurance Directorate
Subject:	Notice of Publication of New Validation Policies and Criteria
Recipients:	Providers and prospective providers of programmes leading to QQI awards
Of Interest to:	Providers and prospective providers of programmes leading to QQI awards
Effective:	Immediately
Date:	19 May 2016

Notice of Publication of New Validation Policies and Criteria

Following a system wide consultation process QQI has established a unified set of core policies and criteria for validation, which have been published in the validation section of QQI.ie.

(<http://www.qqi.ie/Pages/Programme-Validation07.aspx>).

QQI's policies and criteria for validation comprise both core policies and criteria and specialised policies and criteria. The former are entitled "**Core Policies and Criteria for the Validation by QQI of Programmes of Education and Training**" and apply to **all** programmes. The core is augmented by specialised validation policies and criteria such as "**Policies and Criteria for The Validation of Programmes Leading to Common Awards System (CAS) Awards**".

Commencement of the New Policies and Criteria

The new policies and criteria have commenced for apprenticeship programmes leading to QQI awards at NFQ levels 5 to 9 and English language teaching (ELT) programmes leading to QQI awards. From 31 May 2016 (or sooner where arranged) the policies and criteria will also commence for programmes of higher education and training leading to QQI awards.

There will be a **transition period** for non-apprenticeship programmes of further education and training. The plan for the phased introduction of the new policies in this domain will be communicated once it has been developed in collaboration with stakeholders. Supplementary policies, criteria, procedures, guidelines, protocols and conventions will be required to be developed in light of the proposed new policies and criteria.

Transitional and savings arrangements are set out in **unit 16** of the new policies and criteria (and via the links in the panel on the right of the validation webpage). Certain legacy policies, criteria, procedures, guidelines, protocols and conventions will continue be used (changing what needs to be changed) until they are replaced.

The most up to date information is always available on the QQI website. Click [here](http://www.qqi.ie/Pages/Programme-Validation07.aspx) or copy and paste the following link www.qqi.ie/Pages/Programme-Validation07.aspx to stay informed.