



QQI and SOLAS are consulting on a proposed new award standard for the Advanced Certificate Craft - Metal Fabrication

Introduction

SOLAS, Ireland's Training and Employment Authority, has statutory responsibility for the organisation and control of designated apprenticeships under the Industrial Training Act 1967 and the Labour Services Act 1987.

QQI is the state agency responsible, among other things, for the development of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and for quality assuring providers of both further and higher education and training. QQI is also responsible for determining the awards standards for the awards it makes.

The first five apprenticeships are being reviewed by a process outlined as follows:

1. SOLAS conducts a curriculum review in consultation with stakeholders following which it proposes a revised standard of knowledge, skill and competence to be achieved by the apprentice before the education and training award is made (i.e. an award standard).
2. SOLAS commissions an external evaluation of the proposed award standard review by a panel agreed and under terms of reference agreed with QQI. The external evaluation report is sent to QQI.
3. QQI prepares a draft standard for consultation with stakeholders and publishes it along with the external evaluation report.
4. Following consideration of the outcomes of the process QQI determines new a new award standard.

QQI has been developing the way it uses the Common Awards System to help meet the goals of the national Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019. QQI is currently exploring with SOLAS the possibility of regulating craft awards standards in a more general way through NFQ Award-type descriptors rather than through QQI standards for specific crafts. Under this arrangement SOLAS will develop specific craft award standards to be consistent with one of the applicable NFQ award-type descriptors. This specific standard will then be confirmed by QQI when the apprenticeship programme is validated. More details about this arrangement and the proposed new award-type descriptors will be published in October 2014.

Revision of Apprenticeship Programme Curricula

In 2012 the NAAC initiated a review (NAAC review) of the Apprenticeship Programme (including all the individual apprenticeship programmes). The NAAC review is still in progress. It aims to ensure that the Apprenticeship Programme (and each of the individual craft apprenticeship programmes) are up-to-date, relevant, and capable of meeting the needs of learners, the workplace and the economy.

Curricula for all the individual apprenticeship programmes will be revised within the parameters of the National Apprenticeship Review Committee (confirm title) NARC reports, pedagogical design needs, and QQI's quality assurance, programme validation and awards standards criteria. Each craft is being examined by the NAAC review. Currently, three of these crafts have reached the stage where an external evaluation can be sought.

This external evaluation will serve two purposes it will provide objective interface to the NAAC review and it will inform the formal QQI awards standards determination process. Here it should be understood that, in the future, each apprenticeship programme will have to undergo independent validation by QQI against QQI's validation criteria including the yet to be determined awards standard for the relevant craft award.

Standards Determination by QQI

As the body responsible for making craft awards QQI is required to determine the applicable awards standards. This means to determine the standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made by QQI or by a provider to which, under section 53 of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012, authority to make an award has been delegated.

To help inform its determinations the QQI requested SOLAS to establish independent External Review Groups to evaluate the ***minimum intended apprenticeship programme learning outcomes*** proposed by the NAAC reviews for each of the three crafts listed earlier in this document.

The membership and composition of External Review Group for **Metal Fabrication** agreed with QQI comprised:

- Dr. Anne Walsh (Chair), Academic Co-ordinator of the Open Learning Centre, NUI Galway
- Stephen McManus (Secretary), Former Registrar Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Trevor Clark, International Qualifications Framework Expert, UK
- Joseph Noesen, Ministry of Education Luxembourg, Education and training specialist with expertise in apprenticeship
- Pat Guilfoyle, TEEU, Technical Expert
- Duncan Beveridge, DIT, Technical Expert
- Adrian O'Neill, Learner Representative
- Adrian Geary, BMD, Employer representative

The review panel met with participating training providers, participating employers, learners who are involved in the current Craft apprenticeship programme, SOLAS and QQI (on qualifications and quality assurance matters).

Consultation

QQI and SOLAS would like to consult with stakeholders on the proposed new award standard:

Advanced Certificate Craft – Metal Fabrication (Major Award at NFQ Level 6)

The **Report of the External Review Group on the Award Standards for the SOLAS Metal Fabrication Apprenticeship Programme** is published in support of this proposal.

How to respond to this consultation document.

QQI invites interested persons or organisations to make written observations on the proposed standard.

Prompts for feedback on the award standard:

- **Clarity:** Overall is the expected knowledge, skill and competence sufficiently clear?
- **Alignment:** Do you think that the expected learning outcomes align well, in terms of knowledge, skill and competence with NFQ Level 6 indicators and descriptors?
- **Amendment:** Would you like to suggest amendments?
- **Comparability:** How does the standard compare with the expectations of other relevant qualifications with which you are familiar?
- Is there anything else that should be considered?

Submissions should be made by email to consultation@qqi.ie not later **Friday 14 November 2014**.



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

CERTIFICATE DETAILS

Title: Advanced Certificate Craft – Metal Fabrication

Award Class: Major

Level: 6

Credit Value: 240 FET Credits

Title: Advanced Certificate Craft – Metal Fabrication

Purpose

The purpose of this award is to enable the learner to attain the standard required to achieve the National Advanced Craft Certificate through the knowledge, skill and competence essential in metal fabrication in the fields of manufacturing, construction, design, installation, repair and maintenance in materials such as low carbon steel, stainless steel, aluminium and cast iron in accordance with national standards, E.U legislation and training to current EN Standards for Welding

Fabrication Drawing

The metal fabrication craft addresses:

- Fabrication
- Thermal Process
- Structural Steel Fabrication
- Fabrication Drawing

Learners should be able to:		NFQ Level Indicators	
1	Demonstrate s specialised knowledge of a broad range of theoretical, conceptual and factual components and characteristics of the Metal Fabrication craft	Knowledge	Breadth Specialised knowledge of a broad area Kind Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant depth in some areas
2	Exhibit a specialised knowledge and understanding of the principles, practices, tools and equipment necessary for the design, manufacture, installation, maintenance and repair of metallic components to conform with industrial standards and specifications within required workplace health and safety legislation		
3	Demonstrate a comprehensive range of specialised Fabrication skills using equipment, hand and power tools in compliance with relevant health and safety legislation	Know-how and skill	Range Demonstrate comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools Selectivity Formulate responses to well-defined abstract problems
4	Exercise proficiency in the planning, designing, manufacturing and installation of all fabricated steel components		
5	Apply theoretical and technical know-how to install, manufacture, inspect, test, fault find, maintain and repair steel components in manufacturing and construction environments		

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6	Apply theoretical and technical knowledge of material properties and applications for a variety of materials such as low carbon steel, cast iron, stainless steel, aluminium and all relevant alloys	Competence - context	Utilise diagnostic and creative skills in a range of functions in a wide variety of contexts
6	Exercise substantial independence in the workplace, taking responsibility for metal fabrication duties performed by themselves and others, ensuring safe work practices and interacting with engineers, management, customers, colleagues and suppliers	Competence- Role	Exercise substantial personal autonomy and often take responsibility for the work of others and/or for the allocation of resources; form, and function within, multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups
7	Have the capability and be able to take initiative to identify and address self-development and training needs in both an employment and structured training environment	Competence- Learning to learn	Learn to take responsibility for own learning within a managed environment
8	Evaluate the function and role of the metal fabricator in society to include an awareness of energy conservation and other relevant ecological concerns	Competence- Insight	Express an internalised, personal world view, reflecting engagement with others

Certificate Requirements

To be awarded this certificate the learner must have achieved the expected Learning Outcomes set out above and the following components. The total credit requirement for this Advanced Certificate is **240 FET Credits** including the credit for the following components

All of the following component(s)

	Code	Title	Level	Credit Value
	6N1950	Communications	6	15
	6N1948	Team Leadership	6	15

Assessment Technique(s) including weighting(s)

The Advanced Craft Certificate grade is based on a weighted average of all Phase result grades. All components are integrated and assessed throughout the programme alternating between On-the-job phases and Off the job phases. To attain the required standard, a minimum of a pass grade must be achieved in all assessments prescribed in the apprenticeship programme specification. The apprenticeship programme assessment specification maps the component outcomes across assessment instruments in all phases of the apprenticeship

Title: **Advanced Certificate Craft – Metal Fabrication**

Pass - Is awarded when the cumulative assessment results achieved in all phases of the Apprenticeship programme aggregate between 50% and 64% of the total marks available.

Merit - Is awarded when the cumulative assessment results achieved in all phases of the apprenticeship programme aggregate between 65% and 79% of the total marks available

Distinction – Is awarded when the cumulative assessment results achieved in all phases of the apprenticeship programme is 80% or above of the total marks available

Specific Validation Requirements

All tools and equipment comply with safety requirements. The assessment area must be safe following an appropriate risk assessment in accordance with health and safety legislation

SOLAS, Ireland's Further Education and Training Authority has statutory responsibility for the organisation and control of designated apprenticeships under the Industrial Training Act 1967 and the Labour Services Act 1987.

Access Requirements

To access the programme leading to this Major award the learner must comply with all current apprenticeship entry requirements.

Supporting Documentation

Current HSA statutory regulations and codes of practice
Manufacture's technical/hazardous material Information
Current Apprenticeship Rules

