



## ADDING VALUE TO QUALIFICATIONS

The European Union is the world's most open marketplace, where EU citizens are free to live, work, and study wherever they wish.

As an Irish citizen, you enjoy the same freedom to find work and explore study opportunities anywhere in Europe. Taking advantage of this right becomes much easier when your qualifications are understood and valued across national borders.

## IRISH QUALIFICATIONS IN CONTEXT

Established in 2003, the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) describes qualifications in terms of what learners know, understand and are able to do. It also sets out qualifications pathways from one NFQ level to the next.

The NFQ gives employers, education providers and learners a simple, transparent frame of reference for qualifications in Ireland.



## RECOGNISING QUALIFICATIONS ACROSS EUROPE

Increasingly, Irish people are using their qualifications to seek out work or further study opportunities around Europe. The same is true for many of those moving to Ireland from elsewhere in the EU.

But European education and training systems are diverse and reflect national traditions. Is there a way that employers and institutions can easily compare qualifications across sectors, systems and countries?

Yes - the [European Qualifications Framework \(EQF\)](#).

Designed to make qualifications more readable and understandable across countries and systems, the EQF supports cross-border mobility within the EU by allowing qualifications gained in any European country to be classified and organised into a simple eight level system.

Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global  
Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.



The EQF is well established in Ireland. Qualifications that are part of the Irish NFQ are assigned an EQF level. Ireland was the first country to implement the EQF in 2009 and now qualifications in Ireland enjoy European currency and recognition throughout Europe and beyond.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EQF VISIT:

[The European Qualifications Framework: supporting learning, work and cross-border mobility](#)



The EQF makes it easier for employers and institutions to recognise your qualifications, and supports you in pursuing your ambition, no matter where it leads you



## WHAT IF MY QUALIFICATIONS ARE FROM OUTSIDE IRELAND?

Quality and Qualifications Ireland provides advice on the recognition of Irish qualifications abroad. But it also gives advice on the recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland. To better understand your qualification in the context of the Irish education and training system, download a one-page Comparability Statement from our [online NARIC service](#).



So, whether you are pursuing a new career in Madrid or applying for a postgrad in Oslo, check the EQF before you go, and make sure your qualifications are understood – in any language!



## DID YOU KNOW THAT..?

Ireland was the first country in Europe to establish a clear and transparent relationship between the 10-level NFQ and the 8-level EQF?

