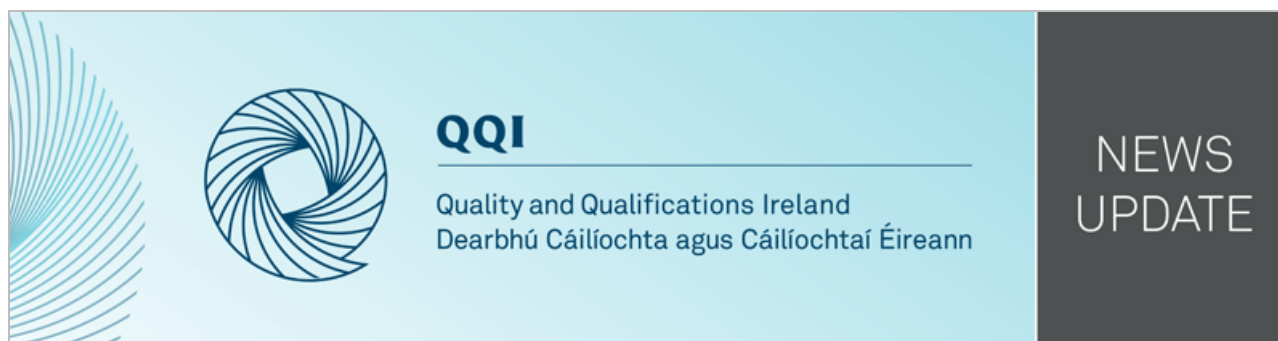


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## Update (No.3) - May 2016

### **POLICY: 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 now been published.

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 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. 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.

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.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the new policies and criteria.

### **RESEARCH: QUALITY ASSURANCE OF RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

QQI appointed a panel of national and international experts to review existing policy and guidelines on the quality assurance of research degree programmes in keeping with the National Framework for Doctoral Education. The goal is to develop National Quality Assurance Guidelines for Research Degrees (referred to as a National Code of Practice).

The Expert Panel reviewed existing quality assurance guidelines in use in Ireland and internationally to identify current best practice. Towards the end of 2015, the Expert Panel met with groups of stakeholders from the higher education and broader research sectors to avail of their expertise and views.

Click [here](#) for further information and to download a copy of the Expert Panel report.

## **CONSULTATION: REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Over the next 18 months we will be reflecting upon and restating our national ambitions for the NFQ. We want to explore new ways of collaborating with you so as to ensure that the framework remains fit for purpose. In the coming months you will be invited to participate in our consultation processes but in the meantime, if there is something on your mind about the NFQ, a good news story, a disappointment or a hope for the future, please let us know.

Click [here](#) to find out how you can 'Have your Say and Join the Conversation'.

*QQI has made previous updates accessible [here](#) to help keep you and your colleagues informed of all QQI-related news and developments.*

*Please note you can update your mailing preferences using the 'Preferences' link at the bottom of this mail.*

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

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