



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

**AWARDS STANDARDS -
FOR TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
AT NFQ LEVELS 6-9**

www.QQI.ie

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

FOREWORD

This document presents a framework (awards standards by NFQ Level) for English language teaching¹ (ELT) awards in the National Framework of Qualifications. Specifically it targets awards for teaching in programmes of education and training in English as a foreign language.

The standards are expressed as statements of expected learning outcomes to be achieved by candidates for QQI awards. The purpose of the standards is to translate the National Framework of Qualifications into language that is accessible to those involved in the provision of programmes of education and training designed to prepare persons for roles as English language teachers. The awards standards are for 'intended programme learning outcomes' of programmes leading to QQI ELT awards (or awards made under delegated authority). They are also for use by awarding bodies when validating a new programme leading to a specific award. Awards may be minor, supplemental, special purpose or major. The awards standards are not designed for use as assessment criteria. The standards are cumulative, meaning that the outcomes required at Level N are those specified by the statements in the corresponding column in addition to those in the columns corresponding to lower levels.

These draft standards were developed by an expert group assembled by QQI comprising:

- Rod Bolitho Norwich Institute of Language Education (NILE)
- Sue Engel ACELS CELT moderator
- Claire Farnon ACELS CELT Course Director, Centre of English Studies
- Dr Fiona Farr Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Limerick
- Cathy Gannon Language Centre, University College Cork
- Prof Steve Walsh School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences, Newcastle University

The standards are being introduced as part of a broader QQI project that aims to formalise the quality assurance of programmes of education and training in English as a foreign language. This work is being done in the context of the introduction of the International Education Mark. In this context the work concerning ELT, among other things, involves

1. The development of awards standards for ELT qualifications

1 Teaching always involves assessment and helps create opportunities for learning.

2. The development of a new QQI award at NFQ Level 7 to replace the non framework Certificate in English Language Teaching (see below)

For regulated professions in Ireland it is typical for academic standards and professional standards to be distinct. In essence meeting the academic standards entitles a person to an educational qualification but entitlement to practise requires one to meet (and continue to meet) a distinct professional standard. An approved (accredited) qualification is necessary but insufficient. The key point here is that academic standards, while relevant to professional regulation, have a different purpose. The awards standards here are academic standards and they are not designed to regulate the English language teaching (ELT) profession and are (alone) not fit for that purpose. However, it is hoped that the existence of widely agreed academic standards for English language teaching will assist in progressing better regulation and regulatory initiatives whether they be voluntary or statutory.

AUXILIARY VALIDATION CRITERIA FOR QQI PRE-SERVICE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING AWARDS AT NFQ LEVEL 7

INTRODUCTION

These auxiliary validation criteria are for programmes leading to pre-service (initial) English Language Teaching qualifications awarded by QQI at NFQ level 7. These pre-service ELT programmes assume no, or very little, prior teaching experience on the part of the applicants. Such programmes (and the corresponding award) aim to equip graduates with the knowledge, skills and competences necessary for initial entry into the English language teaching profession. The criteria must be read in conjunction with QQI's English Language Teaching Awards Standards and its validation policy and criteria.

The new Level 7 Certificate in English Language Teaching (CELT) is significantly different from the previous ACELS CELT. The replacement of the ACELS CELT by a new QQI CELT at Level 7 in the Framework will require that new programmes are developed by prospective providers and submitted for validation by QQI.

A handbook for programme developers and providers is considered necessary to support the consistent implementation of the new award standard for the new CELT at Level 7. **This handbook must be developed by the organisations intending to provide educational and training programmes for student teachers (providers). The handbook must be agreed by QQI before any programmes leading to the new Level 7 CELT are validated by QQI.** The handbook must, among other things, describe a national system for the moderation of award-stage assessment to ensure that the required standard would be upheld and that standards would be consistent between different providers.

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

AWARD TITLES

Award titles will follow QQI's higher education and training awards policy. Currently this would mean that a **12 ECTS** programme leading to a QQI award at Level 7 would be called a special purpose award and called '**Certificate in English Language Teaching**' and the award parchment would indicate the NFQ Level.

AUXILIARY VALIDATION CRITERIA

Section 3 of HETAC's Core Validation Policy and Criteria 2010 sets out the key criteria for validation. This follows some auxiliary (special) criteria that add to the basic criteria set out in the 2010 document. The auxiliary criteria must be met before an ELT programme can be validated by QQI.

PROGRAMME ACCESS CRITERIA

The level of English language competence required to complete the ELT programme and practise thereafter as an EL teacher must be specified. All applicants must be individually assessed against this standard prior to enrolment.

Minimum age and prior learning requirements must be clear and specified in the documentation provided to prospective applicants.

INFORMATION

Information on the minimum requirements for employment in the recognised ELT sector in Ireland must also be provided to prospective applicants. Currently this is a major award at NFQ Level 7 or higher along with a recognised ELT Certificate. The provider must require written signed acknowledgement of understanding of this by applicants who do not meet the first part of this requirement for employment.

The purpose of the programme in terms of preparation for entry to the ELT profession must be stated clearly for prospective applicants. It must be clear that this is a qualification which enables entry to the profession and provides a basic foundation in knowledge and skills, which can then be built upon once employed and teaching in the sector.

Information about the programme must include:

- the teaching approach and methodology(ies) underpinning the programme;
- modes of delivery and expected participation by student teachers;
- student teacher attendance requirement, including warning and expulsion policy;
- teacher educator team composition and roles;

VOLUME OF LEARNING AND MINIMUM PROGRAMME DURATION

The programme must not require less than 240 hours of average student teacher workload (inclusive of self-study). Tuition (input) must include a minimum of 120 hours, combining:

- face to face input sessions or equivalent online sessions
- review and evaluation sessions
- peer teaching
- a minimum of 6 hours of class observation
- a minimum of 6 hours supervised teaching practice at least two different levels of language proficiency

Self-study includes independent reading, lesson preparation, research, assignments, and such like.

PROGRAMME DESIGN

The teaching/ training staff: The training team must reflect a range of experience and expertise in particular segmented areas. All teacher educators must have a recognised ELT qualification at a minimum level equivalent to Level 8 in the Framework (NFQ), ideally an advanced qualification at a NFQ Level 9 equivalent, and be able to provide documented evidence of their own CPD activity.

Teaching practice opportunities – procedure and assessment: Teaching practice procedures in terms of what constitutes a TP session, how each TP per student teacher is organised, the role of the teacher educator and student teacher within a TP, the TP cycle including planning, delivery and feedback, including assessment, must be described.

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Summative assessment for entitlement to the QQI ELT certificate award must not be performed exclusively by the candidates' teacher educators because this would either give rise to real or apparent conflicts of interest. Externality must be provided through a documented moderation process preferably one that is established at a national level. QQI will not provide this service.

Assessment is divided into two components: teaching practice and other. These must follow a set procedure which is clear to student teachers, and is followed to ensure fairness and equity across student teachers and courses.

Assessment for English language teacher training for pre-service awards needs to contain a minimum of 6 hours (360 minutes), Teaching Practice in not less than 7 sessions (the final session being a full lesson i.e. a 50-60 minute lesson), supervised and assessed by members of the training team, with groups of genuine English language (EL) learners (having a minimum of 3 learners).

PROGRAMME QUALITY ASSURANCE

There must be procedures for the regular review and evaluation of the course programme that takes account of developments in ELT professional research & practice and feedback from EL learners and teacher educators;

The learning environment must include:

access to an ELT library / designated ELT library space to support the reference and study demands of the course programme;

classrooms that include appropriate technology and aids for ELT teaching purposes;

access to a range of up-to-date and current ELT classroom teaching materials, technology and aids;

available opportunities to observe experienced EL teachers teaching a range of genuine EL learners, both live and on video;

available opportunities to practise teaching genuine EL learners at different levels of ability, ages and backgrounds;

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

The graduate should be able to demonstrate:		Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9
			The QQI award to replace the ACELS Certificate in English language Teaching (CELT) will meet this standard		
		The graduate should be able to demonstrate:	The graduate should be able to demonstrate:	The graduate should be able to demonstrate:	
Volume			<i>It is estimated that a student teacher with an NFQ Level 7 qualification or equivalent (e.g. by RPL) would require a programme of no more than 12 ECTS credits to reach the standard.</i>		
Knowledge-Breadth		<i>Specialised knowledge of a broad area</i>	<i>Specialised knowledge across a variety of areas</i>	<i>Understanding of the theory, concepts and methods pertaining to a field (or fields) of learning</i>	<i>A systematic understanding of knowledge, at, or informed by, the forefront of a field of learning</i>
Knowledge-Kind		<i>Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant underpinning theory</i>	<i>Recognition of limitations of current knowledge and familiarity with sources of new knowledge; integration of concepts across a variety of areas</i>	<i>Detailed knowledge and understanding in one or more specialised areas, some of it at the current boundaries of the field(s)</i>	<i>A critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, generally informed by the forefront of a field of learning</i>
	(3.1) Planning for teaching learning and assessment	<p>Basic knowledge of the core principles of lesson planning.</p> <p>Basic knowledge of the language needed to formulate aims and intended learning outcomes.</p> <p>Knowledge of one or two principal approaches to planning certain types of lessons e.g. PPP in a limited range of common contexts</p>	<p>Comprehensive knowledge of the principles of lesson planning and ability to evaluate a variety of plans within a programme of work.</p> <p>Comprehensive understanding of concepts and knowledge of the language needed to formulate aims, objectives, and intended learning outcomes.</p> <p>Comprehensive knowledge of how to approach planning lessons which have a variety of focuses, which integrate skills in order to meet the needs of specific groups of learners.</p>	<p>Detailed and principled knowledge of the planning and evaluation of lessons across a complete range of levels within a broad programme of work.</p> <p>Detailed and research-informed knowledge of how to approach planning complex lessons which have a variety of focuses, which integrate skills in order to meet the diverse needs of specific groups of learners.</p> <p>In-depth and research-informed (including by reflection on practice) knowledge of different approaches to planning certain types of lessons including PPP, basic Task-based Learning, integrated skills and knowledge of how to apply these to different contexts, e.g., EAP/ ESP/ CLIL.</p>	<p>Critical and research-informed understanding methods for the critical analysis of the planning and evaluation of lessons across a all levels within broad programmes of work.</p> <p>Critical and research-informed knowledge of different approaches to planning and course design including methods for their critical evaluation to meet the diverse needs of specific groups of learners.</p>
	(3.2) Language skills and systems	<p>Basic knowledge of the principal language systems (i.e. grammar, lexis, phonology, and discourse) and of the relationship between form and use</p> <p>Basic awareness of genre and register</p> <p>Basic understanding of the relationship between language and culture</p> <p>Basic knowledge of the principal terminology for describing language</p> <p>Basic knowledge of language skills and their importance in teaching and learning</p>	<p>Comprehensive knowledge of the main language systems and of the relationship between form and use</p> <p>Comprehensive awareness of genre and register across a range of communicative contexts as they apply in ELT contexts</p> <p>Comprehensive working understanding of the relationship between language, culture and society</p> <p>Comprehensive working knowledge of terminology needed to describe language in detail</p> <p>A comprehensive knowledge of language skills, their key sub-skills, and their importance in teaching and learning, including integrated language skills and ability to analyse causes of learner error</p>	<p>Detailed and research-informed knowledge of the main language systems, and of the relationship between form and use;</p> <p>Detailed and research-informed knowledge and understanding of genre and register across a wide range of communicative purposes and contexts)</p> <p>Detailed and research-informed understanding of the relationship between language, culture and society and its impact in a wide range of contexts</p> <p>Detailed and research-informed understanding of terminology needed to describe language</p> <p>A detailed and research-informed knowledge of language skills and a critical understanding of an integrated language skills approach and ability to research on causes of learner error</p>	<p>A critical and research-informed knowledge of language systems, of how they work, and of the various complexities inherent in them</p> <p>An critical and research informed knowledge and understanding of how to critically identify and analyse features of genre and register</p> <p>A critical and research informed understanding of the influence of culture and society on the development and evolution of language in a range of complex contexts</p> <p>A critical and research-informed knowledge of a range of academic models and/or theories that underpin the principles for skills-based approaches to language learning</p>

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

(3.3) Language learning theories and teaching methodologies relevant to ELT	Basic working knowledge of the principal language learning theories and language teaching methodologies	Comprehensive working knowledge of a range of language learning theories and teaching methodologies including an understanding of how to incorporate learning strategies and learner autonomy at relevant stages of the plan.	Detailed and research-informed working knowledge of a wide range of language learning theories and teaching methodologies including an understanding of how to incorporate learning strategies and learner autonomy at relevant stages of the plan.	Critical and research-informed evaluation of a wide range of language learning theories and teaching methodologies with an understanding of their relevance and applicability in varied and complex contexts
(3.4) Principled teaching techniques	Basic knowledge of the principal teaching techniques	Comprehensive working knowledge of a range of teaching techniques	Broad and detailed research-informed working knowledge of a wide range of teaching techniques	Critical and research-informed analysis of the theory underlying teaching techniques and the evaluation of their applications in a variety of complex teaching contexts
(3.4 a) Context knowledge	Knowledge and understanding of the nature and purposes of education, the ELT sector and the social and policy context for same			
(3.5) Classroom management	Basic working knowledge of principal classroom management techniques supporting differentiated learning in a way that respects the dignity of all pupils	Comprehensive working knowledge of a range of classroom management techniques	Broad and detailed principled working knowledge of a wide range of classroom management techniques	Critical and research-informed analysis of the theory underlying classroom management techniques and the evaluation of their applications in a variety of complex teaching contexts
(3.6) Create, select, evaluate, and adapt materials and resources for use with learners	Basic knowledge of criteria for the selection and evaluation of suitable materials in limited contexts for use with learners	Comprehensive working knowledge of criteria for the selection, adaptation and evaluation of suitable materials for use with learners	Detailed and research-informed understanding of criteria for the selection, adaptation and evaluation of suitable materials for use with learners in a wide variety of contexts	Critical and research-informed understanding of criteria for the selection, adaptation and evaluation of suitable materials including self-generated materials for use with learners in a wide variety of complex contexts
(3.7) Monitor and evaluate language performance	Basic knowledge, of summative, formative and diagnostic assessment fundamentals A basic knowledge of approaches to monitoring and evaluating learners through formal and non-formal means and how to integrate this into planning	Comprehensive knowledge, of summative, formative and diagnostic assessment fundamentals A comprehensive knowledge of approaches to monitoring and evaluating learners through formal and non-formal means in a range of contexts and how to integrate this into planning	Detailed and practice-informed (experiential) knowledge, of summative, formative and diagnostic assessment across a range of contexts A detailed and research-informed knowledge of approaches to monitoring and evaluating learners through formal and non-formal means in a wide range of contexts and how to integrate this into planning	Critical and research-informed understanding of summative, formative and diagnostic assessment across a wide range of complex contexts Critical and research-informed knowledge of approaches to monitoring and evaluating learners through formal and non-formal means in a wide range of complex contexts and how to integrate this into planning
(3.8) Reflecting on teaching	Basic understanding, and appreciation of the importance, of reflective practice and of the principal techniques and tools associated with effective reflective practice	Comprehensive understanding of a range of techniques and tools associated with effective reflective practice	Detailed and research-informed understanding of a wide range of techniques and tools associated with effective reflective practice	Critical and research-informed understanding of reflective practice with application to self and others
Research and enquiry	Awareness of the importance and impact of research into teaching and learning	Understanding the principal research approaches and methods appropriate to the teacher's own context	Understanding a range of research approaches and methods appropriate to the teaching and learning	Understanding research approaches involving mixed methods, appropriate to complex teaching and learning contexts

Knowledge – breadth Knowledge outcomes are associated with facts and concepts; that is, they refer to knowledge of, or about, something. The more diverse, complex and varied the facts and concepts, the greater the breadth of knowledge and this is a matter of level. Breadth is distinguished from the number of different facts and concepts learned, which relates to volume.

Knowledge – kind The representation of facts and concepts, including ideas, events or happenings, is cumulative. The more facts and concepts are layered on top of each other, and draw successively upon each other to construct meaning, the higher the level of learning. This process is typically associated with progressively greater abstraction from concrete phenomena into theory.

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

The graduate should be able to:		Level 6	Level 7 and CELT	Level 8	Level 9
		The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	
Know-how and Skill- Range		<i>Demonstrate comprehensive range of specialised skills and tools</i>	<i>Demonstrate specialised technical, creative or conceptual skills and tools across an area of study</i>	<i>Demonstrate mastery of a complex and specialised area of skills and tools; use and modify advanced skills and tools to conduct closely guided research, professional or advanced technical activity</i>	<i>Demonstrate a range of standard and specialised research or equivalent tools and techniques of enquiry</i>
Know-how and Skill-Selectivity		<i>Formulate responses to well-defined abstract problems</i>	<i>Exercise appropriate judgement in planning, design, technical and/or supervisory functions related to products, services, operations or processes</i>	<i>Exercise appropriate judgement in a number of complex planning, design, technical and/or management functions related to products, services, operations or processes, including resourcing</i>	<i>Select from complex and advanced skills across a field of learning; develop new skills to a high level, including novel and emerging techniques</i>
	(3.1) Planning for teaching, learning and assessment	Plan, prepare and evaluate a variety of lessons for learners at two levels of proficiency (reflecting on practice)	Plan, prepare and evaluate lessons with a variety of focuses for learners at a range of levels Evaluate others' planning and preparation and learn from this information to help improve planning	Plan, prepare and evaluate a coherent series of lessons for learners at a complete range of levels across a wide variety of lesson types Apply insights from principled investigation of local context to planning and preparation	Starting with the learners, innovatively plan lessons, programmes of work and courses, including some specialised courses, for a wide variety of learners and complex contexts
	(3.2) Language skills and systems	Apply to their planning and teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic knowledge of language, and language use; 	Apply to their planning and teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive knowledge and awareness of language, and language use; Comprehensive awareness of the influence of other languages on the acquisition and learning of English Conduct an analysis of authentic language from one genre (or one discourse community) and apply the findings to teaching Here discourse should be taken to means language beyond sentence level.	Apply to their planning and teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth and research-informed knowledge and awareness of language, and language use; In depth and research-informed awareness of the influence of other languages on the acquisition and learning of English Conduct a detailed analysis of authentic language from a range of genres (or discourse communities) and apply the findings to teaching	Adopt a critical and research informed approach to planning and teaching Research and critically analyse authentic language from a wide range of genres (or discourse communities) and apply the findings to teaching Demonstrate an ability to conduct applied classroom research in the context of teaching language skills and systems

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

<p>(3.3) Language learning theories and teaching methodologies relevant to ELT</p>	<p>Draw on the principal language learning theories to facilitate learning in groups at two different levels</p> <p>Demonstrate a basic ability to manage both teacher centred and learner-centred activities</p>	<p>Draw on a range of theories of learning to facilitate learning among specific groups and individuals in a variety of teaching contexts</p> <p>Demonstrate in their teaching a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between language, interaction and learning as a key element of appropriate methodology;</p> <p>Draw on appropriate strategies to develop learner training and learner autonomy in a range of teaching contexts</p> <p>Adapt classroom practices as appropriate in order to foster learning</p>	<p>Draw on a wide range of theories of learning to facilitate learning among specific groups and individuals in a wide variety of teaching contexts</p> <p>Relate appropriate theories of learning to own experience and insights to facilitate learning among specific groups and individuals</p> <p>Promote the development of language learning strategies, learner training and learner autonomy in a wide range of teaching contexts</p> <p>Demonstrate flexibility that allows learning to be placed at the centre of classroom decision-making as the lesson unfolds</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to conduct classroom research in the field of language teaching methodology</p>	<p>Critically analyse and apply an eclectic range and blend of theories to fit the context and optimise opportunities for learning</p> <p>Demonstrate a high level of competence to promote the development of language learning strategies, learner training and learner autonomy in a wide range of complex teaching contexts</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to conduct applied classroom research critically drawing on a wide range of methods appropriate to language teaching methodology research</p>
<p>(3.4) Principled teaching techniques</p>	<p>Use a basic range of teaching techniques to support student learning (including differentiated learning in a way that respects the dignity of all pupils) : e.g. for correcting errors, for presenting new vocabulary</p>	<p>Select from and use a range of principled teaching techniques to support student learning</p>	<p>Select from and use a wide range of principled teaching techniques to support student learning and show flexibility in using these as the situation/lesson unfolds</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to conduct applied classroom research into specific language teaching techniques</p>	<p>Select from, use and evaluate a wide range of principled teaching techniques including novel and creative techniques to support student learning and show flexibility in using these as the situation/lesson unfolds</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to conduct applied classroom research critically drawing on a range of methods around teaching techniques</p>
<p>(3.5) Classroom Management</p>	<p>Demonstrate basic classroom management techniques</p>	<p>Manage and facilitate student learning responsively in a principled way in a range of classroom interaction patterns, using aids and resources to facilitate learning across a range of levels</p>	<p>Manage and facilitate student learning flexibly and responsively in a principled way in a range of classroom interaction patterns, using aids and resources to facilitate learning across a wide range of levels and a variety of learner groups in a range of classroom situations</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to conduct applied classroom research into classroom management</p>	<p>Manage and facilitate student learning including in novel and creative ways</p> <p>Demonstrate an ability to conduct applied classroom research critically drawing on a range of methods around classroom management</p>
<p>(3.6) Create, select, evaluate, and adapt materials and resources for use with learners</p>	<p>Select and use material from an ELT course book and evaluate it for use with a specific group of learners</p>	<p>Select from a range of ELT course books, authentic materials and other resources, and evaluate them for specific learning purposes</p> <p>Adapt, use and review a range of ELT course books, authentic materials and other resources to meet the learning needs for specific learning purposes</p> <p>Create a limited range of material for specific learning purposes/ specific group of learners</p>	<p>Generate and apply criteria for the evaluation of materials</p> <p>Design, create and evaluate materials for a wide range of learning purposes</p>	<p>Pilot and review self-created materials with a group of learners</p> <p>Develop materials informed by research</p>
<p>(3.7) a) Identify and monitor learners' learning needs</p>	<p>Apply a basic knowledge of learners' needs to plan and teach a lesson</p>	<p>Conduct a basic needs analysis; respond appropriately to initial and evolving learner needs in planning and teaching taking into account the wider educational context</p>	<p>Devise and use a detailed needs analysis as a basis for decisions about teaching, learning and materials</p>	<p>Pilot and review a self-generated needs analysis with a group of learners</p>

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

	3.7 b) Evaluate learners' language performance	Provide appropriate feedback to learners on their progress and performance	<p>Monitor and evaluate learners' performance and progress and provide formative and summative feedback</p> <p>Use appropriate assessment procedures for different assessment purposes</p> <p>Take principled decisions on how and when to correct errors in written and spoken language</p>	<p>Use and evaluate formative and summative tools for assessing progress and achievement across a range of contexts</p> <p>Evaluate learners' error history in order inform strategic teaching</p>	Design and pilot tools for the assessment of learning, and research and review the reliability and validity of these tools
	Communications and relationship-building	Communications and relationship-building skills for facilitating language learning and participating in professional communities	Show a thorough understanding of the importance of affect in language learning, and its implications for the establishment of good teacher-learner relationship, and of a positive classroom climate		

Know-how and skill – range Skills, in both their execution and the demonstration of underpinning procedural knowledge, encompass the use of many different kinds of tool. 'Tool' refers to any device or process that facilitates individuals having some effect on their physical, informational or social environment. Tools include cognitive and social processes as well as physical implements. Tools, and the skills to use them, range from commonplace or familiar to novel or newly-invented. The sheer number of skills acquired is a matter of volume, rather than of level. The diversity of skills is a feature of this strand that contributes to differentiation in level. The completeness of the set of skills (and associated know-how) in respect of an area of activity is another feature that helps indicate the level.

Know-how and skill – selectivity The performance of tasks depends on the [student teacher] having an appropriate understanding of the environment in which the tasks are performed and being aware of his/her own ability and limitations, while at the same time being able to correctly judge the fit between the demands and ability. Whereas the range of know-how and skill refers to what a [student teacher] can do, selectivity (which might also be called procedural responsiveness) refers to the judgement that the [student teacher] exercises in carrying out procedures, through selecting from the range of know-how and skills available to him/her, in accordance with his/her appraisal of the demands of the task.

	Level 6	Level 7 and CELT	Level 8	Level 9
	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:
Competence-Context	<i>Act in a range of varied and specific contexts involving creative and non-routine activities; transfer and apply theoretical concepts and/or technical or creative skills to a range of contexts</i>	<i>Utilise diagnostic and creative skills in a range of functions in a wide variety of contexts</i>	<i>Use advanced skills to conduct research, or advanced technical or professional activity, accepting accountability for all related decision making; transfer and apply diagnostic and creative skills in a range of contexts</i>	<i>Act in a wide and often unpredictable variety of professional levels and ill-defined contexts</i>
	<p>Motivate and respond to learners and learning in a limited range of familiar classroom contexts</p> <p>Note: a practicum, with its attendant coaching, mentoring and peer reflection inputs is central to the formation of a teacher and is necessary to both acquire and demonstrate these outcomes.</p>	Motivate and respond to learners and learning in a range of classroom contexts	Motivate and respond to learners and learning in a wide range of classroom contexts, where appropriate in novel and creative ways	Motivate and respond to learners and learning in evolving and unpredictable and ill-defined classroom contexts, where appropriate in novel and creative ways

Competence – context Human situations, whether occupational or general social and civic ones, supply the context within which knowledge and skill are deployed for practical purposes. Such situations range in complexity and hence in the demands they place upon the person acting in them. Highly defined and structured situations or contexts constrain the behaviour of the individual and require lower levels of learning. The range of responses required, and hence the extent to which a broader range or higher level of knowledge and skill have to be drawn upon also depends on how predictable the context is. Acting effectively and autonomously in complex, ill-defined and unpredictable situations or contexts requires higher levels of learning.

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

	Level 6	Level 7 and CELT	Level 8	Level 9
	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:
Competence-Role	<i>Exercise substantial personal autonomy and often take responsibility for the work of others and/or for allocation of resources: form and function within, multiple complex and heterogeneous groups</i>	<i>Accept accountability for determining and achieving personal and/or group outcomes; take significant supervisory responsibility for the work of others in defined areas of work</i>	<i>Act effectively under guidance in a peer relationship with qualified practitioners; lead multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups</i>	<i>Take significant responsibility for the work of individuals and groups; lead and initiate activity</i>
Learners	Take decisions and initiate teaching and learning activities under supervision within a given framework	Independently take decisions and initiate teaching and learning activities under supervision (where necessary) within a given framework	Adapt programmes and formulate activities that recognise and meet the needs of their specific learner groups	Identify the characteristics of programmes and learning environments that will help facilitate the emergence of authentic learning opportunities and develop/create these
Teacher as professional	Learn from and interact effectively within, a heterogeneous group of ELT professionals	Learn from and interact effectively within, within an institutional community of practice taking individual and joint responsibility for appropriate outcomes	Learn from, and interact effectively within, a heterogeneous group of ELT professionals taking responsibility for the work of others	Learn from, and interact effectively within, a heterogeneous group of ELT professionals taking responsibility for the work of others and providing leadership
Research		Demonstrate an active interest in analysing and reflecting on own practice Note: this is an initial step towards researching one's practice	Recognise the integrated role of practitioner researcher in the context of conducting directed small-scale research as teacher and professional Knowledge and understanding of educational research and the ability to critically analyse same and integrate it into practice	Take significant responsibility as a practitioner researcher in the context of conducting independently defined research as teacher and professional

Competence – role For many purposes, joining and functioning in various kinds of groups is a key component in putting knowledge and skill to effective use. Joining a group successfully requires individuals to adopt appropriate roles within the group. This requires the application of social skills and an understanding of the tasks of the group. Higher levels of competence are associated with playing multiple roles as well as with roles requiring leadership, initiative and autonomy. Higher competence is also associated with participation in more complex and internally diverse groups.

	Level 6	Level 7 and CELT	Level 8	Level 9
	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:	The graduate should be able to:
Competence-Insight	<i>Express an internalised personal world view, reflecting engagement with others</i>	<i>Express an internalised personal world view, manifesting solidarity with others</i>	<i>Express a comprehensive internalised, personal world view, manifesting solidarity with others</i>	<i>Scrutinise and reflect on social norms and relationships and act to change them</i>
	Understand and show sensitivity to the complexity of the learning environment including factors affecting multi-cultural group teaching		Understand and respond to the complexity of the learning environment including factors affecting multi-cultural group teaching; use this understanding to integrate culturally and socially appropriate strategies in teaching	Demonstrate a critical awareness of social inequalities and where appropriate, act as an agent for change implementing appropriate models of critical pedagogy
Research			Conducting directed small-scale research around a specific socio-cultural group of students	Conducting independently defined research around a different socio-cultural groups of students

Competence – insight Insight refers to ability to engage in increasingly complex understanding and consciousness, both internally and externally, through the process of reflection on experience. Insight involves the integration of the other strands of knowledge, skill and competence with the [student teacher's] attitudes, motivation, values, beliefs, cognitive style and personality. This integration is made clear in the [student teacher's] mode of interaction with social and cultural structures of his/her community and society, while also being an individual cognitive phenomenon. A [student teacher's] self-understanding develops through evaluating the feedback received from the general environment, particularly other people, and is essential to acting in the world in a manner that is increasingly autonomous.

Awards Standards - for Teaching English as a Foreign Language at NFQ Levels 6-9

Assessment

References

1. National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (2003) Policies and Criteria for the establishment of the NFQ (Chapter 3) Dublin.
2. National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (2003) Extract from Determinations for the Outline NFQ pp19-21 Dublin.
3. 'The CELT manual'



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cálíochta agus Cálíochtaí Éireann

www.QQI.ie