



## User Guide for **NARIC Ireland** Foreign Qualifications Database

Thank you for using the **NARIC Ireland** Foreign Qualifications Database.

This user guide is intended to introduce you to the database and how it can assist you with your queries on foreign qualifications.

Information is provided for:

**EMPLOYER / RECRUITER**

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS**

**FUNDING AGENCIES**

**INDIVIDUALS**

You can click on the relevant link above to learn more.

We welcome any questions or feedback you might have on any of the information or advice provided; you can submit any queries through the QHelp service [here](#).

## EMPLOYER/RECRUITER

On accessing the **NARIC Ireland** Foreign Qualifications Database, you can search by country for a list of qualification types that form part of the relevant education system.

The database contains information on hundreds of qualifications from various countries around the world and is continually updated and reviewed.

Detailed profiles of each qualification listed offer information on how the qualification compares to an award type and/or level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The database also includes links to relevant resources and a Comparability Statement which contains recognition advice and key contextual information.

This information is intended to assist you as an employer/recruiter to understand foreign qualifications in the context of the Irish education and training system and may assist you determine if an applicant

holds the academic qualifications deemed necessary for employment.

The information in the database is produced through on-going research by **NARIC Ireland** and is continually updated. Where a country or particular qualification type is not included you can submit a query to **NARIC Ireland**.

**See details [here](#).**

When you select a particular qualification type you will be presented with detailed information on the qualification and how it compares to a level on the Irish NFQ.

**For information on the Qualification Profile page click [here](#).**

**For information on the Comparability Statement click [here](#).**

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTION

On accessing the **NARIC Ireland** Foreign Qualifications Database, you can search by country for a list of qualification types that form part of the relevant education system.

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Detailed profiles of each qualification listed offer information on how the qualification compares to an award type and/or level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The database also includes links to relevant resources and a Comparability Statement which contains recognition advice and key contextual information.

This information is intended to assist you as an education and training institution understand foreign qualifications in the context of the Irish education and training system and may assist you determine if an applicant holds the academic qualifications deemed necessary for programme entry.

**NARIC Ireland** has developed a useful resource in conjunction with other ENIC-NARIC centres to address many of the questions faced by education institutions in assessing foreign qualifications. The European Area of Recognition – Higher Education Institutions or EAR-HEI manual, available [here](#), offers guidelines and resources for admissions officers and credential evaluators.

The information in the database is produced through on-going research by **NARIC Ireland** and is continually updated. Where a country or particular qualification type is not included you can submit a query to **NARIC Ireland**.

**See details [here](#).**

When you select a particular qualification type you will be presented with detailed information on the qualification and how it compares to a level on the Irish NFQ.

**For information on the Qualification Profile page click [here](#).**

**For information on the Comparability Statement click [here](#).**

## FUNDING AGENCY

On accessing the **NARIC Ireland** Foreign Qualifications Database, you can search by country for a list of qualification types that form part of the relevant education system.

The database contains information on hundreds of qualifications from various countries around the world and is continually updated and reviewed.

Detailed profiles of each qualification listed offer information on how the qualification compares to an award and/or level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The database also includes links to relevant resources and a Comparability Statement which contains recognition advice and key contextual information.

This information is intended to assist you as a funding agency understand foreign qualifications

in the context of the Irish education and training system and may assist you determine if an applicant satisfies relevant qualifications criteria.

The information in the database is produced through on-going research by **NARIC Ireland** and is continually updated. Where a country or particular qualification type is not included you can submit a query to **NARIC Ireland**. See details [here](#).

When you select a particular qualification type you will be presented with detailed information on the qualification and how it compares to a level on the Irish NFQ.

**For information on the Qualification Profile page click [here](#).**

**For information on the Comparability Statement click [here](#).**

## INDIVIDUAL

On accessing the **NARIC Ireland** Foreign Qualifications Database, you can search by country for a list of qualification types that form part of the relevant education system.

The database contains information on hundreds of qualifications from various countries around the world and is continually updated and reviewed.

Detailed profiles of each qualification listed offer information on how the qualification compares to an award and/or level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

The database also includes links to relevant resources and a Comparability Statement which contains recognition advice and key contextual information.

This information is intended to assist you understand your qualification in the context of the Irish education and training system and may

guide your next choices on education, training or employment options. You can present the Comparability Statement to employers, education institutions or other relevant organisations to offer advice on the comparability of your qualification.

The information in the database is produced through on-going research by **NARIC Ireland** and is continually updated. Where a country or particular qualification type is not included you can submit a query to **NARIC Ireland**. See details [here](#).

When you select a particular qualification type you will be presented with detailed information on the qualification and how it compares to a level on the Irish NFQ.

**For information on the Qualification Profile page click [here](#).**

**For information on the Comparability Statement click [here](#).**

## QUALIFICATION PROFILE

<b>Comparability Statement</b>	This links to the Comparability Statement which offers advice on how the foreign qualification compares to an award and/or level in the Irish NFQ.
<b>Title of Foreign Award</b>	This field refers to the title of the qualification in the context of the education system of the country of origin.
<b>Title of Award in English</b>	This field offers an English translation of the title of a foreign qualification where relevant. This refers only to the type of qualification in the context of the education system. We cannot provide translations of subjects, disciplines or other details.
<b>Country</b>	This refers to the country of origin which authorises the awarding of the foreign qualification or grants recognition to the awarding body/institution.
<b>Type of Education</b>	This refers to the relevant sector or part of the education system of the country of origin. The types referred to are School Education, Further (Vocational) Education, and Higher Education. Professional Education is also included for awards that carry some form of professional recognition but are not recognised for academic purposes.
<b>Credit Type</b>	This refers to the credit system used in the country of origin. A link to further information is provided where available.
<b>Credit Value</b>	This refers to the typical credit associated with the foreign qualification in the country of origin. This may give an indication of the typical work load associated with the qualification.
<b>National Framework Level in Country of Origin</b>	This refers to the level of the foreign qualification on the qualifications framework in the country of origin.
<b>EQF Level</b>	This field gives information on how the qualifications framework of the country of origin has been referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).
<b>Bologna Cycle</b>	This field gives information on how the qualifications framework of the country of origin has been referenced to the Qualifications Framework for the European Area for Higher Education (QF - EHEA).

<b>Irish NFQ Award Type</b>	<p>Each foreign qualification is compared, where possible, to a level and award on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).</p> <p>By using the NFQ as a reference the foreign qualification is placed within the context of the Irish education and qualifications system.</p>
<b>Last Updated</b>	<p>These statements are produced through on-going research into foreign education systems. This date indicates the most recent review of information on the particular foreign qualification.</p>
<b>Country Education Profile</b>	<p>This field links to a detailed profile of the education system of the country of origin.</p>
<b>Sample Document</b>	<p>A sample document is provided to give information on the layout of the graduation parchment that should be presented as evidence of the awarding of the foreign qualification.</p>
<b>Award Profile</b>	<p>This field offers a summary of the purpose of the foreign qualification including typical access requirements and progression opportunities.</p>
<b>Relevant Links</b>	<p>A number of links to other resources are provided to assist with further understanding and research of the foreign qualification and foreign education system. This will include links to a directory of higher education institutions in the country of origin, where available, and other ENIC-NARIC centres.</p>

Click [here](#) for Further Guidance on NARIC Ireland services

## COMPARABILITY STATEMENTS

Comparability Statements are one-page documents which are easy to download and print. These statements offer recognition advice and aim to assist individuals or those presented with a foreign qualification to understand the qualification. Each statement includes the following information:

<b>Foreign Qualification</b>	<p>Statements are developed for a qualification type that forms part of the education system of another country.</p> <p>The statements relate to types of qualifications (e.g. Bachelor Degree) rather than named qualifications in a set discipline (e.g. Bachelor of Science). Key features of the qualification type may also be included here to distinguish it from other similar awards.</p> <p>An English translation may also be provided where appropriate.</p>
<b>Country</b>	<p>This field relates to the country of origin which authorises the awarding of the foreign qualification or grants recognition to the awarding body/institution.</p>
<b>NFQ Level/Award Type</b>	<p>Each foreign qualification type is compared, where possible, to a level and award on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).</p> <p>By using the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) as a reference the foreign qualification is placed within the context of the Irish education and qualifications system.</p>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Learning outcomes are statements of what a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to do after successful completion of a process of learning.</p>
<b>National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)</b>	<p>A copy of the Irish NFQ 'fan' diagram, including the EHEA Framework and EQF, is included in each statement. The diagram gives information and context to the Irish education and qualifications system. For further information on the NFQ see <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>Links</b>	<p>A number of links to other resources are provided to assist with further understanding and research of the foreign qualification and foreign education system. This will include links to a directory of higher education institutions in the country of origin, where available, and other ENIC-NARIC centres.</p>
<b>Explanation of role of ENIC-NARIC</b>	<p>Further information is offered on the role of <b>NARIC Ireland</b> in its capacity as an ENIC-NARIC centre and a link is provided to the ENIC-NARIC network.</p>

Click [here](#) for Further Guidance on NARIC Ireland services

## FURTHER GUIDANCE

- The work of **NARIC Ireland** is guided by QQI Policy and Criteria for Facilitating the Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications. For more information see [here](#).
- **NARIC Ireland** aims to provide fair recognition advice for all foreign qualifications through the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention. For more information see [here](#). Further information on the LRC and the standards and guidelines applied in our work is included in the European Area of Recognition (EAR) manual [here](#).
- The comparability information is provided based on the understanding that the qualification is awarded by a nationally recognised awarding body in the country of origin.
- The advice provided is based on current understandings of the comparability of qualifications. Comparability advice provided may have to be re-examined in the future on the basis of changes and developments in national and international education and training systems and our knowledge thereof. We welcome all feedback on the information provided; feedback should be submitted through the QHelp portal [here](#).
- The information provided is advisory in nature. The advice presented does not represent right of access to employment, a regulated profession or education and training. The information provided may assist an employer, professional recognition body or education and training provider determine if an applicant holds the qualifications deemed necessary for employment/programme entry. However, final recognition decisions for the purposes of accessing further education and/or employment are made by education institutions, professional recognition bodies and employers.
- The term 'comparable' acknowledges that two qualifications may be of the same academic standing, without necessarily having the same aims, curriculum or structure.
- The information relates to completed qualifications only where a graduation parchment is issued to attest to successful completion of a programme (rather than periods of study where no qualification is awarded; incomplete qualifications; work placements etc.)

**We welcome any questions or feedback you might have on any of the information provided; you can submit any queries through the QHelp service [here](#).**

Please see below a quick overview of the service offered by **NARIC Ireland**.

NARIC Ireland does		NARIC Ireland does not	
✓	Offer advice on the academic recognition of foreign qualifications	✗	Make final recognition decisions
✓	Provide recognition advice on school qualifications in addition to further and higher education and training qualifications	✗	Issue Irish qualification documents or certificates
✓	Promote the recognition of Irish qualifications abroad	✗	Offer professional recognition of foreign qualifications where the holder wishes to work in a regulated profession in Ireland
✓	Welcome feedback on any of the information or advice included in the Foreign Qualifications Database	✗	Provide a translation service
✓	Consider requests for briefings to groups in relation to work of the service	✗	Give advice on how grading systems compare across countries