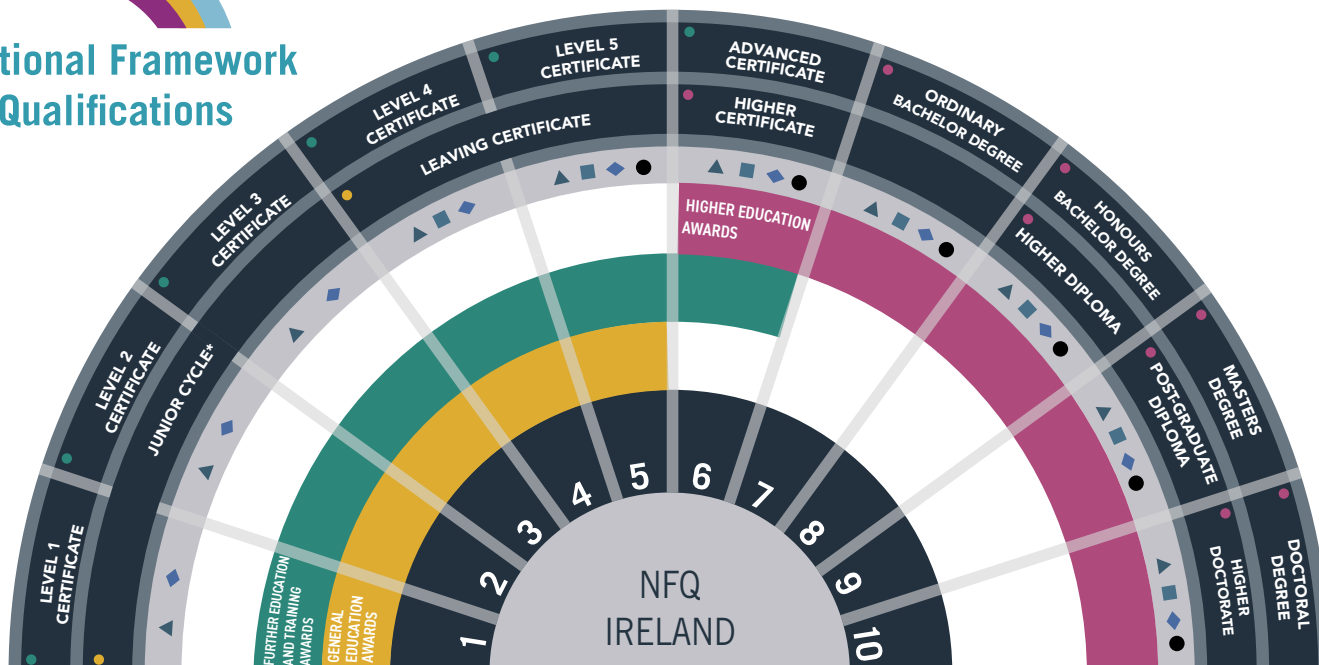




# National Framework of Qualifications



## CLASSES OF AWARD



**Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level



**Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award



**Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award



**Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement



**Professional Awards:** are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships

\*Please refer to NCCA website, [ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/](http://ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/)

## IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

For more information on

- Qualifications
- Providers
- Courses

visit [www.irq.ie](http://www.irq.ie)



Supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cálíochta agus Cálíochtaí Éireann

## **QUALITY AND QUALIFICATIONS IRELAND (QQI)**

QQI is an independent state agency responsible for promoting quality and accountability in education and training in Ireland. QQI is also an awarding body and the custodian of the Irish National Framework of Qualifications, responsible for its promotion, maintenance and development.



## **NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS (NFQ)**

The 10-level National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) was established in 2003. Qualifications are organised within the NFQ based on their level of knowledge, skill and competence. The NFQ is referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area. Qualifications in the NFQ are recognised internationally.



## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

All qualifications included within the NFQ are quality assured and awarded by recognised awarding bodies. This includes qualifications awarded by the Department of Education, universities, technological universities, institutes of technology and QQI.



## **MICRO-CREDENTIALS**

Micro-credentials are a means of recognising comparatively small volumes of learning in a specific topic area. Micro-credentials demonstrate that a learner has mastered a certain skill set, for example, Special Purpose Awards and Supplemental Awards.



## **IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS (IRQ)**

The Irish Register of Qualifications was launched in 2020. The IRQ is the national register of all qualifications included in the Irish NFQ and is managed by QQI. The IRQ offers information about providers, their programmes and qualifications including their NFQ and EQF levels.