AWARDING BODIES
Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training.
SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
Institutes of Technology
Universities
For further information consult:  www.nfq.ie  www.QQI.ie

AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK
There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

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

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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.