

# **ANALYSIS OF IRISH TERTIARY AWARDS IN 2025**

## **Introduction and Background**

This is a summary of data for all qualifications at NFQ levels 1 to 10 published on the Irish Register of Qualification (IRQ) in Quarter 3 2025.

The IRQ is a resource that provides public confirmation of the formal, technical relationship between a qualification and the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). It aims to include all quality-assured qualifications included in the NFQ awarded by universities, technological universities, institutes of technology and QQI, in its capacity as an awarding body. Each designated awarding body is responsible for uploading their own data to the IRQ and QQI works closely with these awarding bodies to ensure the database is up to date. The IRQ includes information about all programmes of private and independent higher education institutions, education and training boards, private further education providers and community and voluntary providers validated by QQI and leading to a QQI Award.

The aim of this analysis is to review Irish qualifications listed on the IRQ at all NFQ levels, focusing specifically on titling conventions, award class and credits. The data was taken from the IRQ during Quarter 3 2025. The qualifications were categorised by NFQ level, titles, award class, field of learning and credit volume.

It should be noted that the number of qualifications listed across various NFQ levels does not necessarily reflect the volume of education and training programmes offered by providers within the Irish education and training system. In higher education, qualifications are generally associated with specific programmes and institutions. For example, a single master's programme at a university might result in three distinct qualifications recorded in the IRQ at Level 9: a postgraduate certificate, a postgraduate diploma, and a master's degree.

In contrast, most (but not all) qualifications within the further education and training sector are national awards maintained by QQI. A single award listed in the IRQ may be delivered by multiple providers, each offering different programmes that lead to that same qualification.

## **Data Overview**

- Total qualifications at NFQ level 1-10 listed on the IRQ (Q3 2025): 12,298.

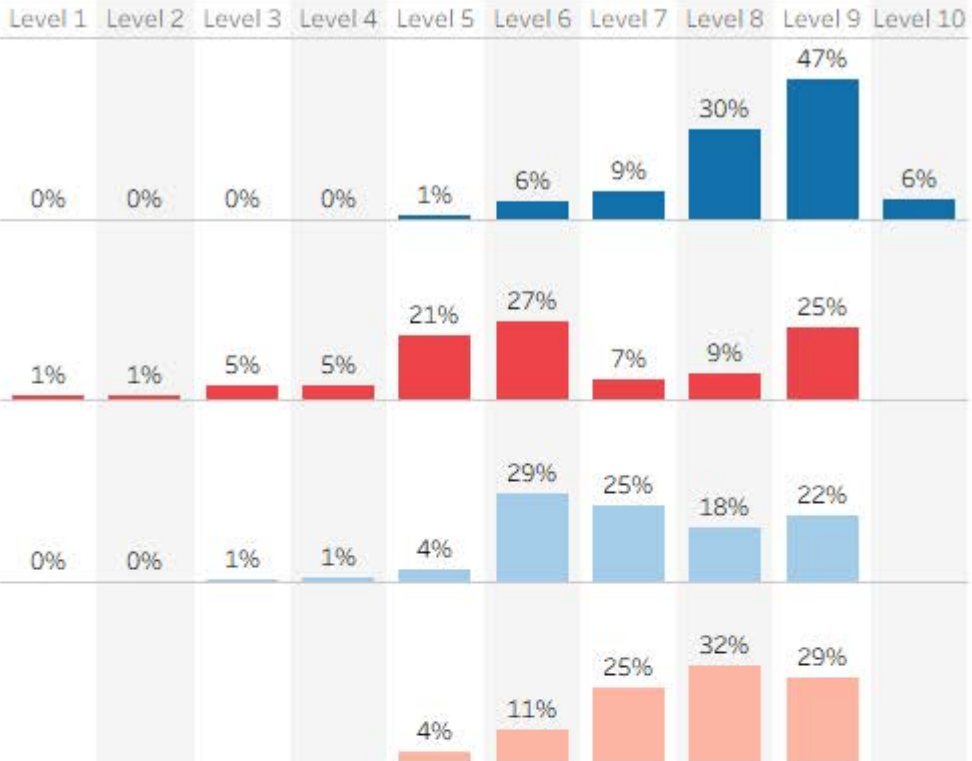
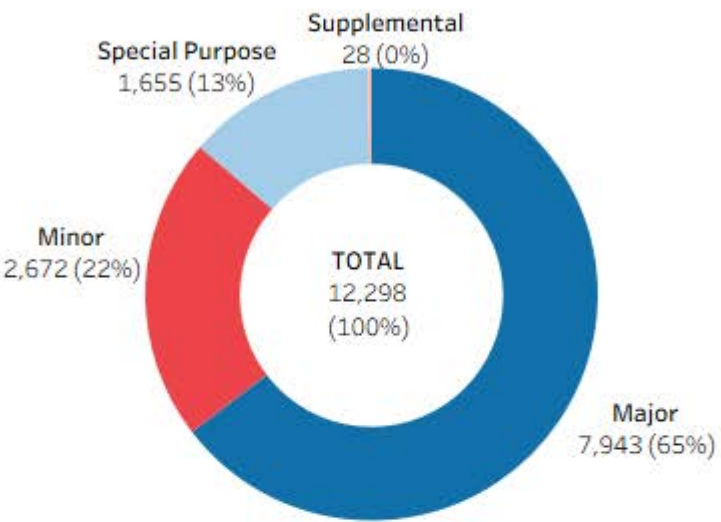
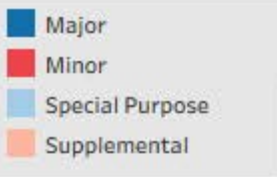
- Total qualifications per NFQ Level:

NFQ Level	Total
1	31
2	32
3	144
4	151
5	731
6	1693
7	1347
8	2910
9	4752
10	507

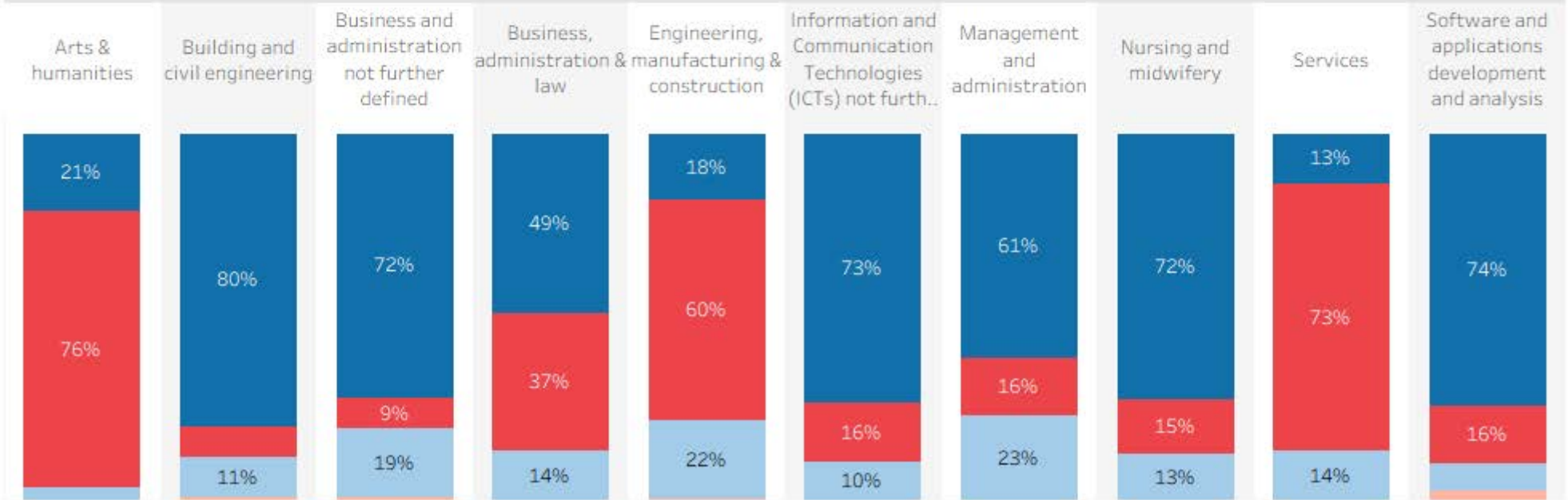
- Award Classes: Major Award, Minor Award, Special Purpose Award and Supplemental Award.
- Credits: There are two credit systems in operation in Ireland, one in further education and another in higher education. The Further Education and Training (FET) Credit System is used exclusively at NFQ level 1 to 5. Typically, one FET credit corresponds to 10 hours of Learning. NFQ level 6 is split across both FET credits and ECTS. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is used for NFQ level 7 to 10 and typically, one credit corresponds to 25-30 hours of learning.

Irish Register of Qualifications data is available at: [Irish Register of Qualification](#)

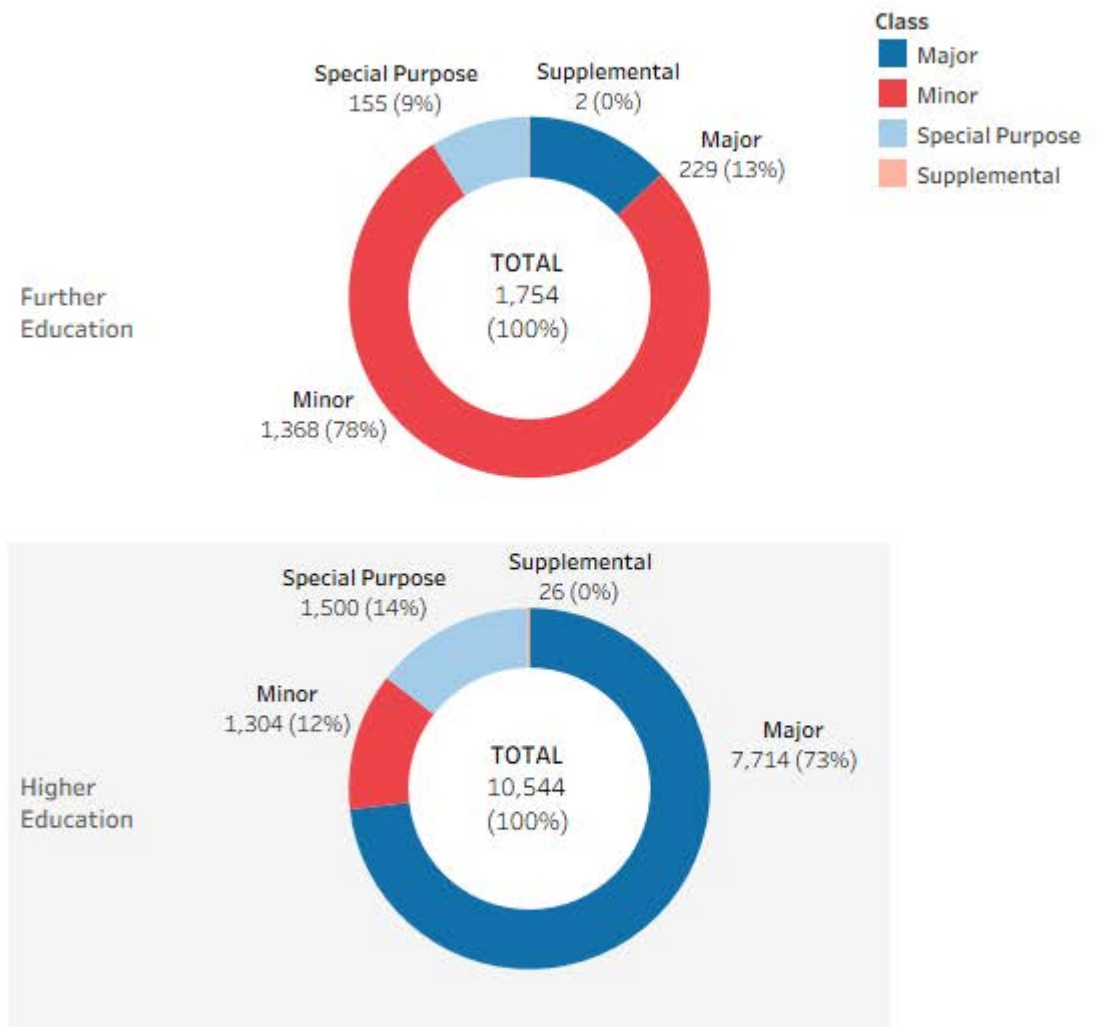
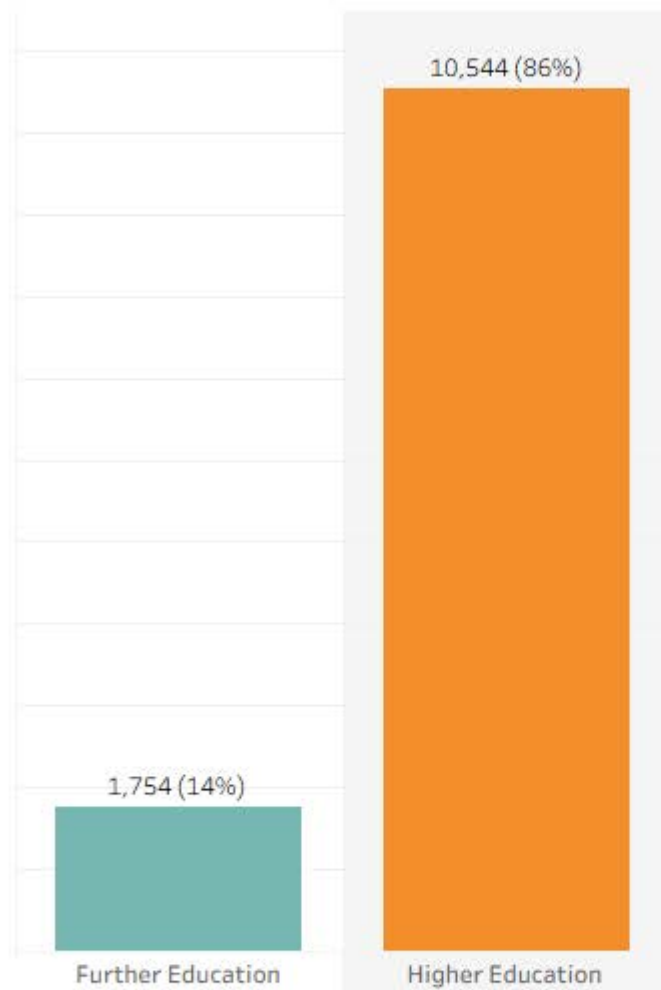
Qualifications listed on the IRQ by class and NFQ Level



Qualifications listed on the IRQ by Field of Learning



## Total number and proportions of qualifications listed on the IRQ by sector and class



## Total number and proportions of qualifications listed on the IRQ by class and NFQ level

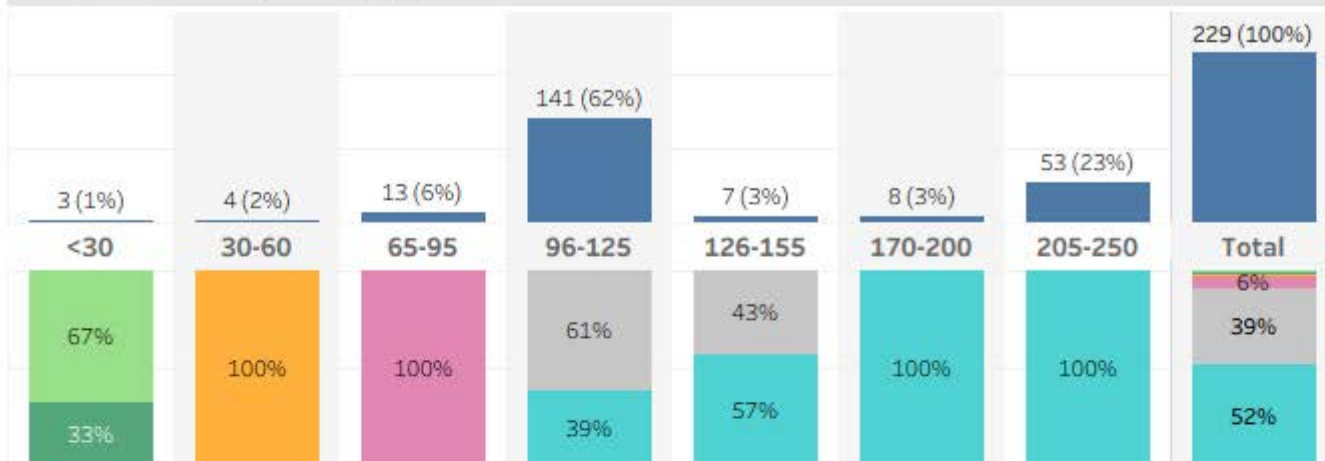
	Major			Minor			Special Purpose			Supplemental			Grand Total		
Level 1	2 (0%)			28 (1%)			1 (0%)						31 (0%)		
Level 2	1 (0%)			29 (1%)			2 (0%)						32 (0%)		
Level 3	4 (0%)			130 (5%)			10 (1%)						144 (1%)		
Level 4	13 (0%)			121 (5%)			17 (1%)						151 (1%)		
Level 5	89 (1%)			573 (21%)			68 (4%)			1 (4%)			731 (6%)		
Level 6	496 (6%)			710 (27%)			484 (29%)			3 (11%)			1,693 (14%)		
Level 7	739 (9%)			184 (7%)			417 (25%)			7 (25%)			1,347 (11%)		
Level 8	2,366 (30%)			240 (9%)			295 (18%)			9 (32%)			2,910 (24%)		
Level 9	3,726 (47%)			657 (25%)			361 (22%)			8 (29%)			4,752 (39%)		
Level 10	507 (6%)												507 (4%)		
TOTAL	7,943 (100%)			2,672 (100%)			1,655 (100%)			28 (100%)			12,298 (100%)		

### Class

- Major
- Minor
- Special Purpose
- Supplemental
- Grand Total

# Qualifications listed on the IRQ by Credits - the totals are displayed on the right-hand side of each chart

## FET Credits bands by class - Major



Credit system: **FET**

All class

Credit bands

<30	1,496
30-60	22
65-95	14
96-125	145
126-155	9
170-200	9
205-250	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,754</b>

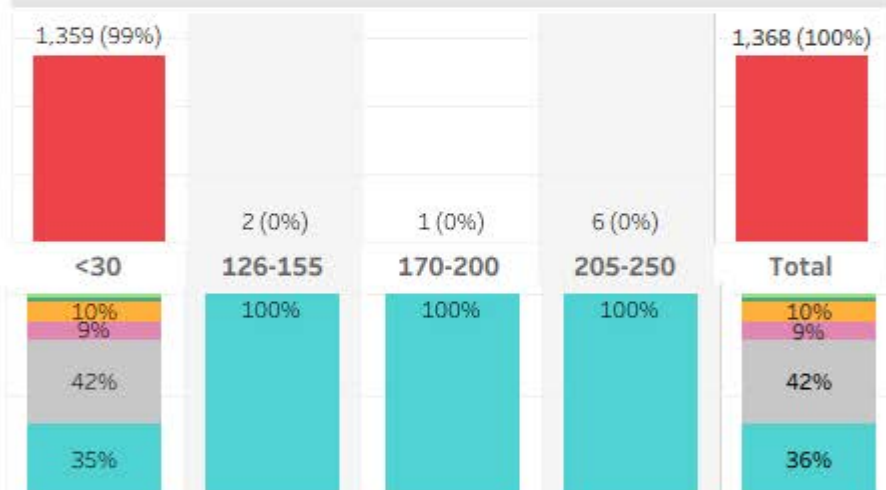
NFQ Level

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4
- Level 5
- Level 6

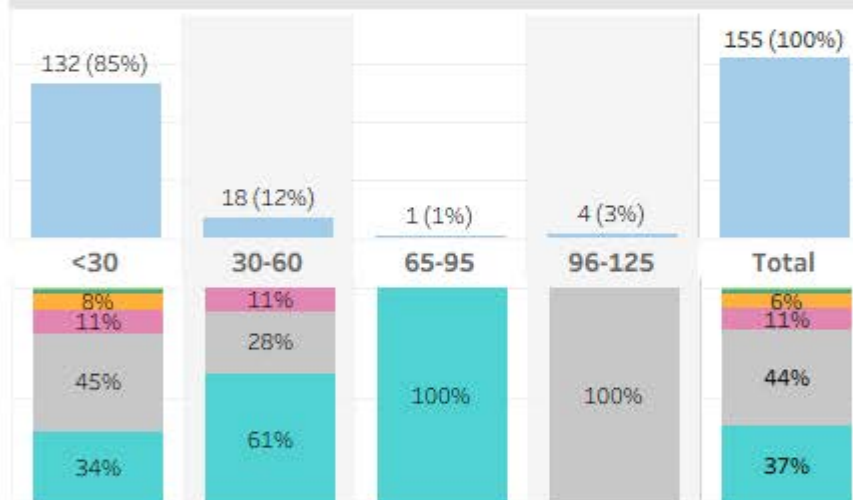
Class

- Major
- Minor
- Special Purpose
- Supplemental

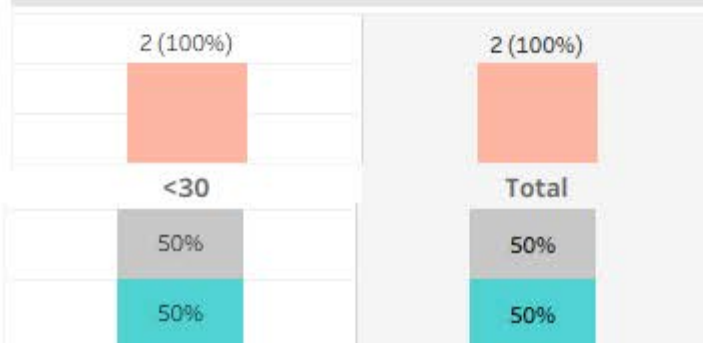
## FET Credits bands by class - Minor



## FET Credits bands by class - Special Purpose



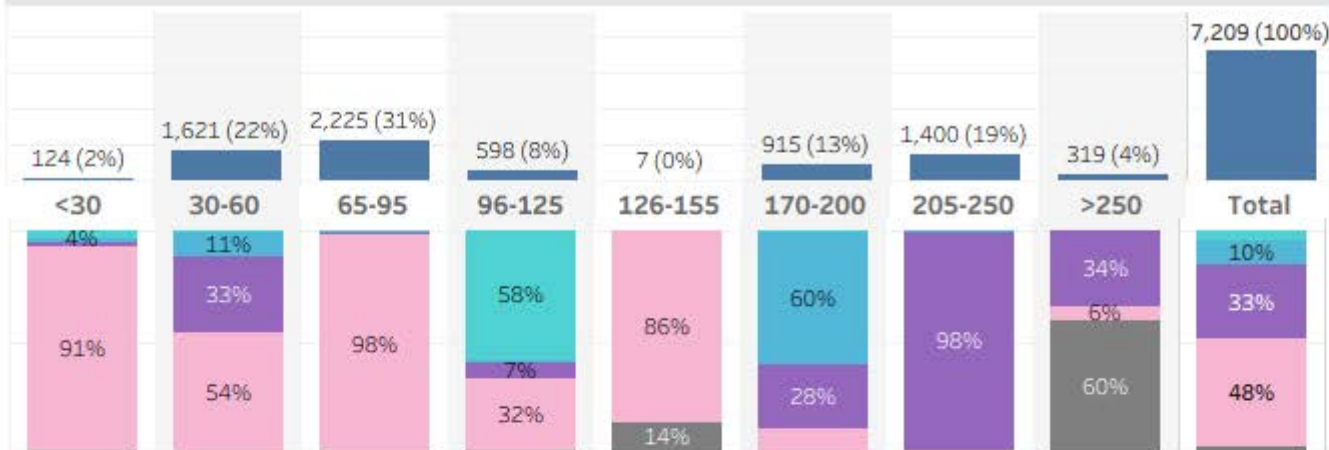
## FET Credits bands by class - Supplemental





# Qualifications listed on the IRQ by Credits - the totals are displayed on the right-hand side of each chart

## ECTS bands by class - Major



## Credit system: ECTS

### All class -

#### Credits bands

<30	2,484
30-60	2,025
65-95	2,239
96-125	627
126-155	8
170-200	916
205-250	1,400
>250	319
NA	526
Total	10,544

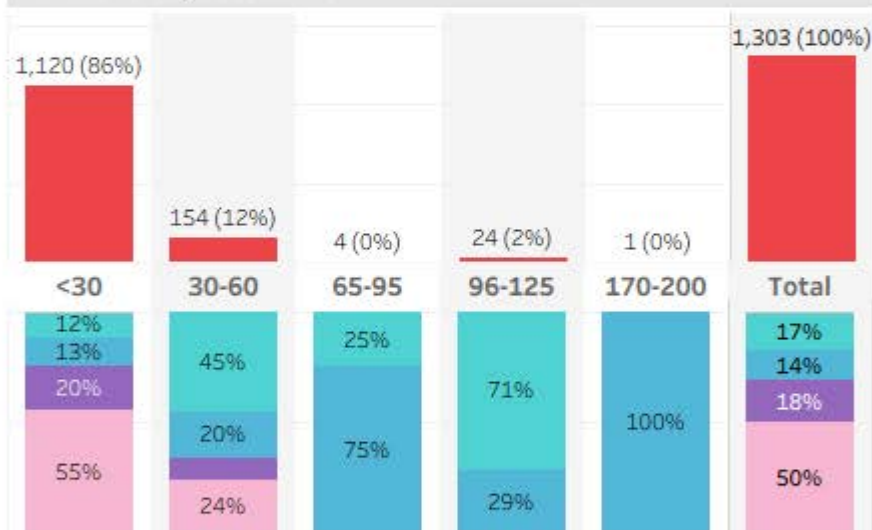
## NFQ Level

- Level 6
- Level 7
- Level 8
- Level 9
- Level 10

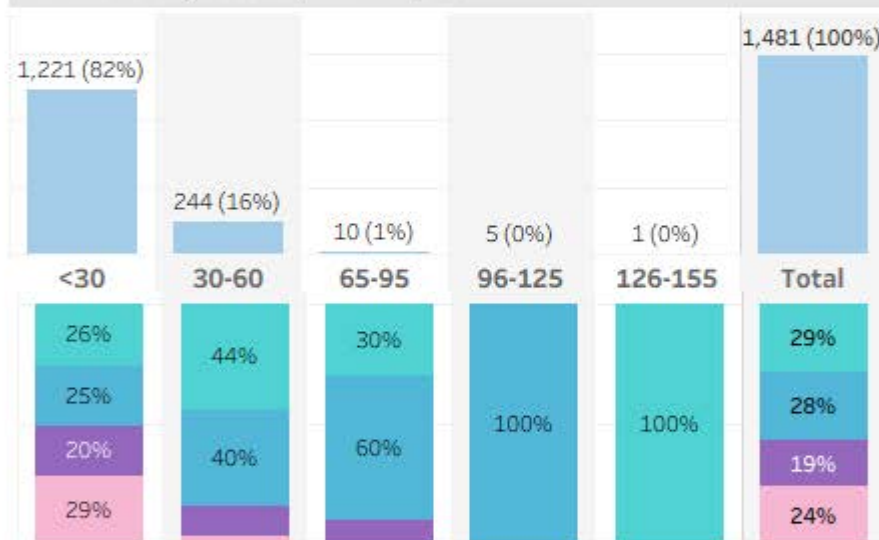
## Class

- Major
- Minor
- Special Purpose
- Supplemental

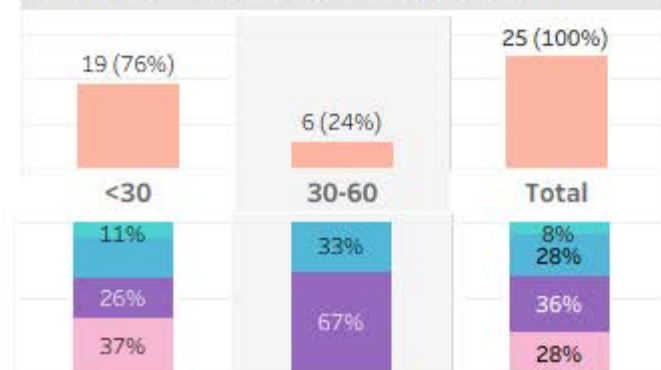
## ECTS bands by class - Minor



## ECTS bands by class - Special Purpose

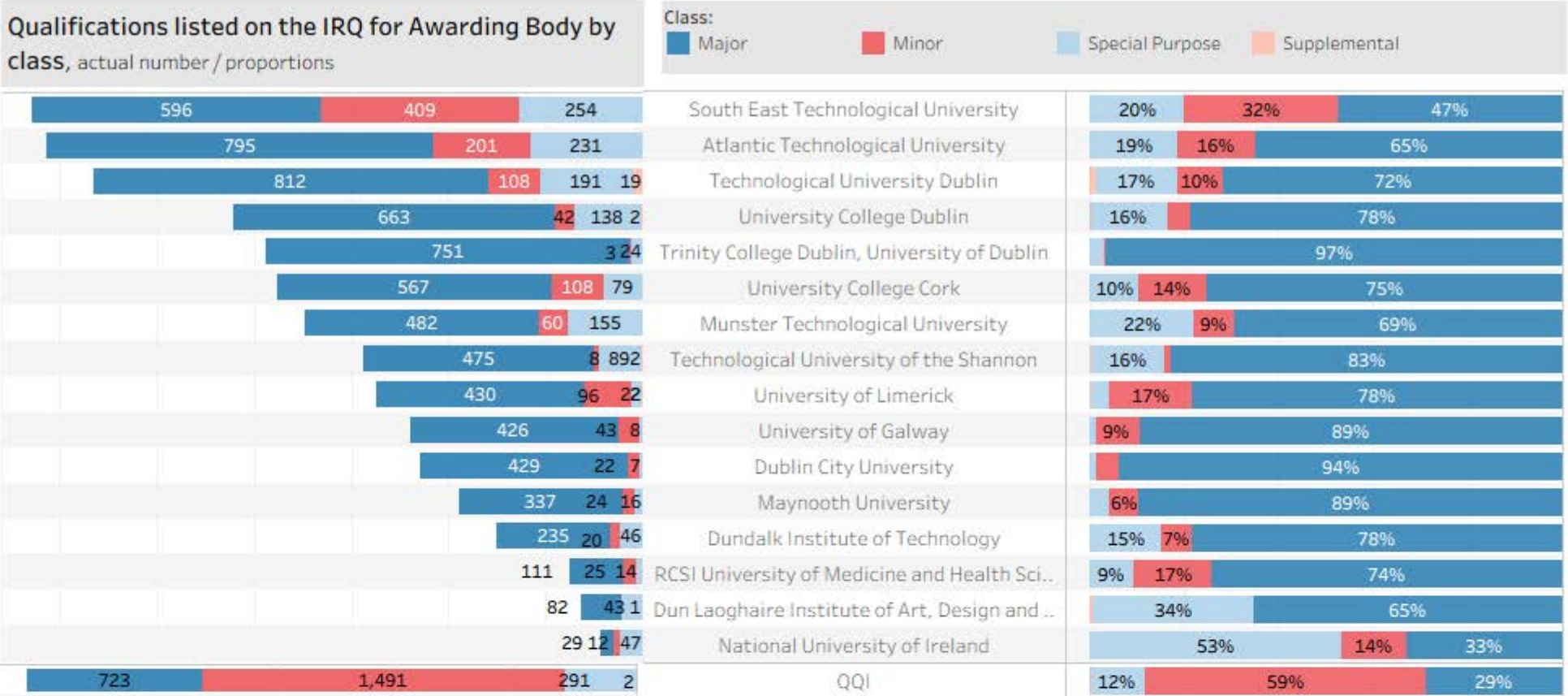


## ECTS Credits bands by class - Supplemental

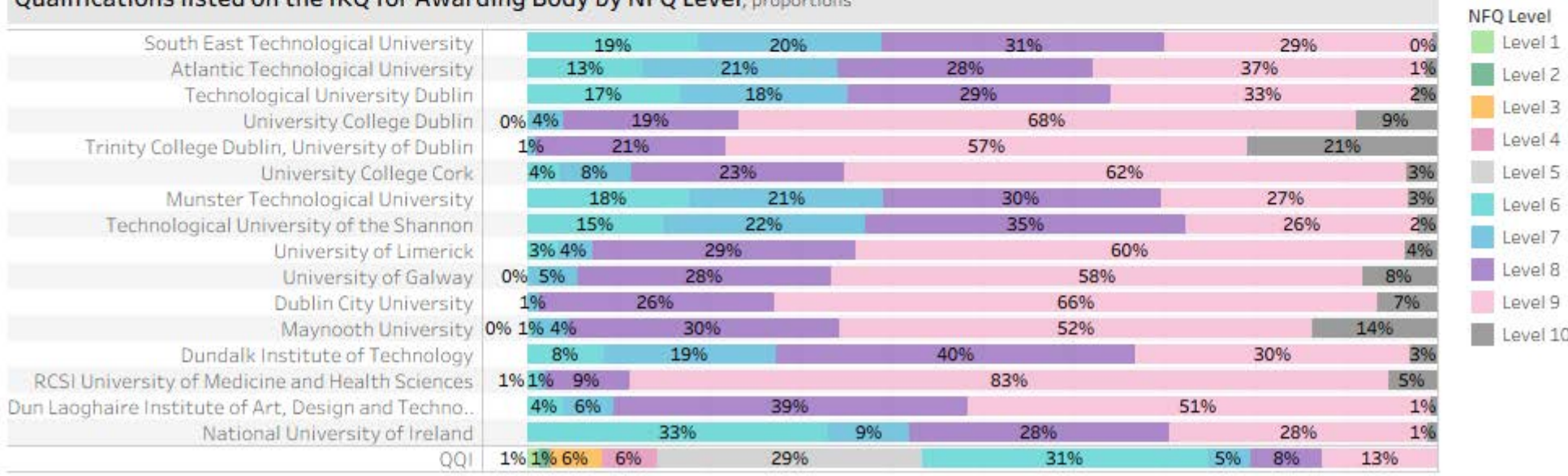




Qualifications listed on the IRQ for Awarding Body by class, actual number / proportions



Qualifications listed on the IRQ for Awarding Body by NFQ Level, proportions



## Top 15 qualifications titles listed on the IRQ by class

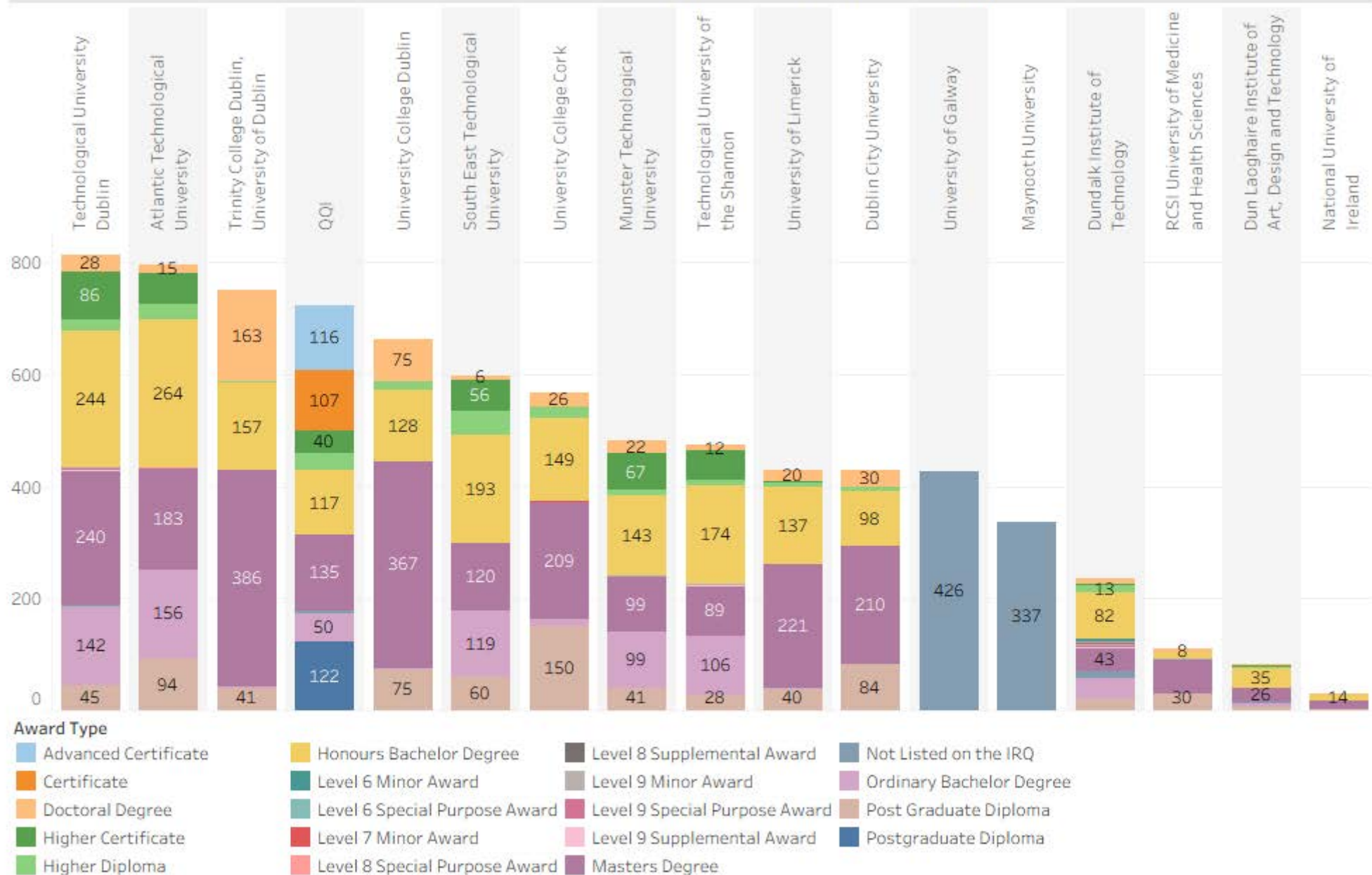
Please note that information regarding 'award type' is currently optional and may not be consistently provided by awarding bodies

Top 15 - Major				
Title	Award Type	NFQ Level	Awarding Body Type	
Master of Science	Masters Degree	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	202
Doctor in Philosophy	Doctoral Degree	Level 10	Designated Awarding Body	156
Master in Science (Studies)	Masters Degree	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	136
Bachelor in Arts	Honours Bachelor Degree	Level 8	Designated Awarding Body	125
Doctor of Philosophy	Doctoral Degree	Level 10	Designated Awarding Body	116
Degree of Master of Science	Not Listed on the IRQ	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	101
MSc	Masters Degree	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	92
Master of Arts	Masters Degree	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	90
Master in Science (Research)	Masters Degree	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	81
Master in Philosophy	Masters Degree	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	78
BSc (Hons)	Honours Bachelor Degree	Level 8	Designated Awarding Body	77
Graduate Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	75
Bachelor of Arts	Honours Bachelor Degree	Level 8	Designated Awarding Body	59
	Ordinary Bachelor Degree	Level 7	Designated Awarding Body	8
Degree of Master of Arts	Not Listed on the IRQ	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	60
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE	Not Listed on the IRQ	Level 9	Designated Awarding Body	58

Top 15 - Special Purpose			Top 15 - Minor		
Title	NFQ Level		Title	NFQ Level	
Professional Certificate	Level 9	65	Certificate	Level 9	37
	Level 7	14		Level 8	4
	Level 8	10		Level 7	12
Professional Diploma	Level 9	41		Level 6	4
	Level 7	2	TBC	Level 9	27
	Level 8	6	Graduate Certificate	Level 9	26
Certificate	Level 6	18	Diploma in Arts	Level 8	2
	Level 9	3		Level 7	9
	Level 7	1	Certificate in Addiction Studies	Level 9	3
	Level 8	7		Level 7	1
MICRO-CREDENTIAL (9)	Level 8	13	University Certificate	Level 8	3
Certificate in Customs Compliance and Trade Facilitation	Level 6	11		Level 7	7
Listed on the IRQ as 'Blank Award'	Level 9	7	PCert	Level 9	7
Certificate in Building Capacity and Enhancing Leadership i..	Level 8	6		Level 8	1
Certificate in Purchasing Strategy, Quality Management an..	Level 6	5	Diploma in Science	Level 8	7
Certificate in Data Protection Law	Level 8	5	Certificate in Transformative Childrens Rights Educa..	Level 9	6
Cert	Level 6	3	University Diploma	Level 7	5
	Level 7	2	Certificate in Mental Health: Building Resilience and ..	Level 7	5
CertCPD	Level 6	3	Certificate in Group Work and Facilitation Skills	Level 6	5
	Level 8	1	Certificate in Educational Psychology	Level 9	4
	Certificate in Access to Apprenticeship	Level 6	4	Certificate in Introduction to Psychology	Level 6
Certificate in Advocacy	Level 6	4	Certificate in Learning to Learn at Third Level	Level 6	
Certificate in Culinary Skills	Level 6	4			
Certificate in Data Visualisation	Level 9	2			
	Level 8	2			



## Qualifications listed on the IRQ by awarding body and award type\*



\*Please note that information regarding 'award type' is currently optional and may not be consistently provided by awarding bodies