

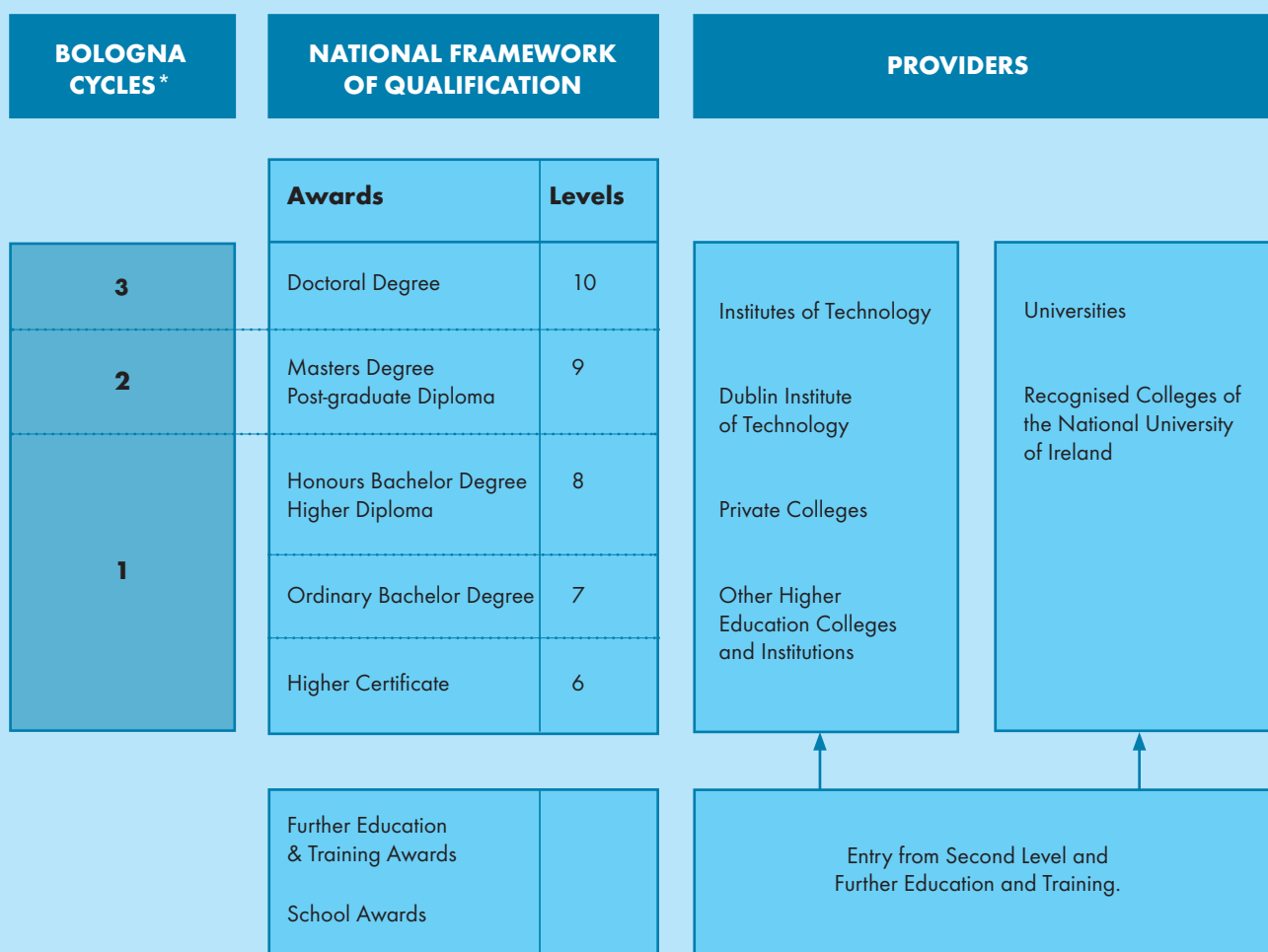


DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT

This Diploma Supplement follows the model developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. The purpose of the supplement is to provide sufficient recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended. It should be free from any value judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition.

<p>1 INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE HOLDER OF THE QUALIFICATION</p> <p>1.1 Surname: <input type="text"/></p> <p>1.2 First Name (s): <input type="text"/></p> <p>1.3 Date of birth (day/month/year): <input type="text"/></p> <p>1.4 Student identification number or code (if available): <input type="text"/></p>	<p>3.3 Access requirement(s): <input type="text"/></p>																																								
<p>2 INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE QUALIFICATION</p> <p>2.1 Name of qualification and (if applicable) title conferred <input type="text"/></p> <p>2.2 Main field(s) of study for the qualification: <input type="text"/></p> <p>2.3 Name and status of awarding institution (in original language): <input type="text"/></p> <p>2.4 Name and status of institution (if different from 2.3) administering studies (in original language): <input type="text"/></p> <p>2.5 Language(s) of instruction/examination: <input type="text"/></p>	<p>4 INFORMATION ON THE CONTENTS AND RESULTS GAINED</p> <p>4.1 Mode of study: <input type="text"/></p> <p>4.2 Programme requirements: <input type="text"/></p> <p>4.3 Please see last page</p> <p>4.4 Grading scheme and, if available, grade distribution guidance:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="810 1025 1497 1339"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>4.5 Overall classification of the qualification (in original language): <input type="text"/></p>																																								
<p>3 INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL OF THE QUALIFICATION</p> <p>3.1 National Framework of Qualifications level and award type <input type="text"/></p> <p>3.2 Official length of programme: <input type="text"/></p>	<p>5 INFORMATION ON THE FUNCTION OF THE QUALIFICATION</p> <p>5.1 Access to further study: <input type="text"/></p> <p>5.2 Professional status (if applicable): <input type="text"/></p> <p>6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</p> <p>6.1 Additional information: <input type="text"/></p> <p>6.2 Further information sources: <input type="text"/></p>																																								

THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM IN IRELAND



* The Bologna Process, which commenced in 1999, is designed to lead to the creation of the European Higher Education Area by 2010. A central initiative in the process is adoption of a system based on three cycles - undergraduate, graduate and doctorate.

DESCRIPTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN IRELAND

OCTOBER 2004

Introduction

The higher education or third-level sector in Ireland includes a range of Higher Education Institutions – Universities and Institutes of Technology as well as Colleges of Education, the National College of Art and Design, non-State aided private higher education colleges and other National institutions. The Universities and Colleges of Education are funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). The Institutes of Technology and the Dublin Institute of Technology are funded directly by the Department of Education and Science (www.education.ie)

Ireland has a binary system of higher education, designed to ensure maximum flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of students and to the wide variety of social and economic requirements. However, within each sector and between the two sectors, a diversity of institutions offer differing types and levels of courses. The Universities are essentially concerned with undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, together with basic and applied research. The main work of the Institutes of Technology is in undergraduate programmes, with a smaller number of post-graduate programmes and a growing involvement in regionally orientated applied research.

Government Agencies

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) (www.heai.ie) which was established in 1971 is responsible for furthering the development and assisting in the co-ordination of State investment in higher education. The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQA) (www.nqai.ie) was established by the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 1999, and is responsible for establishing and maintaining the National Framework of Qualifications. The Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) (www.hetac.ie) which was also established as part of the 1999 Act is the qualifications awarding body for the Institutes of Technology and other non-university higher education colleges and institutions. HETAC may also delegate the authority to make awards to an Institute of Technology.

Higher Education Institutions

There are seven universities recognised under the Universities Act, 1997 - University College Cork, University College Dublin, National University of Ireland Galway, National University of Ireland Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Limerick and Dublin City University. The Universities validate and award their own qualifications as well as those in institutions recognised by them including for example, the Colleges of Education. The Universities have primary responsibility for their own quality assurance systems and have established the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB) to promote best practice in quality assurance throughout their sector. The Higher Education Authority also has a review role in relation to quality assurance procedures in Universities.

There are thirteen Institutes of Technology (IoTs), which are designated under the Regional Technical Colleges Act 1999. The institutions are Athlone IT, IT Blanchardstown, Cork IT, IT Carlow, Dundalk IT, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Letterkenny IT, Galway-Mayo IT, Limerick IT, IT Sligo, IT Tallaght, IT Tralee and Waterford IT.

These conduct programmes leading to awards made by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council. In some cases, following a review process, the institutions have been or may be delegated authority by the Council to make higher education and training awards themselves. In addition, while the institutions have primary responsibility for quality assurance, the Council has a quality assurance monitoring and review role in relation to the institutions.

Other higher education colleges and institutions include National institutions, private colleges and other higher education and training institutions. However, under recent legislation any provider of education and training regardless of the source of that provision, whether it is in an educational institution, the workplace or the community, can apply to the Higher Education and Training Awards Council for validation of a programme.

Finally, the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) (www.dit.ie) makes its own awards following legislation which was passed in 1997. While DIT has primary responsibility for the implementation of quality assurance procedures, the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland has a quality assurance review role in relation to these procedures.

National Framework of Qualifications

The National Framework of Qualifications (launched on 17 October 2003) sets the overall standards of the awards of the Higher Education and Training Awards Council and the Dublin Institute of Technology, as well as accommodating the awards of the universities. The Framework is the single, nationally and internationally accepted entity, through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other, and which defines the relationship between all education and training awards. It is a 10-level framework with higher education and training awards being made at levels 6 to 10. The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland has defined an initial set of 15 major award types for each of the 10 levels as follows:

LEVEL	MAJOR AWARD-TYPE
10	Doctoral Degree
9	Masters Degree and Post-graduate Diploma
8	Honours Bachelor Degree and Higher Diploma
7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree
6	Advanced Certificate and Higher Certificate
5	Level 5 Certificate
4/5	Leaving Certificate
4	Level 4 Certificate
3	Level 3 Certificate & Junior Certificate
2	Level 2 Certificate
1	Level 1 Certificate

Awards at Levels 7 to 10 will be made by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council, the Dublin Institute of Technology, the Universities and Institutes of Technology with Delegated Authority. At Level 6, the Higher Certificate award will be made by Higher Education and Training Awards Council and the Dublin Institute of Technology.

The National Framework is in the process of being implemented.