



**Multi-campus
Micro-credentials**
Flexible Accredited Learning



Relationship of Micro-credentials to the NFQ: An Irish Perspective

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“Building an accredited and flexible micro-credentials system for Irish Universities”

Irish National Framework of Qualifications



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

QQI

Responsible for developing, promoting & maintaining the Irish NFQ and facilitate the recognition of foreign qualifications

Scale

10-level, single national entity through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other

Quality Assurance

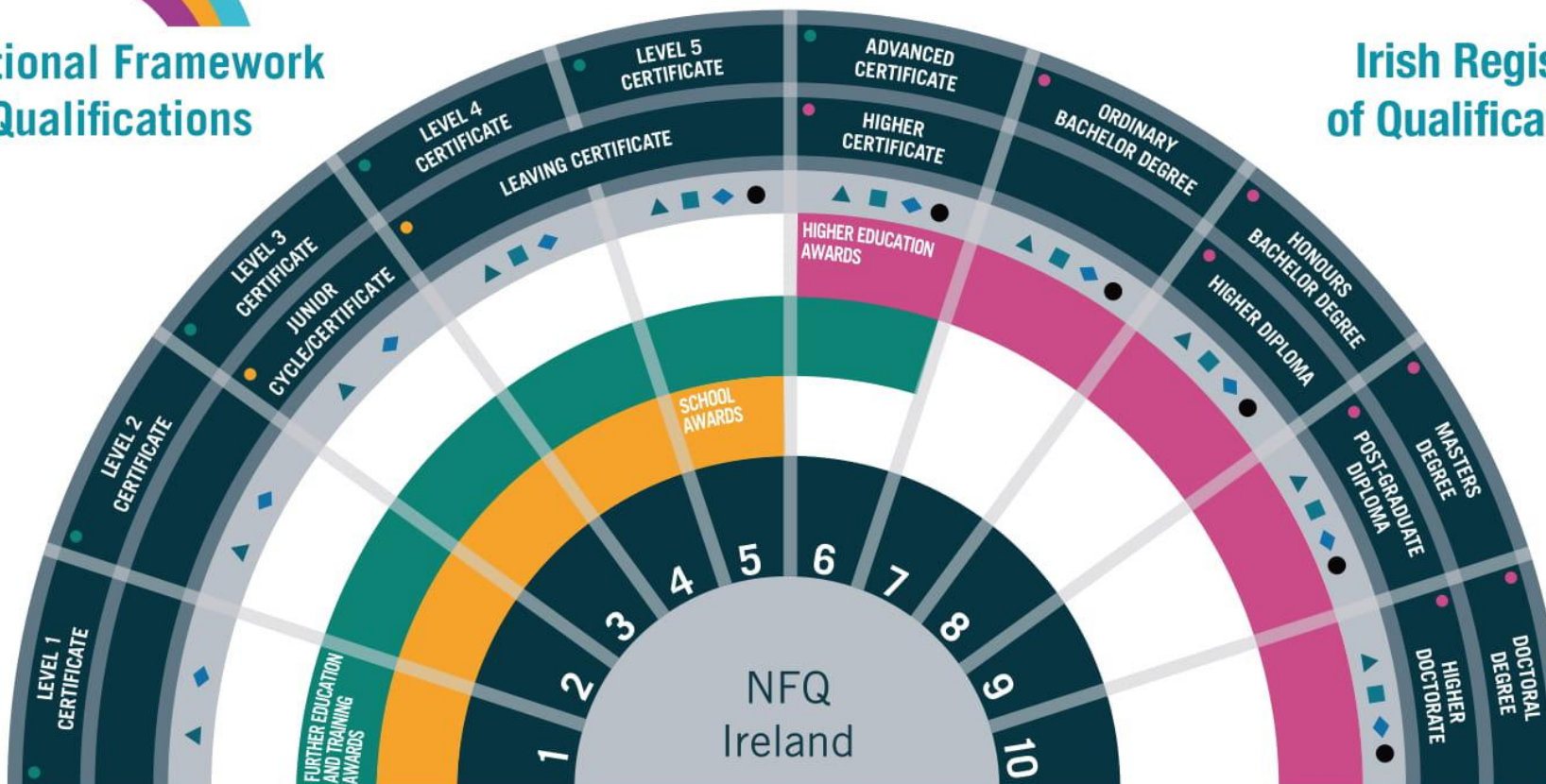
Irish NFQ describes qualifications in the Irish education & training system, setting out qualification pathways

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National Framework of Qualifications

Irish Register of Qualifications



Non-Major Awards

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:** these are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships

IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

- For more information on
- Qualifications
 - Providers
 - Courses
- visit www.irq.ie

Where do Micro-credentials fit in currently?

Non-Major Awards

- Minor Qualifications: partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major award.
- Special Purpose Awards: for relatively narrow or purpose-defined achievements

QQI have recently compiled an ongoing register of qualifications recognized within Ireland's NFQ and associated courses

www.irq.ie

6092 HE programmes in Ireland



1362 HE qualifications with <30 ECTS*

*Can be classified as micro-credentials currently

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IUA Project: Multi-campus Micro-credentials

New government-funded project with funding of €12.3 million (2020-2025)

Innovative system of quality assured and accredited micro-credentials across 7x IUA universities



4 Key Pillars

1. Develop collective national framework for micro-credentials across IUA universities, 1st in Europe
2. Build & develop engagement with enterprise for development and roll-out of the micro-credentials programme
3. Design & develop a coordinated 'shop window' online portal to drive awareness of, and access to micro-credentials
4. Market the micro-credential courses and help learners to find and track the flexible offering of micro-learning which meet their needs and learnings

Pilot phase will run for 12 months (from June 2021) with mid-review in December 2021.

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IUA Project: Progress to date



Developed a ‘Universal Vision for Multi-Campus Micro-Credentials’ – in consultation with 7x IUA universities, Steering Group & Enterprise Advisory Group

1. Agreed to adopt the European Commission draft micro-credential definition as our working definition

A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards.

The proof is contained in a certified document that lists the name of the holder, the achieved learning outcomes, the assessment method, the awarding body and, where applicable, the qualifications framework level and the credits gained. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards.

(European Commission, 2020, p10).

IUA Project: Progress to date

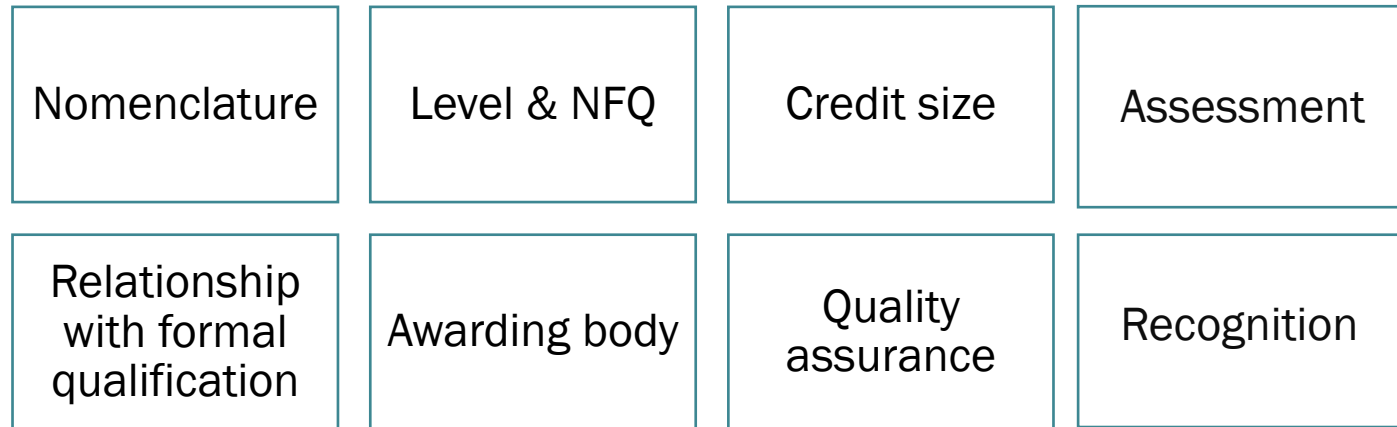
2. Seven core values underpinning the vision for Multi-campus Micro-credentials have been identified and are undergoing approval



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IUA Project: Progress to date

3. Approval for the constitutive elements of Multi-campus Micro-credentials



IUA Project: Progress to date



4. Seek to agree a common supplement for Multi-campus Micro-credentials so that key information is easily accessible to all stakeholders



IUA Project: NFAQ

- University partners in Ireland have autonomy with regards to awarding process – agreed values with no requirement for national legislation changes
- Engaging with QQI currently – as stands micro-credentials falls under ‘Non-Major Awards’
- Confident our QA systems will approve micro-credentials in same way within our universities
- Our micro-credentials will be aligned to NQF, underpinned by QA
- Entering pilot phase currently (June 2021, mid-point review December 2021)





Questions & Comments



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