



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

To the Registrar named in the address

Dear Registrar

I am pleased to forward you some information updates from the Qualifications Service Section within Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

1. Progression Opportunities for 2013 (Higher Education Links Scheme)

The Higher Education Links Scheme (HELs) links a number of FETAC level 5 and 6 awards to a variety of 3rd level courses in participating higher education institutions. Application is through CAO. The scoring system for achievement of FETAC level 5 and 6 major awards has changed. Many former linked awards have been replaced by new common awards (CAS), which are also linked. The enclosed document lists the linked CAS and legacy awards and sets out the scoring system. Further information is available on www.fetac.ie including a summary document- 'Progression, an Overview', explanatory video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nXF5Bcwhk8&feature=youtu.be>) and interactive information leaflet (http://www.fetac.ie/fetac/documents/CAS_Information_leaflet.pdf) explaining the CAS system. 'Managing the Transition to CAS, Information Note for Providers', published on www.fetac.ie, continues to set out the timelines for change from legacy to new awards.

These documents may be of use to you as you discuss arrangements and applications with colleagues in the diverse faculties admitting students on the basis of FETAC Level 5 and 6 awards. It would also be appreciated if you could advise the relevant departments regarding publishing the up-to-date information on scoring systems etc. on your institutions' website, and pass copies to the Access, Admissions and School Liaison Officers.

QQI is consulting on a range of policies currently including Access, Transfer and Progression, the Provision of Information for Learners, Recognition of Prior Learning, Data, and on the Recognition of Qualifications within the National Framework of

Qualifications. To review policies and make your on-line response, please see:
<http://www.qqi.ie/Consultation/Pages/default.aspx>

QQI is also gathering information about advanced progression into higher education programmes based on FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificates, on the request of Admissions Officers. It is hoped to circulate initial data collected to date in September 2013. If you have not forwarded information it would be greatly appreciated if you could do so to bcahill@qqi.ie

Guidance Counsellors have been advised that candidates seeking to progress on the basis of FETAC awards should always also view www.cao.ie and the website of their preferred higher education institution as the range of opportunities and requirements may evolve.

2. Qualifax, The National Learners' Database www.qualifax.ie

Qualifax is the "one stop shop" for learners and guidance services, now under the management of QQI. Qualifax has developed comprehensive services to ensure that all the information necessary to make informed choices about post school education, training and career paths spanning levels 1-10, is easily available. The website provides the broadest range of information on further and higher education and training courses offered nationally, including clarity on subject selection in Leaving Certificate programmes to meet higher education entry requirements, information on options for developing vocational and technical skills and help with CAO choices. Qualifax continues to be updated so that the information provided is accurate and current. Please view our leaflets and website for more information, and to check that information relevant to your own Institution is as you would wish it to be.

Qualifax will provide core information for the legislatively based QQI Database of Awards and Programmes and Register of Providers. A Green Paper on future directions for Qualifax, surfacing implications of the legislation for the consideration of other stakeholders will be published for consultation in Autumn 2013.

The information on www.Qualifax.ie is relevant for anyone considering career pathways, or making choices about participating in education and training opportunities in further and higher education.

3 Europass

QQI is the Irish National Europass Centre. Europass is an initiative to help ensure that education and training qualifications and experiences are understood both at home and abroad. The European Skills Passport is an electronic portfolio containing

current CV, Europass Language Passport, Europass Mobility and Certificate/Diploma Supplements.

Europass is of particular relevance to students seeking work or learning opportunities within Europe.

- 4 The Qualifications Services section at QQI hosts the Irish **ENIC/NARIC (European Network of Information Centres / National Academic Recognition Information Centres)** centre known as **Qualifications Recognition**. This is the national service responsible for coordinating the academic recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland. Qualifications Recognition is an information service that helps education institutions, amongst others, compare foreign qualifications with Irish qualifications. Qualifications Recognition aims to compare a foreign qualification to a qualification that is included at a particular level on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The advice provided places the foreign qualification in the context of the Irish education and training system. Our website, www.qualrec.ie is a useful resource. Important features of the site include information on the recognition application process for individuals and the **International Qualifications Database** which stores ever increasing advice on the comparability of qualifications from a number of countries.

For information regarding the comparison of qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland, please view 'Qualifications can cross boundaries' available on <http://www.qualrec.ie/documents/CrossBoundaries.pdf> . This rough guide enables broad comparisons of qualifications and their levels in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. Copies are available on request.

These services assist both learners/applicants and Institutional Access and Admissions Offices.

We hope that you will find these updates useful. Should you require additional copies/information, please use the Contact us page on www.qqi.ie .

With every good wish

Andrina Wafer

Lifelong Learning, Qualifications Services.

This letter is also published on the featured content section of www.qualifax.ie , where you may use the links to directly access the relevant document/file(s).