Qualifax – THE NATIONAL LEARNERS' DATABASE

Hosted by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

September 2019

Welcome to the 2019 -20 academic year, from all the Qualifax team ***Angela, Siobhan, Breda, Brendan, Anne and Patricia.***

The Qualifax website continues to be very busy complementing the Information Unit at Quality and Qualifications Ireland. Over half a million users access the Qualifax site including second level students, guidance counsellors, job seekers, adult learners and of course parents.

Going to College Podcasts:

Due to a most successful series in 2018, QQI has again partnered with the Irish Independent, on a **Going to College podcast series** which gives advice to Leaving Cert students about their results, CAO offers and preparing for college life.

Tune in to the series of four podcasts at: https://www.independent.ie/podcasts/

Important GDPR update for all Guidance Counsellors & Students with Qualifax Accounts – please update your account details:

User security is an essential requirement for all users of Qualifax to ensure Data Protection Compliance. Please continue to encourage your students to update their Qualifax accounts. Unused or and in-active accounts will be deleted on a regular basis. A new account can be created at any time.

Legislative Approval Update with NEW activities for QQI from 2019/20:

QQI is delighted to announce the passing of legislative amendments in the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) (Amendment) Bill 2018 in July 2019.

The Bill, amending the 2012 Act will strengthen the role of QQI and includes:

- Establishing a national **Learner Protection Fund**
- Listing of other awarding bodies and the inclusion of their awards in the NFQ
- Enabling Higher education institutions to apply for **university designation**;
- Strengthening our role as a regulator of quality in the English language education sector facilitating the introduction of the **International Education Mark** (IEM) and requiring any provider seeking the IEM to adhere to **a Code of Practice;**
- Assessing the corporate fitness of providers that engage with QQI;
- Addressing academic cheating and an offence will be created for advertising or providing 'essay mills' services and other forms of cheating and
- Introducing changes regarding responsibility for Recognition of Prior Learning.

Quality assurance will be central to the implementation of these new activities and more details will follow in due course. The Bill is available on the Oireachtas website at: https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2018/95/

Irish Register of Qualifications (IRQ)

QQI has introduced the **Irish Register of Qualifications**. Presently in development it will be an information tool used to identify programmes leading to QQI awards in the NFQ and their providers. The Register will offer up-to-date information to the national and international Guidance Community, Admissions Officers, students, parents, funding and support agencies who need to clarify national accreditation information.

Visit the website at https://irq.ie/

Apprenticeship
Real-life Learning

An apprenticeship provides on-the-job training with an approved employer and alternates between off-the-job training in an education environment and on-the-job training at the employer's workplace.

The duration of an apprenticeship is between 2 and 4 years and offers learners a recognised qualification at levels 5 to 10 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

There are many exciting new apprenticeships on offer for the first time such as the:

- Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing
- Advanced Certificate in Sales Supervision and
- Advanced Certificate in Auctioneering and Property Services

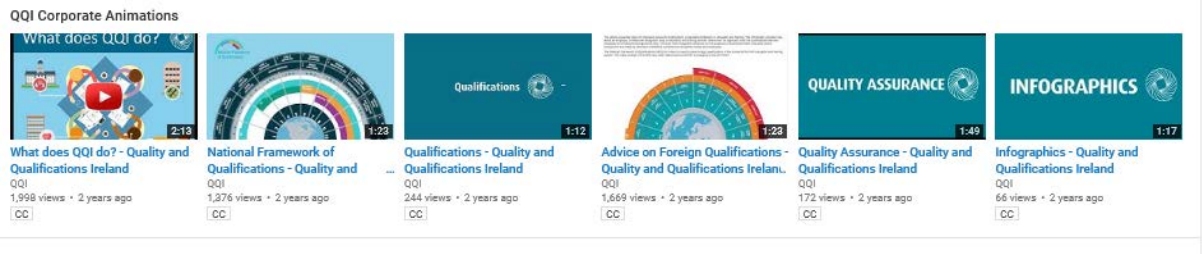
You can search for Apprenticeship programmes on Qualifax – just choose Course Type '**Apprenticeship**' in the **Course Finder** to access information on current apprenticeships here and on new generation apprenticeships at http://www.apprenticeship.ie/en/SitePages/Home.aspx

Need to contact a member of our team?

Our contact details are available on the front page of our website in the 'Featured Content' section. We always welcome your feedback. If you need additional marketing material please email Patricia at preddy@qqi.ie

The ***Information Services Unit*** at QQI also offers information and free advice on the National Framework of Qualifications, Europass tools including mobility and foreign qualifications through NARIC Ireland. Check out www.nfq.ie www.europass.ie and www.naric.ie for further information.

A series of Youtube video's about QQI and the NFQ in Irish and English can be accessed from www.qqi.ie or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe1oWTd0vFoIv3yzanJjwJA



Follow us on twitter @qqi_connect

Tools and Information:

Online Calendar of Career Events

Visit our online **Events Calendar** which currently lists over 400 events for the forthcoming academic year. You can also submit your event here or email Breda Cahill at bcahill@qqi.ie

CAO Points Information 2019:

Round 1 Points for Level 8

Round 1 Points for Level 7 & 6

Compare Round 1 Points for Level 8 2019 with 2018

Compare Round 1 Points for Level 7 & 6 2019 with 2018

CAO Points Calculator is available to calculate points for entry to Higher Education.

Minimum Subjects Requirement Module provides an easy way to evaluate subject choices for both Junior and Leaving Certificate.

Useful Publications and new reference materials:

Making Sense of Qualifications - How Recruitment Professionals in Ireland view Qualifications

A recent survey by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) of around 100 recruitment organisations gathering their views on the importance of qualifications in recruitment practice and their use of qualifications frameworks when recruiting staff.

Global inventory of regional and national qualifications frameworks 2019

A biennial review of global developments in national and regional qualifications systems addressing issues including digitalisation, RPL, learning outcomes and information sources on Qualifications.

Joint publication of CEDEFOP, the European Training Foundation (ETF), and UNESCO

Education Information Booklet 2019/20 - The Education System in Ireland: A guide prepared by the Irish Refugee Council for people seeking asylum, those with refugee status, subsidiary protection or permission to remain.

Europass News

Modernising Europass

A ***new*** Europass platform is in development for 2020. The new platform will offer an interactive platform with information on learning and working in Europe.

Europass is currently a portfolio of 5 documents which helps individuals take advantage of work and study opportunities across Europe and beyond. It is popular with over 100 million Europass CV's generated since 2005, but in need of updating and in 2017 the European Commission adopted a proposal to modernize Europass.

The new Europass will be an online platform usable by anyone needing information on learning and working across the EU. It will adapt to all national systems and offer web-based tools and information to support individuals managing their career and learning.

The National Europass Centre is based at Quality and Qualifications Ireland and promotes Europass activities on an ongoing basis.

Our website information is available at https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/Europass.aspx

RECENT NEWS:

Further Education Outcomes - 18th July 2019

The Central Statistics Office report on graduate outcomes in Ireland Further Education Outcomes – Graduation Years 2010-2016 draws on QQI data on NFQ Level 1-6 Major Awards and analyses the destinations of FET graduates in terms of employment, re-enrolment in education and the industry sectors.

Click here for more information.

Guidance Professionals / Career Guidance Review

Report of Independent Review of Career Guidance Tools and Information launched by Minister McHugh 24 April, 2019.

https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/indecon-review-of-career-guidance.pdf

Brexit updates and the Common Travel Area

The Government of Ireland and the UK Government have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining the CTA in all circumstances. On the date of the signing, both Governments also issued a **Joint Statement**. The Common Travel Area pre-dates Irish and UK membership of the EU and is not dependent on it.

Other useful links:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government_in_ireland/european_government/european_union/brexit_updates.html

https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/getting-ireland-brexit-ready/brexit-and-you/frequently-asked-questions/