

Comparing Qualifications in the UK

The table compares qualifications across the UK, providing examples of major qualifications at each level. For more details, refer to the website given at the head of each column.

Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk	Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk www.ccea.org.uk	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales www.cqfw.net	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework www.scqf.org.uk
LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL
8 Doctoral Degree	8 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	8 Doctoral Degree, Vocational Qualifications	12 Doctoral Degree, Professional Apprenticeship, Professional Development Award (PDA), Award
7 Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificate	7 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	7 Master's Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)	11 Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship PDA, SVQ, Award
6 Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Bachelor's Degree, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	6 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	6 Honours Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Professional Certificate in Education	10 Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
			9 Bachelor's/Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Apprenticeship, Technical Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
5 Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diploma (HND)	5 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)	5 Foundation Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)	8 Higher National Diploma (HND), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Technical Apprenticeship, Higher Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
4 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	4 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Certificate (HNC)	4 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Vocational Qualifications	7 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Modern Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Scottish Baccalaureate, Advanced Higher, Award
3 Access to HE Diploma*	3 Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, GCE AS and A Level	3 Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced, Vocational Qualifications, GCE, AS and A Level, Access to HE	6 Higher, Modern Apprenticeship, Foundation Apprenticeship, National Progression Award (NPA), National Certificate, PDA, SVQ, Award
The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA but is not part of the FHEQ	2 Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade A-C and grade 9-4, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualification (NI)	2 Welsh Baccalaureate National, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade A*-C	5 National 5, Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate, Award
	1 Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade D-G and grade 3-1, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	1 Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade D-G	4 National 4, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate Award
	Entry Level Entry Level Certificate (sub levels 1-3), Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	Entry Level Entry Level Qualifications, Essential Skills Qualifications	3 National 3, NPA, National Certificate, Award
			2 National 2, NPA, National Certificate, Award
			1 National 1, Award

Please note that the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales incorporates the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ); the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework incorporates the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions in Scotland (FQHEIS).

Information correct at time of printing – September 2020.