

## **Submission to National Qualifications Authority of Ireland from Engineers Ireland.**

Engineers Ireland in supporting the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), uses the prescribed levels throughout its documentation when describing programmes it has accredited as satisfying the educational standard for its professional titles and grades of membership.

We receive applications for membership from engineering professionals from outside Ireland every month and many of these include certification from NQAI that their engineering qualification is “ considered comparable to an Honours Bachelor Degree which is at level 8 on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). This comparison is made on the basis of research into the award and also into the status of the issuing institution.”

We consider this information to be helpful in our consideration of the qualifications of applicants. However, unless the qualification is accredited by an organization in the foreign jurisdiction which is a signatory to an international agreement such as the Washington Accord, we cannot be satisfied that the qualification meets our accreditation criteria for that particular level of award. This often leads to confusion in the process mainly with candidates who are puzzled as to why they must attend an Engineers Ireland interview so that we can get further information on their qualifications.

We would very much welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter with you so that we can together introduce greater clarity into the situation.