

Public Submission on the Implementation and Impact of the National Framework of Qualifications and Access, Transfer and Progression policies: 2008

Respondent's Details

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Is this response a personal view or is it made on behalf of your organisation?

Personal On behalf of organisation

Submissions will be made public on the website of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland and attributed to the author and/or their organisation unless you request otherwise.

Do you agree that your submission may be made public?

Yes No

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The following themes are suggested as a guide in making your submission. Please feel free to make a free form submission if you wish. Submissions should not exceed 2000 words. The themes are:

- Expectations of the Framework
- Impact on learners
- Key strengths and key weaknesses of the Framework
- Impact on programmes and qualifications
 - standards, learning outcomes, assessment, quality assurance
- Access, transfer and progression
 - Expectations
 - Impact on learners
 - Key strengths and key weaknesses
- Relevance of the Framework to employment
- Use of the Framework in public funding
- Impact on the international recognition of qualifications

Thank you.

Please return your response to nfgstudy@nqai.ie or to

Dr. Anna Murphy
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5th Floor, Jervis House
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Dublin 1

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Relevance of the Framework to Employment/Impact on the International Recognition of Qualifications

The Public Appointments Service recruits for a wide range of positions in the public service for which a wide range of qualifications can be acceptable. In attempting to ascertain the standard of qualifications which candidates present with we have found that the National Framework of Qualifications to be a valuable reference tool. We have found it particularly helpful in assisting in determining the level and standard of qualifications obtained outside of Ireland.

Some issues which have arisen for us in recent years are set out below:

- ◇ On occasions our clients specify that a candidates to fill their particular posts must hold a particular grade in their degree (e.g. 1st Class Honours); the Framework does not assist us in determining which qualifications may be equivalent as the levels within the Framework are quite broad;
- ◇ Other clients would require a Masters as an essential entry requirement; again in this instance the Framework groups Masters with other post-graduate qualifications, which might not be acceptable to our clients for recruitment to their organisations;
- ◇ Another issue which has arisen is the fact that a certain level in the Framework can be obtained by attending a relevant programme rather than by achieving a particular level in the programme (e.g. Level 8 achieved for students who complete an Honours Bachelor Degree programme and obtain a pass result only).

All of the issues we have encountered in relation to the Framework and the business of PAS are mainly in relation to lack of differentiation between qualifications which are on the same level of the Framework. I understand that further differentiation within each level might make a Framework more cumbersome and less clear so there may not be anything which can be done to address the issues which we have encountered. We would still continue to use the Framework as a reference tool and for guidance in relation to the range of qualifications which candidates present with when applying for posts in the Public Service.