

Report on the alignment of the awards made by the Vocational Training Charitable Trust with the Irish National Framework of Qualifications

1. Recommendation and Conditions of Alignment

Recommendation

It is recommended that those awards made in Ireland by the Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT), for which it has sought alignment, should be aligned with the National Framework of Qualifications, to specific levels as indicated in this report.

Conditions of Alignment

1. VTCT may refer to the qualifications indicated in the report as being aligned with the specified levels of the National Framework of Qualifications in Ireland (the NFQ) and recognised as such by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI).
2. VTCT will clearly communicate that its unaccredited awards made in Ireland are not aligned with the NFQ or recognised as such by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI). This will be clearly stated in all advertisements, marketing and descriptions associated with such awards and the programmes leading to them, as well as on the transcripts of the awards.
3. VTCT will provide the NQAI with information regarding:
 - a. Annual statistics indicating number of learners in Ireland who commence programmes leading to awards to which the alignment refers as well as the number of awards made
 - b. The outcomes of any external quality assurance review to which the awarding body is subject
 - c. Any material change to the quality assurance procedures of the awarding body which impact in any way on the provision in Ireland of the awards to which the alignment refers

- d. Examples of marketing of awards aligned with the NFQ / not aligned with the NFQ
 - e. Any new awards which the awarding body intends to offer in Ireland, for which it is seeking alignment or otherwise.
4. VTCT will operate procedures which are consistent with the policies of the NQAI in respect of access, transfer and progression and RPL
 5. The alignment of awards with the NFQ recommended in the alignment report is active as long as the necessary quality assurance arrangements are in place i.e. as long as the pilot regulatory arrangements for qualifications accredited in England, Wales and Northern Ireland when offered in Ireland are in place.

2. Level Criteria

The criteria used to determine the comparable levels of awards submitted by VTCT for alignment with the NFQ are set out in the document entitled - Qualifications can cross boundaries

<http://www.qualificationsrecognition.ie/recognition/pdfs/File.886,en.pdf>

The comparable England, Wales and Northern Ireland National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ) levels may be summarised as follows. At NQF Level 5 there are outcomes which span Levels 6 and 7 of the NFQ. The Authority executive has made a determination on the levels of these awards, where applicable, in consultation with the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC).

England, Wales and Northern Ireland National Qualifications Framework		National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland
Entry Level	is comparable to	Level 2
Level 1	is comparable to	Level 3
Level 2	is comparable to	Level 4

Level 3	is comparable to	Level 5
Level 4	is comparable to	Level 6
Level 5	is comparable to	Level 6/ 7
Level 6	is comparable to	Level 8
Level 7	is comparable to	Level 9
Level 8	is comparable to	Level 10

3. Sources of Evidence and Level Recommendations

Sources of Evidence

All qualifications submitted for alignment by VTCT were checked against the list of accredited qualifications published by Ofqual at

<http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk>

Level Recommendations

It is recommended that VTCT awards submitted should be aligned with the NFQ as tabled below.

Title of qualification	NDAQ Qualification Reference Number	Guided Learning Hours	UK Qualification Type (where applicable)	England, Wales and Northern Ireland National Qualifications Framework Level (NQF)	Irish National Framework of Qualifications Level (NFQ)
VTCT Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life (Entry 3) (Hair and Beauty)	100/6416/3	180	EL	NQF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Entry		n/a	BS	NQF Entry	NFQ Level 2

Level Certificate in Adult Literacy	100/6438/2			Level	
VTCT Entry Level Certificate in Adult Numeracy	100/6439/4	n/a	BS	NQF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Entry Level Certificate in ICT Skills for Life	100/6440/0	n/a	EL	NQF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life (Entry 3)	100/6416/3	180	EL	NQF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life (Health and Fitness) (Entry 3)	500/3571/X	180	EL	NQF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life (Hair and Beauty) (Entry 2)	500/3819/9	180	EL	NQF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Entry Level Award in Functional Skills (English)(QCF)	500/2751/7	30-45	FS	QCF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Entry Level Award in Functional Skills	500/2747/5	30-45	FS	QCF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2

(Mathematics) (QCF)					
VTCT Entry Level Award in Functional Skills (ICT) (QCF)	500/5753/0	30-45	FS	QCF Entry Level	NFQ Level 2
VTCT Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to Therapies	500/1120/0	180	VRQ	NQF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level 1 NVQ in Hairdressing	500/1225/3	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level 1 NVQ in Beauty Therapy	100/4162/X	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level 1 NVQ in Customer Service	500/2955/1	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level 1 Certificate in Health and Fitness	500/3436/4	50	VRQ	NQF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level 1 Award in Functional Skills (English) (QCF)	500/2749/9	30-45	VRQ	QCF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level 1 Award in Functional Skills (Mathematics) (QCF)	500/2755/4	30-45	VRQ	QCF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level 1 Award in Functional Skills (ICT) (QCF)	500/2750/5	30-45	VRQ	QCF Level 1	NFQ Level 3
VTCT Level	500/1500/X	180	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4

2 Certificate in Sports and Fitness Therapies					
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Nail Treatments	100/6145/9	65-70	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Nail Technology	100/6126/5	125	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Sugaring Depilation	100/6127/7	55	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Threading Depilation	100/6128/9	25	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Holistic Therapies	500/1046/3	265	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Mendhi and Henna Skin Decoration	100/6124/1	45	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Face and Body Painting	100/6123/X	40	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Fashion and Photographic Make-Up	100/6144/7	75	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Ear Piercing	100/6143/5	25	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4

VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Wax Depilation	100/6146/0	60	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Nail Art	100/6125/3	25	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate for Service Sector Receptionists	100/6159/9	120	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Cosmetic Make-Up	100/6142/3	115-150	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Specialist Techniques	100/6147/2	355-385	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Hairdressing	500/1735/4	270	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Barbering	500/1734/2	240	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in African-Caribbean Hairdressing	500/1733/0	270	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Hairdressing	100/3230/7	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Barbering	100/3232/0	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Beauty Therapy – General Pathway	500/3343/8	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4

VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Beauty Therapy – Make-Up Pathway	500/3343/8	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Nail Services	500/3357/8	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Customer Service	100/6116/2	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Sales	500/3055/3	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Sport, Recreation and Allied Occupations: Operational Services	500/3105/3	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Sport, Recreation and Allied Occupations: Activity Leadership	500/3265/3	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 NVQ in Instructing Exercise and Fitness	500/3276/8	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing (Gym)	500/1820/6	120	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Fitness	500/1820/6	50	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4

Instructing (Exercise to Music)					
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in the Active Leisure Industry and Organisationa l Awareness	500/3434/0	35	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4

VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Business Start-Up (QCF)	500/3066/8	120	VRQ	QCF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Award in Business Start-Up (QCF)	500/3061/9	60	VRQ	QCF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Customer Service	500/2900/9	75	VRQ	NQF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Award in Functional Skills (English) (QCF)	500/2752/9	30-45	VRQ	QCF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Award in Functional Skills (Mathematics) (QCF)	500/2748/7	30-45	VRQ	QCF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 2 Award in Functional Skills (ICT) (QCF)	500/2754/2	30-45	VRQ	QCF Level 2	NFQ Level 4
VTCT Level 3 Award in	100/2836/5	30	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5

Assessing Candidates Performance Through Observation					
VTCT Level 3 Award in Assessing Candidates Performance Using a Range of Methods	100/2835/3	30	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Holistic Therapies	500/1047/5	530	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Sports and Fitness Therapy Techniques	500/1499/7	390	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Beauty Therapy	100/6148/4	465	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Additional Reflexology Techniques	100/6249/X	230	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Theatrical and Media Make-Up	100/6231/2	450-480	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Epilation	100/6149/6	160	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Anatomy and Physiology	500/1119/4	210	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level	100/6150/2	60	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5

3 Diploma in Indian Head Massage					
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Reflexology	100/6250/6	200	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Sports Massage Therapy	100/6241/5	300	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Certificate in Swedish Massage	100/6160/5	120	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Using Therapy Techniques as an Aid to Stress Management	500/1219/8	105	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Stone Therapy	100/6225/7	230	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Hairdressing	100/3231/9	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Barbering	100/3233/2	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Business Start-Up	100/2979/X	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Beauty Therapy	100/4307/X	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Nail Services	500/3358/X	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Spa	100/4310/X	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5

Therapy					
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Customer Service	100/6117/4	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Sales	500/3054/1	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Leisure Management	500/3264/1	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 NVQ in Instructing Physical Activity and Exercise	500/3277/X	n/a	NVQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Certificate in Advanced Fitness Instructing (Gym)	500/1799/8	150	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Certificate in the Active Leisure Industry and Organisational Awareness	500/3436/4	50	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Certificate in Advanced Fitness Instructing (Gym) (QCF)	500/3503/4	150	VRQ	QCF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Certificate in Business Start-Up (QCF)	500/3067/X	130	VRQ	QCF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level		60	VRQ	QCF Level 3	NFQ Level 5

3 Award in Business Start-Up (QCF)	500/3065/6				
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Body Massage	500/1030/X	180	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Remedial Massage	500/1033/5	250	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Workplace Massage	500/1034/7	220	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Additional Aromatherapy Techniques	500/1049/9	230	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Non-Medical Nutritional Advice	500/1037/2	120	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Understanding the Healthcare Environment for Providers of Complementary Therapies	500/1045/1	120	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Aromatherapy	500/1044/X	200	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5
VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Health, Safety, Security and	500/1048/7	20	VRQ	NQF Level 3	NFQ Level 5

Employment Standards					
VTCT Level 4 Award in Conducting Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process	500/1530/8	n/a	OQ	NQF Level 4	NFQ Level 6

4. Additional Information

(a) England, Wales & Northern Ireland Vocational Education and Training Award Frameworks

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is a new way of recognising skills and qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland. From Autumn 2008 to late 2010, the QCF will be implemented gradually to replace the current qualifications system, as arranged through the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The QCF is a unit-based framework. Units are the building blocks of all qualifications and all units within the QCF will be developed within a standard format. This format is based on the following design features:

- unit title
- learning outcomes
- assessment criteria
- level
- credit

Every unit and qualification in the framework will have a credit value (one credit represents 10 hours, showing how much time it takes to complete) and a level between entry level and level 8 (showing how difficult it is). There are three sizes of qualifications in the QCF:

- Awards (1 to 12 credits)

- Certificates (13 to 36 credits)
- Diplomas (37 credits or more).

The QCF will be aligned with frameworks in Scotland, Wales and Europe (Levels 1 to 8 of the QCF have been mapped to levels 1 to 8 of the European Qualifications Framework - EQF) enabling learners to transfer their achievements across national boundaries.

(b) Qualification Size and Type

Information regarding the size of the qualifications offered by VTCT in Ireland

The UK NQF does not consider the size of the qualification when attributing an NQF level to the qualification. The NQF level is determined by assessing the level of demand placed on the learner rather than the volume of learning that they must undertake prior to attaining the qualification. In order to provide information regarding the volume of learning typically undertaken prior to attaining the award, a column entitled 'Guided Learning Hours' is included in the alignment table above. The definition of Guided Learning Hours provided by the NQF is as follows:

'A notional measure of the substance of a qualification. It includes an estimate of the time that might be allocated to direct teaching or instruction, together with other structured learning time, such as directed assignments, assessments on the job or supported individual study and practice. It excludes learner-initiated private study.'

The Guided Learning Hours have been included in this report to clarify for learners and providers the typical time allocated to teaching the programme leading to each qualification listed.

Information regarding qualifications offered by VTCT in Ireland

Vocationally-Related Qualifications (VRQs) are nationally recognised qualifications in the UK designed to bring tangible business benefits through their strong emphasis on practical skills and assessment.

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are work-related, competence-based qualifications. They reflect the skills and knowledge needed to do a job effectively, and show that a candidate is competent in the area of work the NVQ represents.

Entry Level Qualifications (ELs) are available in a number of learning settings. They are often studied in further education colleges or school, but can also be available in the workplace, community settings through voluntary work, prisons and young offenders' institutions and residential or daycare settings. There are no entry requirements. They are made up of a number of units, each assessed separately. This means that your achievements are recognised at every step, as you complete each unit.

Functional Skills (FSs) are practical skills in English, mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT) that allow individuals to work confidently, effectively and independently in life.

Basic Skills (BSs) is the ability to read, write and speak in English and to use mathematics at a level necessary to be an active participant in working life and in society in general. Basic Skills are a foundation for further learning.

Occupational Qualifications (OQs) are based on national occupational standards (where they are available) and are usually assessed in the work place. They can be taken by full-time employees or by school and college students with a work placement or part-time job that enables them to develop the appropriate skills. There are no age limits and no special entry requirements.