

U.K. Qualifications Framework

What U.K. Qualifications Mean

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

There are Nine (9) Qualification Levels (the list of qualifications is not exhaustive).

Main Stages of Education/ Employment	Level	Qualifications & Credit Framework
Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment	8	Doctoral Degrees E.g. for example Doctor of Philosophy (PhD or DPhil) Level 8 Diploma
Higher education Advanced skills training	7	Integrated (Professional) Master's Degrees Master's Degrees Postgraduate Diplomas Postgraduate Certificate in Education Postgraduate Certificates
Entry to professional graduate employment	6	Bachelor's Degree with Honours Bachelor's Degrees Professional Graduate Certificate in Education Graduate Diplomas Graduate Certificates
Specialised education and training	5	Foundation Degrees (Associate Degrees) Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE) Higher National Diplomas (HND)
Qualified/Skilled worker Entry to higher education Completion of secondary education	4	Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)
	3	Vocational Qualifications Level 3 GCSE AS and A Level Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Advanced
Progression to skilled employment Continuation of secondary education	2	NVQ Level 2 Vocational Qualifications Level 2 Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Intermediate GCSEs grade A* - C
Secondary education initial entry into employment or further education	1	NVQ Level 1 Vocational Qualifications Level 1 GCSEs at grade D-G Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Foundation
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to training	Entry	Entry Level Certificate (Entry sub levels 1 –3) Entry Level Awards