

Placement of Existing and Former Awards in the National Framework of Qualifications

HETAC has agreed the placement of existing and former awards (these refer to awards made by HETAC and /or by the National Council for Educational Awards) with the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI). The purpose of this placement is to ensure that existing and former awards of HETAC are included in the National Framework of Qualifications.

Existing and former awards refer to those awards that were made:

- before the determination and establishment of the National Framework and the new awards or
- after the determination and establishment of the National Framework but prior to the implementation of the new framework standards for the new awards in the framework.

The placement of former and existing awards are set out in the tabular statement below:

Level on the National Framework of Qualifications
Level 6 One-Year Certificate Advanced Certificate National Certificate
Level 7 National Diploma
Level 8 Bachelor Degree Graduate Diploma (conversion)
Level 9 Graduate Diploma (first stage of a Masters) Masters Degree
Level 10 Doctor of Philosophy

It is important to note that the placement of former and existing awards in the National Framework is at a level in the framework. Placement does not imply that a holder of an award has achieved all of the outcomes associated with a new award-type in the framework at the same level.

The National Qualifications Authority has stated, *“Placement will not reduce or lessen eligibility or entitlements arising from an award. For this reason, the provisions for access, transfer and progression associated with new awards in the framework do not necessarily apply to all existing and former awards placed at the same level. At the same time, wherever possible the provisions for access, transfer and progression will be extended to holders of existing and former awards.”*

The Council’s process of placement was guided by the NQAI publication ‘*Policies and Criteria for the Establishment of the National Framework of Qualifications*’ - chapter 7 (available on the NQAI website www.nqai.ie). This outlines the rationale for the placement of existing and former awards in the Framework.