

Examination of the Implementation of the Europass Diploma Supplement across Irish Higher Education Institutions

27 November 2025

Irish National Europass Centre (NEC)

European Qualifications Framework - National Coordination Point for Ireland (EQF-NCP Ireland)



Dearbhú Cáilíochta
agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann
Quality and
Qualifications Ireland



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Speakers

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) is the host organisation for the Irish National Europass Centre and is the European Qualifications Framework – National Contact Point (EQF-NCP) for Ireland, these operations are managed by the Qualifications Information and Learning Opportunities Unit (QILO).

- Naomi Oldenburg is a Senior Manager at QQI and
- Alice Long is a Senior Executive Officer and QQI.

They both manage the National Europass Centre work for Ireland.

QQI- Our Roles

- State Agency
- Promote quality, integrity & reputation of Ireland tertiary education & training system
- Ensure learners achieve qualifications that are valued nationally & internationally
- Provide trusted information on the qualifications included on the National Framework of Qualifications



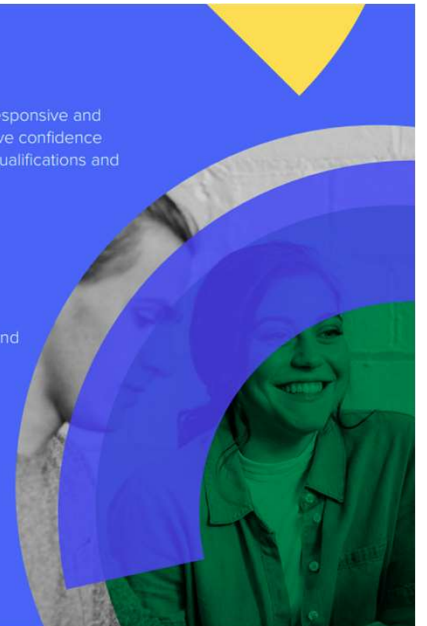
Our Vision

We are committed to a vision of Ireland that delivers a flexible, responsive and quality assured tertiary education system where learners can have confidence that their learning experience will be of a high quality and their qualifications and learning will be valued nationally and internationally.

Our Mission

We promote public confidence and trust in the quality, integrity and reputation of Ireland's tertiary education system through:

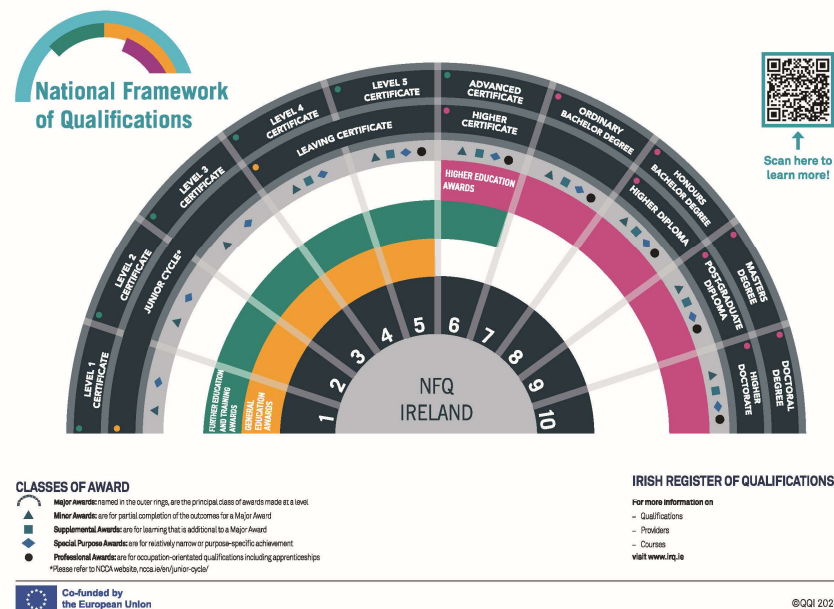
- protecting the integrity of the National Framework of Qualifications,
- providing authoritative and comprehensive information about qualifications and learning opportunities;
- delivering trusted regulation and guidance,
- enhancing the quality of providers and their programmes and,
- influencing system change with insights and analyses.



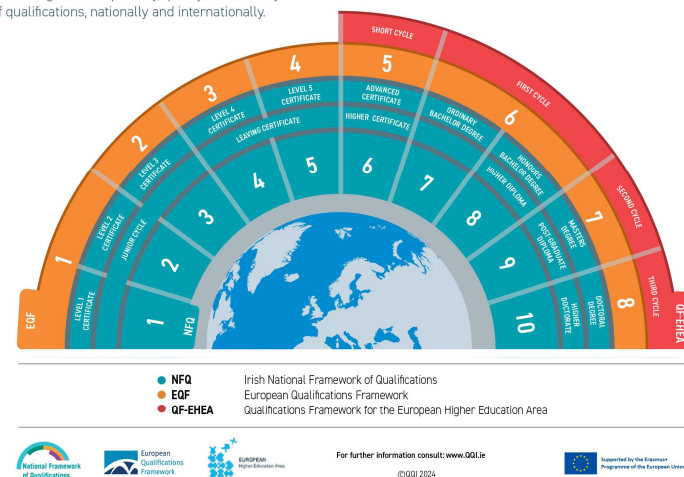
European Representations Hosted at QQI



Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)



Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global
Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.



Irish NFQ Developments

- Irish Register of Qualifications (IRQ)
 - Transfers to the Qualifications Dataset Register (QDR)
 - Re-development - compatibility with European Learning Model (ELM)
- Programme for Review of NFQ Policies.
- Listed Awarding Bodies Scheme (LABs).
- Changes to Intermediate Qualifications at NFQ Levels 5 and 6 on the framework.
- Update to national policy on Access, Transfer & Progression.
- Green Paper on Micro-Credentials.



Study on the Implementation of the Diploma Supplement in Ireland across Irish Higher Education Institutions

The Diploma Supplement

- The Diploma Supplement is part of the Europass toolkit, and is a document designed to aid the transparency and recognition of higher education academic qualifications.
- It contains eight sections which help to explain the characteristics, level, content, and standing of the qualification within the national education system.
 - 1) Information on the holder of the qualification
 - 2) Information identifying the qualification
 - 3) Information on the level and duration of the qualification
 - 4) Information on the programme completed and the results obtained
 - 5) Information on the function of the qualification
 - 6) Additional information
 - 7) Certification of the supplement
 - 8) Information on the national higher education system
- The Diploma Supplement is produced by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The Diploma Supplement in Ireland

- It is issued in Ireland by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Ireland, including Designated Awarding Bodies (DABs) and Higher Education Providers (HEPs), to graduates.
- Where not automatically issued, graduates can request to receive the Diploma Supplement from the HEI they attended.
- For Ireland, the information on the higher education system in the Diploma Supplement template in Section 8 was last updated several years ago.
- Since the template was last updated, there have been changes to the Irish education landscape.

The Diploma Supplement in Ireland

- As the NEC, QQI is responsible for the promotion of the Diploma Supplement (DS) in Ireland, providing support to institutions issuing the document, and coordinating with other relevant bodies regarding the implementation of the Diploma Supplement.
- A key deliverable as part of the Europass EQF-NCP Ireland 2024 - 2026 is to implement a new Irish Europass Diploma Supplement template updating the information in Section 8 about the higher education system in Ireland.
- Decided to undertake a study to support upcoming developments.

Study Objectives

- Collect baseline data on implementation of the Diploma Supplement in Ireland.
- Provide information to inform the work planning of the Irish NEC regarding the Diploma Supplement.
- Gather information on:
 - when institutions last updated the Diploma Supplement template,
 - how the Diploma Supplement is issued by institutions,
 - the promotion of the Diploma Supplement by institutions, and
 - the use of the Diploma Supplement for admissions.

Methodology

- Quantitative methodology using an online survey via Microsoft (MS) Forms.
- The survey instruments were designed by the Irish NEC, EQF-NCP, and NARIC Ireland team at QQI.
- Issued via email on 2 August 2024 and closed 15 November 2024.
- The target sample was HEIs (DABs and HEPs).
- In total, 16 Designated Awarding Bodies and 35 Higher Education Providers were contacted to participate in survey.
- Combined an overall response rate of 59% for HEIs was achieved (30 responses).
- Data was analysed using MS Excel, with descriptive statistics, and themes were identified for responses to open-ended questions.

Key Findings

40%

unknown when the Diploma Supplement template was last updated by the institution

2 in 5

have internal processes / procedures for updating the Diploma Supplement (DS) template



of the 30 HEIs issue the Diploma Supplement for major awards



Over 2 in 3 HEIs issue the DS document for major awards automatically

Key Findings

 70% issue the DS digitally for major awards

 30% issue the DS in physical format for major awards

40%

of HEIs promote the benefits of the Diploma Supplement to graduates



57%

Over half of the HEIs promote the use of the DS as evidence of a qualification for applicants



80%

Most institutions accept the DS as part of their admissions process

Several institutions have plans to digitalise and automate the process of issuing the DS



Report



Available at [QQI.ie](https://www.qqi.ie)

Next Steps

- Produce updated resources to support Irish HEIs who are issuing, or plan to issue, the Diploma Supplement.
- Update Section 8 of the Irish Diploma Supplement template to provide revised and updated information on the higher education system in Ireland.
- Develop an awareness campaign, led by QQI, to promote the value of the Diploma Supplement to graduates, institutions, employers and other relevant authorities.
- Establish clearer pathways for communicating about the Diploma Supplement with Irish HEIs.
- Estimate the potential impact of the Diploma Supplement in Ireland by examining the approximate proportion of graduates covered by the responding HEIs to the survey.
- Conduct a follow up survey or consultation, within three years, to track progress on implementation of the Diploma Supplement and the impact of actions taken.

Questions & Comments



Has anyone completed or is anyone planning to complete a similar study?



Feel free to raise your hand, comment in the chat and Padlet, or reach out to us after at **info@europass.ie**



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Thank You



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