

Diagram of higher education qualification levels in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) ⁵		FQ-EHEA cycle	Credit		Progression for selection of students (FHEQ levels)	National Qualifications Framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland ⁶	
Typical Qualifications	Level		Typical UK	Typical ECTS credit ranges ³		Typical Qualifications	Level
Doctoral Degrees (eg PhD, DPhil, EdD)	8	3 rd cycle	Typically not credit rated ¹	Typically not credit rated		Vocational Qualifications Level 8	8
Masters Degrees Integrated Masters Degrees Postgraduate Diplomas Postgraduate Certificate of Education Postgraduate Certificates	7	2 nd cycle	180	60-120 ²		Fellowships NVQ Level 5 Vocational Qualifications Level 7	7
Bachelors Degrees with Honours Bachelors Degrees Professional Graduate Certificate in Education Graduate Diplomas Graduate Certificates	6	1 st cycle	360	180-240		Vocational Qualifications Level 6	6
Foundation Degrees Diplomas of Higher Education Higher National Diplomas	5	Short cycle	240	120		NVQ Level 4 Higher National Diplomas (HND) Higher National Certificates (HNC) Vocational Qualifications Level 5	5
Higher National Certificates Certificates of Higher Education	4		120			Vocational Qualifications Level 4	4
Entry to HE via equivalent experiential or prior learning							National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 Vocational Qualifications Level 3 GCE AS and A Level Advanced Diploma Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced ⁴

Levels 2, 1 and entry

¹PhD and DPhil qualifications are typically not credit-rated. Newer doctoral degrees, such as the Professional Doctorate, are sometimes credit rated, typically 540 UK credits.
²A range of 90-120 ECTS is typical of most awards
³1 ECTS credit is typically worth 2 UK credits
⁴The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification is part of the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW)

⁵For students with the necessary prerequisites, entry to each FHEQ level is possible from the next lower level in the NQF or Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
⁶These levels will also apply to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The QCF will eventually replace the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)