



USQF

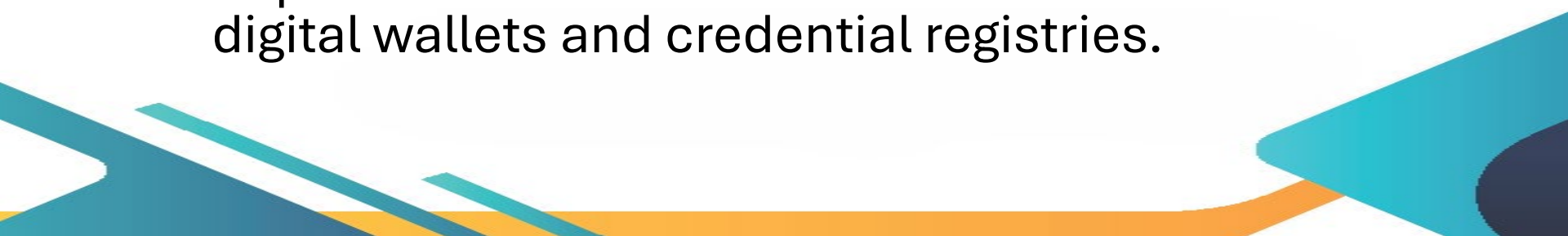
United States
Qualifications
Framework

Inaugural Symposium

21 July 2024 | Washington D.C.

Converse | Collaborate | Convene

What problems does a QF ~~solve~~ mitigate?

1. Promotes transparency, recognition and stacking of non-degree/incremental credentials for LLL
 2. Aids movement across and combining of vocational and academic pathways, and parity of esteem between them
 3. Assists international learner mobility and cross-border provision of learning
 4. Supports robust quality assurance
 5. Improves usefulness of information contained in digital wallets and credential registries.
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Transparency, Recognition and Stacking of Non- Degree Credentials (NDCs)



Why does it
matter if we get
this right?

17 million
reasons

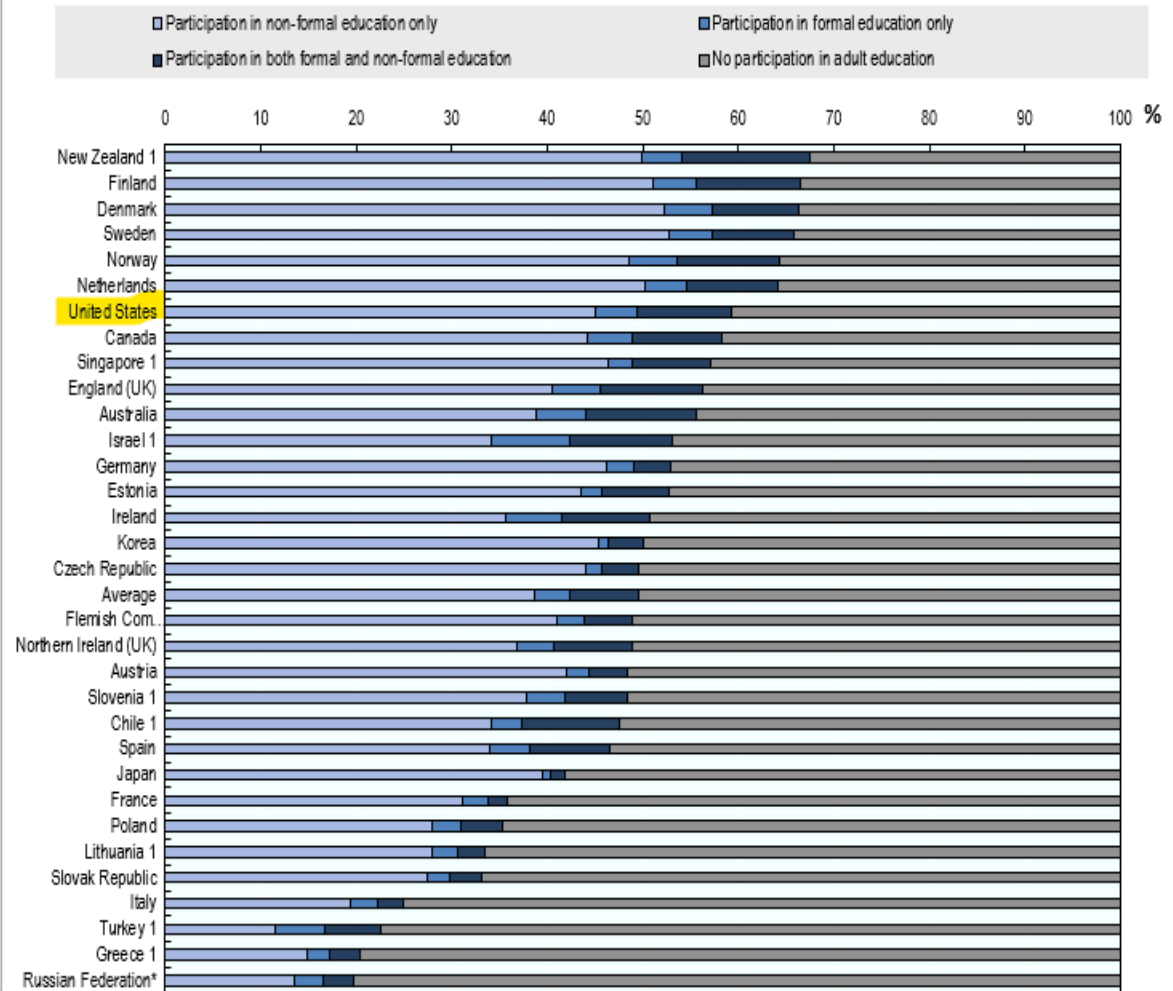
Ten percent of US
adults reported
participation in formal
(and non-formal)
education previous 12
months (17 million)

(2015) Survey of Adult
Skills (PIAAC), 25–64-
year-olds

Figure C6.1.

Adults' participation in formal and/or non-formal education, by type (2012 or 2015)

Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC), 25-64 year-olds



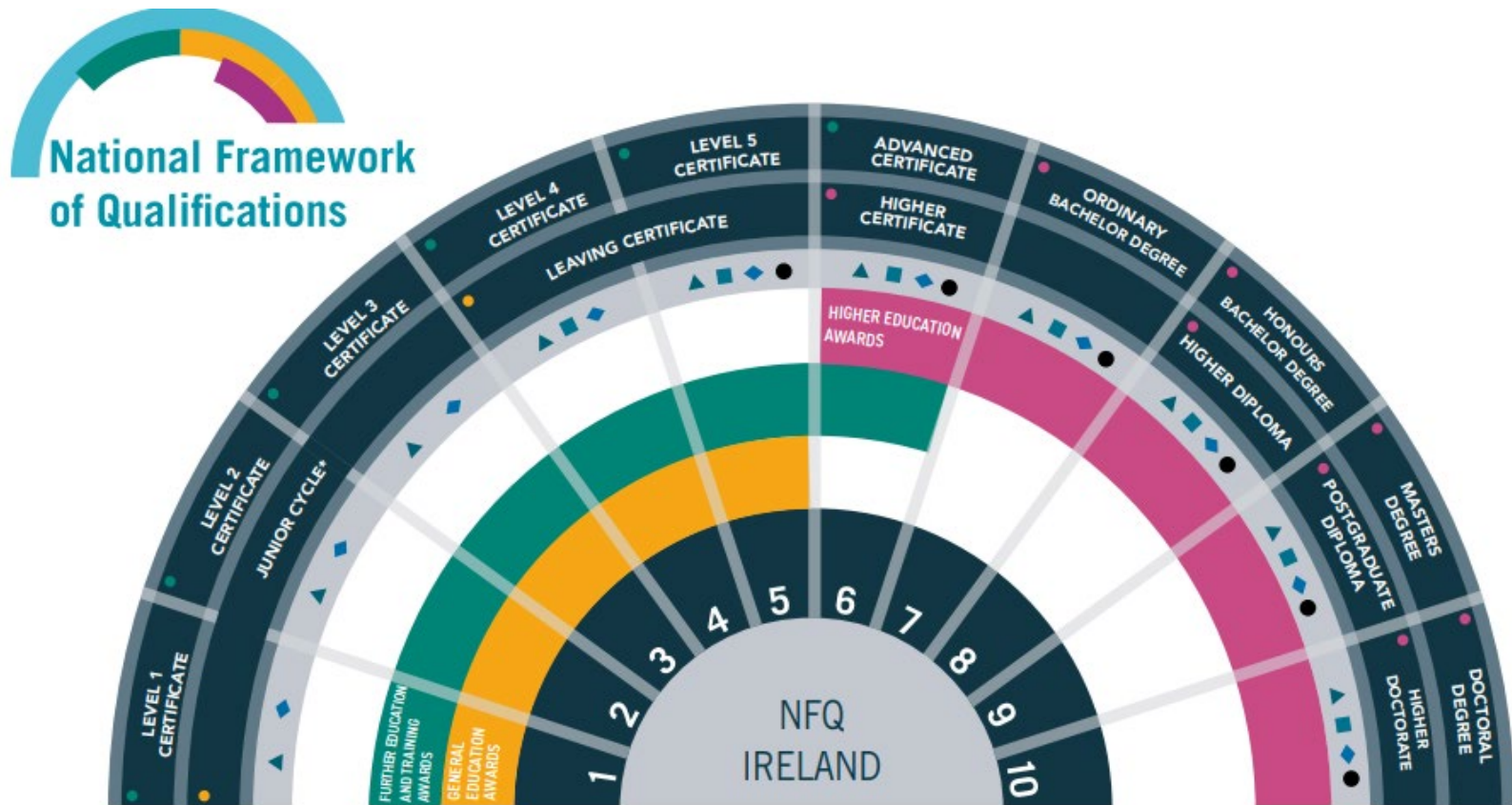
What should we provide for these lifelong learners?

Transparency, and the opportunity to have credentials that are recognized and stackable

US lags...in part due to absence of QF

Ireland has a mature and well-used QF (and robust QA)

* Irish anecdote from Melissa



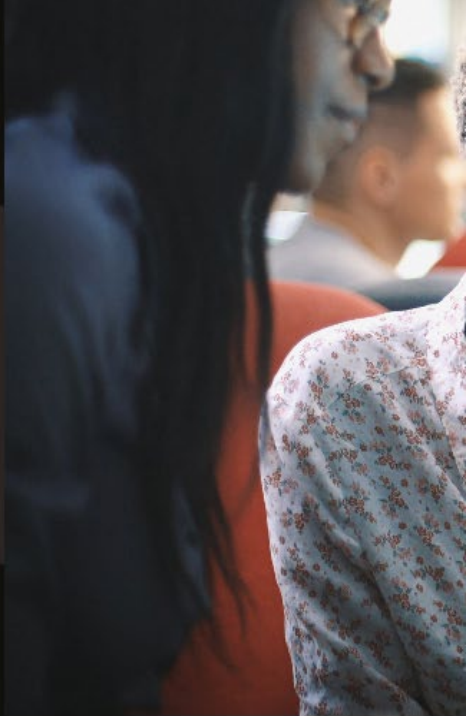
Ireland has incorporated microcredentials (and other NDCs) into NQF (and QA) achieving transparency, recognition, and stacking for NDCs

CATALOGUE / IT AND COMPUTER SCIENCE / INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

3D INTERFACE TECHNOLOGIES


DCU
Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

ENQUIRE NOW



DELIVERY MODE ⓘ BLENDED	NEXT INTAKE ⓘ JANUARY 2025	LEVEL ⓘ 8	SUBSIDISED PRICE ⓘ €165
DURATION 12 WEEKS	APPLICATION DEADLINE 20 DEC 2024	ECTS ⓘ 7	PRICE ⓘ €824

National portal for Australia, without incorporation into AQF → learner / firm uncertainty




Microcredentials ▼ Educators ▼ About ▼ Resources ▼

Compare Courses

Duration	>	<div><div>⌚ Duration</div><div>4 Hours</div></div>	<div><div>⌚ Duration</div><div>25 Hours</div></div>
Delivery mode ⓘ	>	<div><div>💰 Price</div><div>\$90</div></div>	<div><div>💰 Price</div><div>\$315</div></div>
Price	>		
Discounts	>		
Educators	>		
States	>		

Advanced Beginner

♥



[Supply Chain Cybersecurity](#)
Federation University Australia

Understand how supply chain data can become a cyber target and discover the strategies to keep you and your organisation secure.

📅 Start date

Flexible

📍 Delivery

Online

⌚ Duration

50 Hours

💰 Price


\$795

📄

Stackable with other microcredentials

Advanced Beginner

♥



[Futures Thinking](#)
University of Technology Sydney

Ideate and articulate possible futures to create pathways to desirable outcomes.

📅 Start date

01 Oct 2024

📍 Delivery

Online

⌚ Duration

6 Weeks

💰 Price

\$2672

✓

Credit may be available

...elsewhere, incorporation of NDCs in QFs is in progress, or not begun...

- Ontario: drafted, proposed to Minister
- Germany, inclusive QF, incorporation underway

The DQR has been designed as a comprehensive framework aiming to cover not only qualifications from the formal education system, but also qualifications acquired in non-formal settings, i.e. qualifications which are not regulated by the state. Procedures for the allocation of non-formal qualifications are currently being developed and tested.

- Australia: outside [AQF](#) (but individual universities have aligned their offer to AQF!)

Pathway mobility and stacking of professional+ VET / academic credentials

- A comprehensive QF can aid learners in moving across vocational and academic pathway
 - In PT ~ 50% of secondary students follow a vocational / professional curriculum (PT), in AUS 28%.
 - In FI, NL ~ 50% of tertiary students take BA in vocational / professional institutions, and DE/CH dual learning important
 - In many systems, learners have the benefit of a comprehensive QF that supports mobility and stacking – e.g., Australian QF.
- US – in past, fewer learners combined vocational and academic credentials, but the landscape is changing
 - apprenticeships [doubled between 2014-2023](#)
 - rising number of [CTE diplomas, endorsements](#)
 - employer-provided training and industry credentials
- Are they adequately supported by current arrangements?

International Mobility – Vocational Credentials

...from message boards...

I have had a German car mechanic apprenticeship (nationally certified) and many years working experience in that field. I also have electronic courses of several months' duration at a Swiss tech school, including many other more specific training and courses for which I received certificates of completion. I would like to have my German/Swiss credentials evaluated...and maximize my U.S. college credits.

I have two German vocational degrees, *Industriekaufmann* and *Industriemechaniker für Geräte und Feinwerktechnik*. I live and work in the US for the past 14 years and hold a position as Quality Manager. I have acquired several other certifications over the years such as RAB certified Auditor, problem solving, project management and many more. I am wondering what the two degrees and my work experience is equivalent to in the US?

International mobility with academic credentials

(most of the world is outside of Bologna degree structure)

U.S. Bachelor Degree Equivalency Table

Country of Origin	U.S. Bachelor s Degree Equivalency	Documents Required
Angola	Completion of five-year Licenciado (Licentiate), or three-year Bacharelato + one year of a Licenciado (Licentiate), or five-year Professor de Ensino Secundario	Degree Certificate and Transcript
Argentina	Bachiller Superior, Licenciado or Titulo (5-7 years)	Degree Certificate and Transcript
Australia	Completion of four-year Honours Bachelor's Degree, or three-year Ordinary/Pass Bachelor's Degree + one-year Bachelor's Degree with Honours, or three-year Ordinary/Pass Bachelor's Degree + one year of a Master's Degree	Degree Certificate and Transcript
Austria	Completion of three-year Bakkalaureus/Bakkalaurea Degree + one year of a Magister Degree	Degree Certificate and Transcript As an alternative to a traditional transcript, a Diploma Supplement may be submitted along with a Degree Certificate.
Bahamas	Completion of Bachelor's Degree	Degree Certificate and Transcript
Bahrain	Completion of Bachelor's Degree	Degree Certificate and Transcript
Bangladesh	Completion of four-year Bachelor's Degree, or two-year Bachelor's Degree + two-years of a Master's Degree, or three-year Bachelor's Degree + one year of a Master's Degree	Degree Certificate and Statement of Marks for each year of study
Belarus	Completion of Дыплом аб Вышэйшай адукацыі (Diploma of Higher Education/Diploma Specialist), or Дыплом бакалўра (Diploma of Baccalaureate/Diplom Bakalaura)	Diploma Certificate and Dadatak da diploma/Vypiska z zalikovaj knizhki/Transcript. As an alternative to a traditional transcript, a Diploma Supplement may be submitted along with a Degree Certificate.
Belgium	Completion of three-year Bachelor's Degree + one year of a Master's Degree	Degree Certificate and Transcript. As an alternative to a traditional transcript, a Diploma Supplement may be submitted along with a Degree Certificate.
Bolivia	Licenciado/ Licenciatura; Experto en Educacion; Maestro(a) or Magister; Certificado de Egreso; Bachillerato (Social Sciences or Economics); Tecnico Superior (Higher Technician, after at least 4 years); Professional Titles (after at least 4 years of study).	Degree Certificate and Transcript
Brazil	Completion of four- to five-year Licenciado/Licenciatura, Bacharelado, or Titulo Profissional	Degree Certificate and Historico Escolar/Transcript
Bulgaria	Completion of Bachelor/Bakalavr (Бакалавър)	Degree Certificate (бакалавър) and Transcript (Приложение Към диплом/Prilozhenie Kŭm diplom). As an alternative to a traditional transcript, a Diploma Supplement may be submitted along with a Degree Certificate.

Qualification Frameworks and Quality Assurance – A Reciprocal Relationship

A QF needs a robust system of QA.

Without it, the QF is not a trusted or useful tool -- “You say that credential is at level 7, but is it...?”

Ukraine is part of EHEA and has adopted the EQF, but see [Review of Education Integrity in Ukraine](#)

A QA system benefits from a QF...

The OQF and quality assurance

A qualification framework, in detailing the learning outcomes for each credential, provides a solid basis for quality assurance. Also, the specifications of the OQF provide assurance that a credential offered in Ontario, such as a degree, meets the same high standards, regardless of whether it is offered by a university, college, Indigenous Institute or other postsecondary institution.

The OQF is a key piece of Ontario's strategy to maintain the quality, accessibility and accountability of its postsecondary education system. The knowledge and skills expectations may be seen as standards, and these may be taken into account when assessing, selecting or developing programs. The framework helps institutions to study how well their programs are meeting expectations, and it assists them in putting into place internal quality assurance systems.

Emerging Technologies and QF

A robust QF can improve trust and comparability of information carried in credential wallets and credential registries

With the availability of AI and ML, QFs can be vastly easier to create and maintain – and use.

e.g., extract competencies embedded in human-readable text (syllabi, course descriptions) and compare to QF

Thank you!

Thomas Weko, Research Professor

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