

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

National Qualifications Framework	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications	European HE Area Cycle/typical credits	Progression with selection of students	
8 Specialist awards	D (doctoral) Doctorates	Third cycle (540 where appropriate)	<pre>graph TD; D[D] <--> M[M]; M <--> H[H]; H <--> I[I]; I <--> C[C]; C <--> Entry[Entry]; D --> M; M --> H; H --> I; I --> C; C --> Entry;</pre>	
7 Level 7 Diploma	M (masters) Masters degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates	Second cycle (180/120/60)		
6 Level 6 Diploma	H (honours) Bachelors Degrees, Graduate Diplomas and Certificates	First cycle (360)		
5 Level 5 BTEC Higher National Diploma	I (intermediate) Diplomas of Higher Education and Further Education, Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas	Short cycle (240)		
4 Level 4 Certificate	C (certificate) Certificates of Higher Education	(120)		
3 Level 3 Certificate Level 3 NVQ A levels	QCA/ACCAC/CCEA (non-HE) QAA Entry to each level of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications is possible from the next lower level in the National Qualifications Framework or Framework for Higher Education Qualifications for students with the necessary pre-requisites.	Entry		
s2 Level 2 Diploma Level 2 NVQ GCSEs Grades A*-C				
1 Level 1 Certificate Level 1 NVQ GCSEs Grades D-G				
Entry Entry Level Certificate in Adult Literacy				

National Recognition Information
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