



## UK Qualification Levels

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### What qualification levels mean in England, Wales and Northern Ireland?

For an official breakdown of what each qualification level means in the United Kingdom, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>

#### England, Wales and Northern Ireland

There are 9 qualification levels.

##### Entry level

Each entry level qualification is available at three sub-levels - 1, 2 and 3. Entry level 3 is the most difficult.

Entry level qualifications are:

- entry level award
- entry level certificate (ELC)
- entry level diploma
- entry level English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- entry level essential skills
- entry level functional skills
- Skills for Life

##### Level 1

Level 1 qualifications are:

- first certificate
- GCSE - grades 3, 2, 1 or grades D, E, F, G
- level 1 award
- level 1 certificate
- level 1 diploma
- level 1 ESOL
- level 1 essential skills
- level 1 functional skills
- level 1 national vocational qualification (NVQ)
- music grades 1, 2 and 3

##### Level 2

Level 2 qualifications are:

- CSE - grade 1
- GCSE - grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 or grades A\*, A, B, C
- intermediate apprenticeship
- level 2 award
- level 2 certificate
- level 2 diploma
- level 2 ESOL
- level 2 essential skills

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- level 2 functional skills
- level 2 national certificate
- level 2 national diploma
- level 2 NVQ
- music grades 4 and 5
- O level - grade A, B or C

### Level 3

Level 3 qualifications are:

- A level
- access to higher education diploma
- advanced apprenticeship
- applied general
- AS level
- international Baccalaureate diploma
- level 3 award
- level 3 certificate
- level 3 diploma
- level 3 ESOL
- level 3 national certificate
- level 3 national diploma
- level 3 NVQ
- music grades 6, 7 and 8
- T Level
- tech level

### Level 4

Level 4 qualifications are:

- certificate of higher education (CertHE)
- higher apprenticeship
- higher national certificate (HNC)
- level 4 award
- level 4 certificate
- level 4 diploma
- level 4 NVQ

### Level 5

Level 5 qualifications are:

- diploma of higher education (DipHE)
- foundation degree
- higher national diploma (HND)
- level 5 award
- level 5 certificate
- level 5 diploma
- level 5 NVQ

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## Level 6

Level 6 qualifications are:

- degree apprenticeship
- degree with honours - for example bachelor of the arts (BA) honours, bachelor of science (BSc) honours
- graduate certificate
- graduate diploma
- level 6 award
- level 6 certificate
- level 6 diploma
- level 6 NVQ
- ordinary degree without honours

## Level 7

Level 7 qualifications are:

- integrated master's degree, for example master of engineering (MEng)
- level 7 award
- level 7 certificate
- level 7 diploma
- level 7 NVQ
- master's degree, for example master of arts (MA), master of science (MSc)
- postgraduate certificate
- postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE)
- postgraduate diploma

## Level 8

Level 8 qualifications are:

- doctorate, for example doctor of philosophy (PhD or DPhil)
- level 8 award
- level 8 certificate
- level 8 diploma

## What are the Qualification Types in the United Kingdom?

In the UK education sector, there are a wide range of qualification types offered by the United Kingdom awarding bodies. Qualifications range in size and type, can be academic, vocational or skills-related, and are grouped together into different levels of difficulty. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, qualifications are divided into Higher Education qualifications, which are on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and are awarded by bodies with degree awarding powers, and Regulated qualifications, which are on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and are accredited by Ofqual in England, the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment in Northern Ireland and Qualifications Wales in Wales. In Scotland, qualifications are divided into Higher Education qualifications, Scottish Qualifications Authority qualifications and Scottish Vocational Qualifications/Modern Apprenticeships, which are on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Scottish Higher Education Qualifications are on both the SCQF and the FHEQ.

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## What is UK NARIC/UK ENIC/ECCTIS?

UK NARIC is the National Agency responsible for providing information, advice and opinion on vocational, academic and professional skills and qualifications from all over the world. Formerly UK NARIC, following the UK's departure from the European Union, the NARIC national agency function is now known as UK ENIC (<https://www.enic.org.uk>). UK Visas and Nationality services are provided on behalf of the UK Home Office.

ECCTIS provides official UK national agency services on behalf of the UK Government in qualifications, skills, and migration. ECCTIS (<https://www.ecctis.com>) is one of the world's leading providers of services in the recognition and evaluation of qualifications and skills. ECCTIS operates official recognition services on behalf of the UK Government.

## Who is the UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP)?

Graduate College of London is registered with the UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP), which is the portal for government departments, agencies, learners, and employers to share key information about learning providers. The UKRLP has been verified us and allocated a unique UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN): 10063799. This is the unique identifier used to share information with the UKRLP partner agencies such as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the Office for Students (OfS) and UCAS.

## Who is Ofqual?

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) is the government department that regulates qualifications, examinations, and assessments in England.

All our qualifications are recognised internationally and regulated by the UK Government's Official Authority Ofqual - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>

## Who are Qualification Awarding Bodies in the UK?

To have a qualification recognised in the UK and be able to transfer credits between learning courses, educational institutions and occupations, the qualification must be accredited through one of qualification awarding bodies in the UK. These are regulated by the regulators - the Ofqual in England, DCELLS in Wales, CCEA in Northern Ireland and SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) in Scotland.

More than 160 institutions in the UK have the power to award qualifications. In addition to institutions with degree awarding powers, there are also hundreds of colleges and other institutions which are not approved by the UK regulators; however, they provide courses which enable their learners to gain recognised degrees. These institutions are regulated by those who have the power to award degrees and even help with getting jobs in the UK.

## What is UCAS?

UCAS stands for the University and Colleges Admissions Service and was formed in 1993. It provides a central service between applicants and universities. All applications for full-time undergraduate courses in the UK can be submitted via UCAS, who in turn, pass them on to your selected institutions. UCAS is a charity, not a government body.

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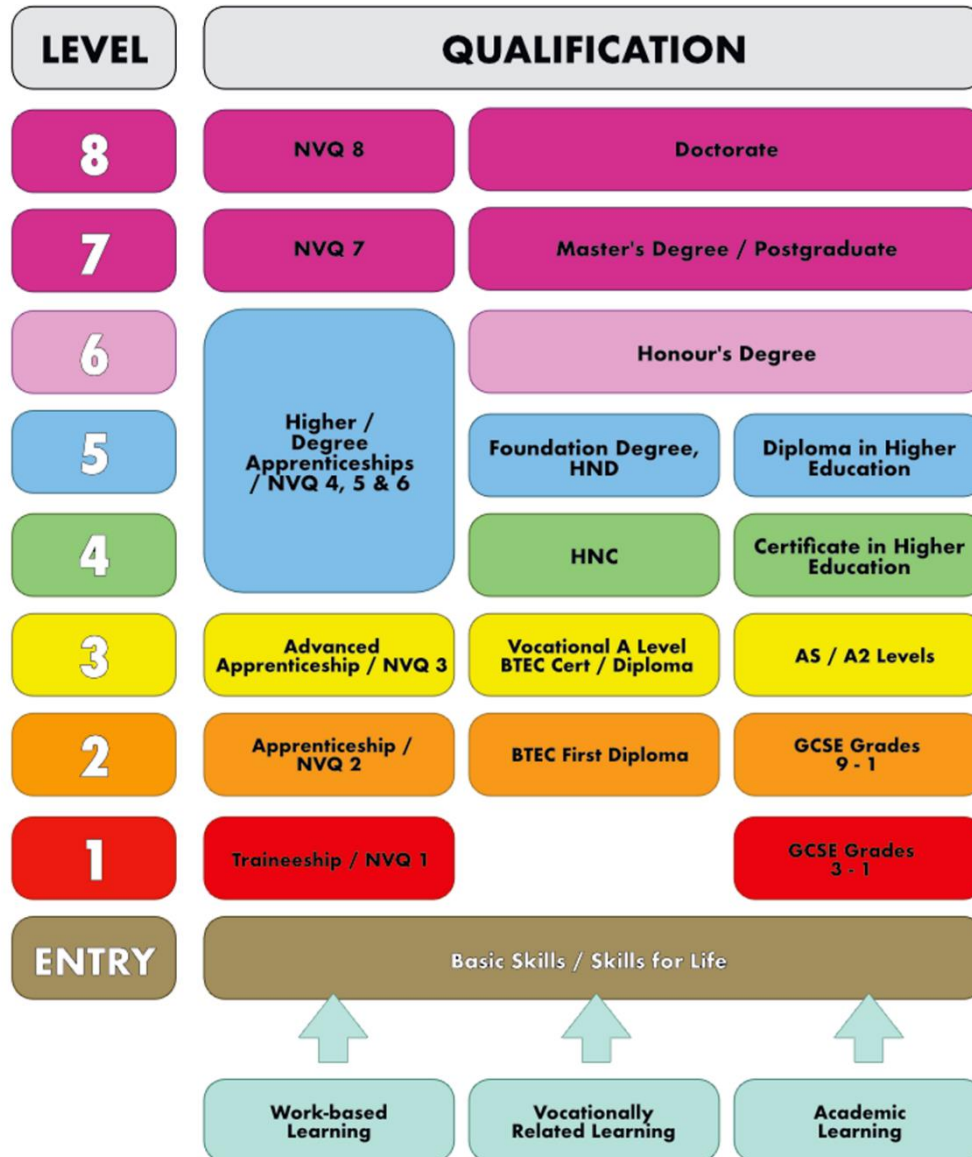
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It is essential for learners to have a range of progression routes from our qualifications. For some learners this will be straight into employment and a career, for others there is the opportunity for progression to a university degree.



\* Credits exemption for Undergraduate/Postgraduate progression depends on the University curriculum or course mapping.

\* Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND), National Vocational Qualification (NVQ). Also, **Level 3** or Foundation Entry Level is equivalent to AS/ A2 or 12<sup>th</sup> class at school, **Level 4** is equivalent to Year 1 of a Three-year UK Bachelor's degree, **Level 5** is equivalent to Year 2 of a Three-year UK Bachelor's degree, **Level 6** is equivalent to Year 3 of a Three-year UK Bachelor's degree, **Level 7** or Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) programme is equivalent to a master's degree, **Level 8** research programme is equivalent to a doctorate, for example doctor of philosophy (PhD or DPhil) degree.

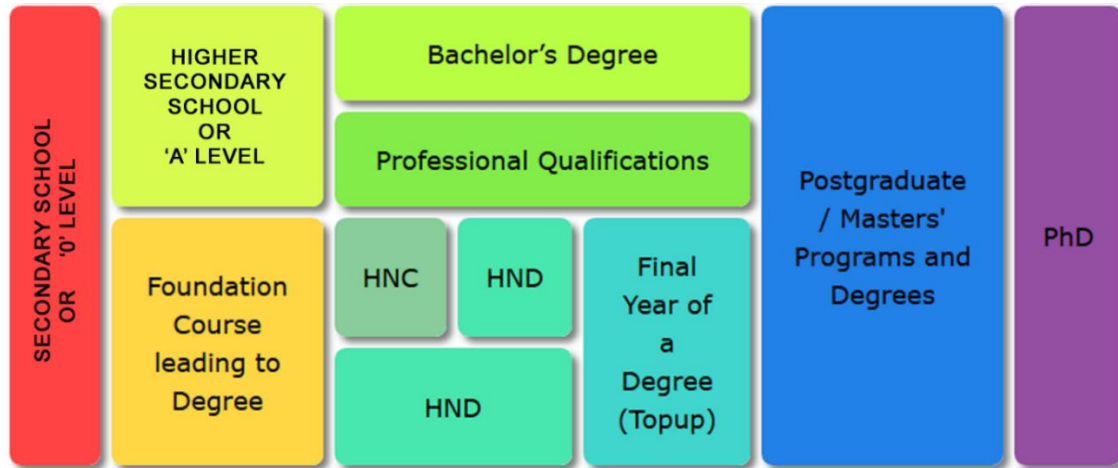
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Qualification	Placement Level
Holders of Level 2 and 3 qualifications	Entry to the first year of degree qualifications
Holders of Level 4 qualifications	Entry on to the second year of a British honours' degrees in the respective field
Holders of Level 5 qualifications	Final year (top up) at various universities in the UK
Holders of Level 6 qualifications	Entry to master's degrees or postgraduate diplomas
Holders of Level 7 qualifications	Entry to the final stage of Masters qualifications, such as MBAs and MSc degrees.
Holders of Level 8 qualifications	Preferential entry to a variety of Doctoral qualifications, including DBAs and PhDs

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## Qualifications Framework

The table below gives a guide to comparing qualifications in the UK. These frameworks are subject to change. Please check the websites for the latest versions or contact the international team for more information.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework <a href="http://www.scqf.org.uk">www.scqf.org.uk</a>	Qualification	Framework for qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/">www.qaa.ac.uk/</a>
12	Doctoral Degrees	8
	↑	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masters Degrees</li> <li>Postgraduate Diplomas</li> </ul>	7
	↑	
10	Bachelors Degree with Honours	6
	↑	
9	Bachelors/Ordinary Degree	
	↑	
8	Higher National Diplomas	5
	↑	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher National Certificates</li> <li>Advanced Highers</li> </ul>	4
	↑	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highers</li> <li>National Certificates</li> <li>BTEC Level</li> <li>Diploma</li> <li>Access Programmes</li> <li>Degree Foundation</li> <li>International Foundation Programme</li> </ul>	3

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## Qualifi Higher Education Pathways

Listed below are examples of some pathways available to candidates studying Qualifi vocationally related qualifications

Candidates with no prior academic or vocationally related higher education qualifications can utilise the Prior Learning, Achievement and Experience procedure in recognising skills and knowledge, accredit learning and enable access to a qualification pathway at the appropriate level.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6-8
<b>Route 1</b> Qualifi Accelerated Degree Typical cost £9950 *	Level 4 & 5 Full calendar year or alternatively two academic years	Final year of honours degree				
<b>Route 2</b> Traditional Degree Typical cost £7,750 *	Traditional honours degree					
<b>Route 3a</b> Qualifi Accelerated Masters Typical cost £12,500 *	Level 4 & 5 Full calendar year with research units	L7 & Dissertation for MBA/MSc				
<b>Route 3b</b> Qualifi Accelerated Masters Typical cost £16,000 *	Level 4 & 5 Full calendar year or alternatively two academic years	Final year of honours degree	L7 & Dissertation for MBA/MSc			
<b>Route 4</b> Traditional Masters Typical cost £42,000 *	Traditional honours degree			Masters /MBA		
<b>Route 5a</b> Qualifi Accelerated DBA Typical cost £22,400 *	Level 4 & 5 Full calendar year with research units	L7 & Dissertation for MBA/MSc	Level 8	3 year DBA	3 year DBA	
<b>Route 5b</b> Qualifi Accelerated DBA Typical cost £29,950 *	Level 4 & 5 Full calendar year or alternatively two academic years	Final year of honours degree	L7 & Dissertation for MBA/MSc	Level 8	3 year DBA	
<b>Route 6</b> Qualifi Traditional DBA Typical cost £65,000 *	Traditional honours degree			Masters /MBA		3 year DBA

\* Typical costs. Prices may vary dependant upon the provider of the qualification

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