

GLOSSARY OF TERMS IN EDUCATION

Ab-initio	initial entry into a Degree programme without following a Higher Certificate route
AEGI	Adult Educational Guidance Initiative
AHEAD	Association for Higher Education Access and Disability
AONTAS	National Adult Learning Organisation
Award	An award is conferred by the awarding body when you have successfully completed a programme of study. An example of an award is an Honours Bachelor Degree.
Awarding Body	A body which makes awards. It includes private awarding bodies, professional awarding bodies and national awarding bodies.
Award Type	An award type is a category of named awards which have common features and the same NFQ level. Examples of award-types include: Junior Certificate (NFQ level 3), Advanced Certificate (NFQ Level 6), and Honours Bachelor Degree (NFQ Level 8). There are 16 major award-types in the NFQ. Award-types can reflect a mix of standards of knowledge, skill and competence which is independent of any specific field of learning.
Blended Learning	is a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through online delivery of content and instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path or pace
BTEA	The Back to Education Allowance is an educational opportunities scheme for unemployed people, lone parents and people with a disability who are getting certain payments from the Department of Social Protection. The allowance is payable to people who wish to pursue approved second or third level education courses
BTEI	Back to Education Initiative – certain courses run by the ETBS come under this category
CAO	Based in Galway, the Central Applications Office is responsible for the processing of third-level applications for the Higher Education institutions in the Republic of Ireland.
CETS	Childcare Education and Training Scheme
Credit: European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	<p>A credit system is a systematic way of describing an educational programme by attaching credits to its components. The definition of credits in higher education systems may be based on different parameters, such as student workload, learning outcomes and contact hours.</p> <p>The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a tool which enables students to collect credits for learning achieved through higher education. ECTS is a learner-centred system with 60 ECTS credits attached to the workload of a full-time year of formal learning (academic year) and the associated learning outcomes</p>
DARE	Disability Access Route to Education
DES	Department of Education and Skills
ECDL	European Computer Driving Licence

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Education and Training Board (ETB)	is a statutory local education body in the Republic of Ireland that administers some secondary education, most adult education and a very small amount of primary education in the state. They came into existence on 1 July 2013, when they replaced the existing system of Vocational Education Committees (VECs) that had been in place since 1930. In addition to taking over the responsibilities of VECs, ETBs have taken on the training functions of SOLAS (formerly FÁS), the national training and employment authority, when it is dissolved towards the end of 2013.
ESF	European Social Fund
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	<p>The European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning is an overarching qualifications framework linking countries' qualifications systems, acting as a translation device to make qualifications more readable and understandable across different countries and systems in Europe. It addresses the full range of learning from NFQ Level 1 to Level 10.</p> <p>The NFQ remains the most significant reference for individuals holding qualifications</p>
FETAC	The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) (www.fetac.ie) is the single national awarding body for further education and training in Ireland. Awards made by FETAC are included in the framework from levels 1-6. FETAC does not deliver the programmes itself but they are delivered by a number of bodies in both the public and private sector of education and training.
Graduate	person who has gained a qualification at undergraduate or post-graduate level
HEA	Higher Education Authority
HEI	Higher Education Institute; any third-level university, institute of technology, training college, private college in Ireland
HETAC	Higher Education Training Award Council. The awarding body for third level courses in Ireland.
I.T.	Institute of Technology
INTREO	Intreo is a new service from the Department of Social Protection. Intreo is a single point of contact for all employment and income supports. Designed to provide a more streamlined approach, Intreo offers practical, tailored employment services and supports for both jobseekers and employers.
NALA	National Adult Literacy Agency
NCGE	National Centre for Guidance in Education
NCSE	National Council for Special Education

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NFQ	National Framework of Qualifications is a ten level system (1-10) giving academic or vocational value to qualifications obtained in Ireland
PLC	Post Leaving Certificate courses run in second level Further Education colleges. They exist in the education system between secondary and third level education, as both an alternative to third level and a progression into third level depending on the students' requirements
Postgraduate	Person qualified with a degree who is studying for a Higher Diploma, Masters or PHD in Third Level education
QQI	Quality and Qualifications Ireland is a state agency established by the Quality Assurance and Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 2012 who are responsible for maintaining the ten level National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
SOLAS	is the new Further Education and Training Authority in Ireland (formerly FAS). It is responsible for funding, planning and co-ordinating training and further education programmes.
UCAS	University and College Application System in the UK
VEC	See ETB definition
VTOS	The Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme is operated through the ETBs. The courses provided under the scheme may be of up to two years in duration. They are designed for people over 21 who wish to improve their employability through education and training or those who want to go on further to pursue a third level course

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