

# DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT

This Diploma Supplement follows the model developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. The purpose of the supplement is to provide sufficient recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended. It should be free from any value judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. Information in all eight sections should be provided. Where information is not provided, an explanation should give the reason why.

## I INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE HOLDER OF THE QUALIFICATION

### I.1 Surname:

### I.2 First Name (s):

### I.3 Date of birth (day/month/year):

### I.4 Student identification number or code (if available):

### 3.3 Access requirement(s):

## 4 INFORMATION ON THE CONTENTS AND RESULTS GAINED

### 4.1 Mode of study:

### 4.2 Programme requirements:

### 4.3 Please see last page

### 4.4 Grading scheme and, if available, grade distribution guidance:


### 4.5 Overall classification of the qualification (in original language):

## 2 INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE QUALIFICATION

### 2.1 Name of qualification and (if applicable) title conferred

### 2.2 Main field(s) of study for the qualification:

### 2.3 Name and status of awarding institution (in original language):

### 2.4 Name and status of institution (if different from 2.3) administering studies (in original language):

### 2.5 Language(s) of instruction/examination:

## 3 INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL OF THE QUALIFICATION

### 3.1 Level of qualification:

### 3.2 Official length of programme:

## 5 INFORMATION ON THE FUNCTION OF THE QUALIFICATION

### 5.1 Access to further study:

### 5.2 Professional status (if applicable):

## 6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 6.1 Additional information:

### 6.2 Further information sources:

#### 4.3 Programme details-(e.g. modules or units studied), and the individual grades/marks/credits obtained:

\* Marks out of 100%; Pass Marks generally 40% \* \* The ECTS Grade is a relative grading indicating the learner's performance within the cohort;  
A top 10%; B next 25%; C next 30%; D next 25%; E next 10%.

### 7 CERTIFICATION OF THE SUPPLEMENT INSTITUTION

7.1 Date:

7.2 Signature:

7.3 Capacity:

7.4 Official stamp or seal:

### AWARDING BODY

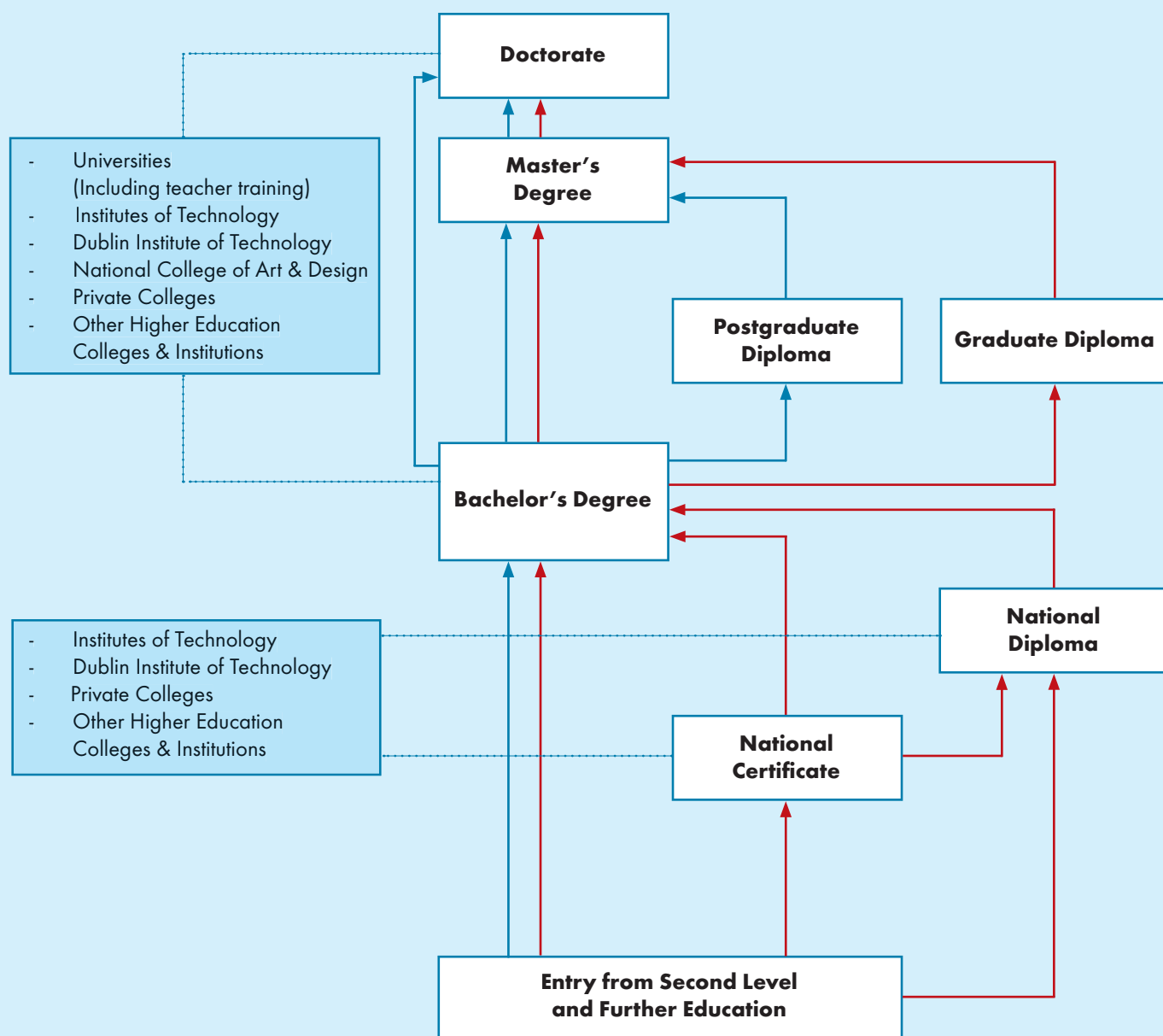
Date:

Signature:

Capacity:

Official stamp or seal:

# SUMMARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM IN IRELAND



## KEY TO GRAPHIC

University Programme



Institutes of Technology Programme



Dublin Institute of Technology



Other Higher Education Colleges and Institutions



# DESCRIPTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN IRELAND

## OCTOBER 2003

### Introduction

The higher education or third-level sector in Ireland includes a range of Higher Education Institutions – Universities and Institutes of Technology as well as Colleges of Education, the National College of Art and Design, non-State aided private higher education colleges and other National institutions. The Universities and Colleges of Education are funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). The Institutes of Technology and the Dublin Institute of Technology are funded directly by the Department of Education and Science ([www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie))

Ireland has a binary system of higher education, designed to ensure maximum flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of students and to the wide variety of social and economic requirements. However, within each sector and between the two sectors, a diversity of institutions offer differing types and levels of courses. The Universities are essentially concerned with undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, together with basic and applied research. The main work of the Institutes of Technology is in undergraduate programmes, with a smaller number of post-graduate programmes and a growing involvement in regionally orientated applied research.

### Government Agencies

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) ([www.heai.ie](http://www.heai.ie)) which was established in 1971 is responsible for furthering the development and assisting in the co-ordination of State investment in higher education. The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQA) ([www.nqai.ie](http://www.nqai.ie)) was established by the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 1999, and is responsible for establishing and maintaining the National Framework of Qualifications. The Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) ([www.hetac.ie](http://www.hetac.ie)) which was also established as part of the 1999 Act is the qualifications awarding body for the Institutes of Technology and other non-university higher education colleges and institutions. HETAC may also delegate the authority to make awards to an Institute of Technology.

### Higher Education Institutions

There are seven universities recognised under the Universities Act, 1997 - University College Cork, University College Dublin, National University of Ireland Galway, National University of Ireland Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Limerick and Dublin City University. The Universities validate and award their own qualifications as well as those in institutions recognised by them including for example, the Colleges of Education. The Universities have primary responsibility for their own quality assurance systems and have established the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB) to promote best practice in quality assurance throughout their sector. The Higher Education Authority also has a review role in relation to quality assurance procedures in Universities.

There are thirteen Institutes of Technology (IoTs), which are designated under the Regional Technical Colleges Act 1999. The institutions are Athlone IT, IT Blanchardstown, Cork IT, IT Carlow, Dundalk IT, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Letterkenny IT, Galway-Mayo IT, Limerick IT, IT Sligo, IT Tallaght, IT Tralee and Waterford IT.

These conduct programmes leading to awards made by the Higher

Education and Training Awards Council. In some cases, following a review process, the institutions have been or may be delegated authority by the Council to make higher education and training awards themselves. In addition, while the institutions have primary responsibility for quality assurance, the Council has a quality assurance monitoring and review role in relation to the institutions.

Other higher education colleges and institutions include National institutions, private colleges and other higher education and training institutions. However, under recent legislation any provider of education and training regardless of the source of that provision, whether it is in an educational institution, the workplace or the community, can apply to the Higher Education and Training Awards Council for validation of a programme.

Finally, the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) ([www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie)) makes its own awards following legislation which was passed in 1997. While DIT has primary responsibility for the implementation of quality assurance procedures, the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland has a quality assurance review role in relation to these procedures.

### National Framework of Qualifications

The National Framework of Qualifications (launched on 17 October 2003) sets the overall standards of the awards of the Higher Education and Training Awards Council and the Dublin Institute of Technology, as well as accommodating the awards of the universities. The Framework is the single, nationally and internationally accepted entity, through which all learning achievements may be measured and related to each other, and which defines the relationship between all education and training awards. It is a 10-level framework with higher education and training awards being made at levels 6 to 10. The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland has defined an initial set of 15 major award types for each of the 10 levels as follows:

LEVEL	MAJOR AWARD-TYPE
10	Doctoral Degree
9	Masters Degree and Post-graduate Diploma
8	Honours Bachelor Degree and Higher Diploma
7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree
6	Advanced Certificate and Higher Certificate
5	Level 5 Certificate
4/5	Leaving Certificate
4	Level 4 Certificate
3	Level 3 Certificate & Junior Certificate
2	Level 2 Certificate
1	Level 1 Certificate

Awards at Levels 7 to 10 will be made by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council, the Dublin Institute of Technology, the Universities and Institutes of Technology with Delegated Authority. At Level 6, the Higher Certificate award will be made by Higher Education and Training Awards Council and the Dublin Institute of Technology.

The National Framework is in the process of being implemented.