



IRELAND'S QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK NFQ LEVEL 6 / EQF LEVEL 5

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European
Qualifications
Framework

Presentation

- National context
- National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Academic ↔ Vocational / professional
- NFQ Level 6 / EQF Level 5
- Learning outcomes
- Learning experience

National context

National needs led to discussion on QF

- Portability and Mobility
- **Single** qualifications framework for all education and training

1999 Legislation established:

- Further Education and Training Awards Council
- Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- National Qualifications Authority of Ireland

National context

National needs led to discussion on QF

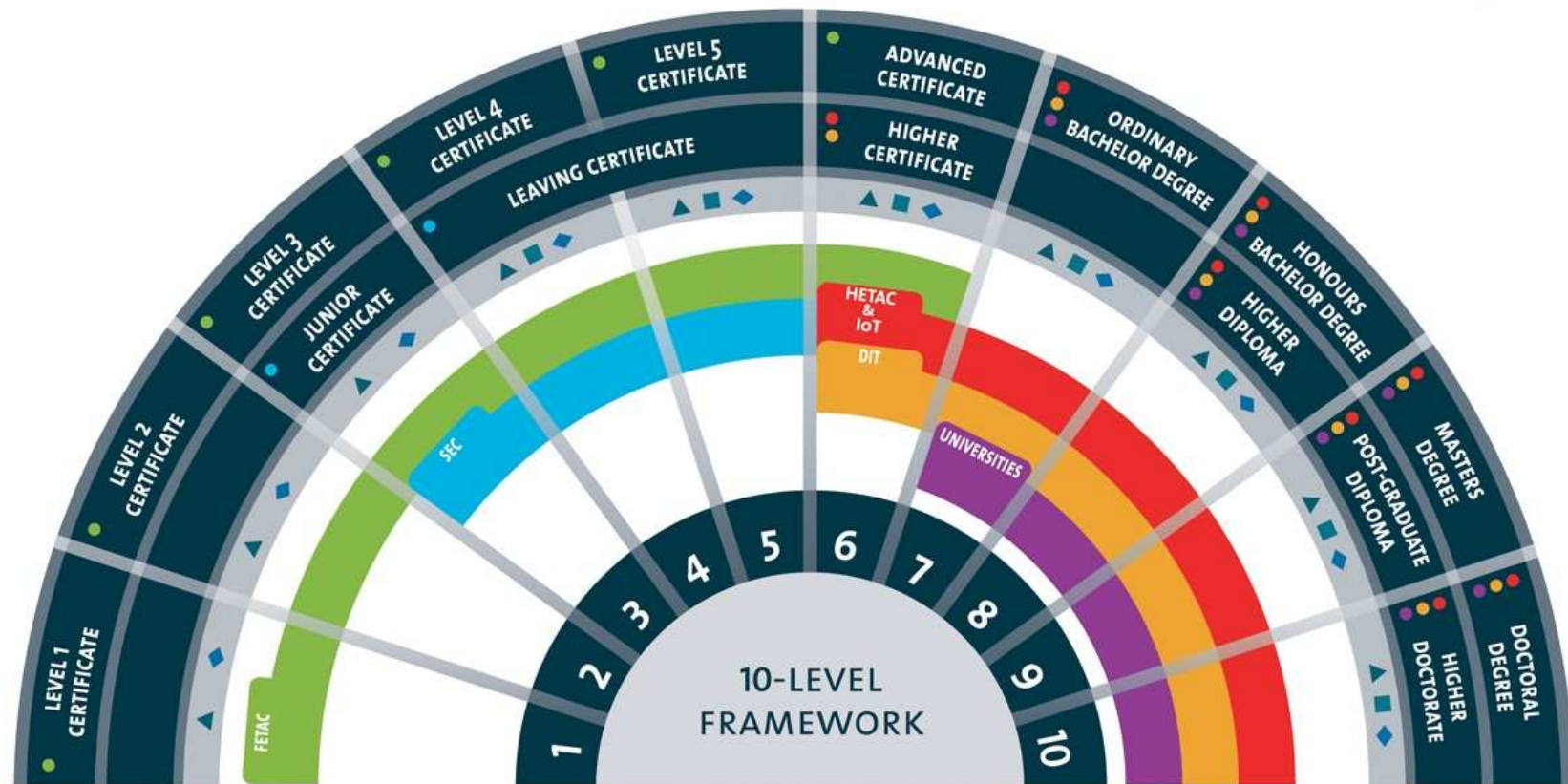
- Portability and Mobility
- **Single** qualifications framework for all education and training

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NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann
National Qualifications
Authority of Ireland



AWARDING BODIES

- FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (*Department of Education & Science*)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- IoT - Institutes of Technology (*make their own awards at specified levels under Delegated Authority from HETAC*)
- DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology
- Universities

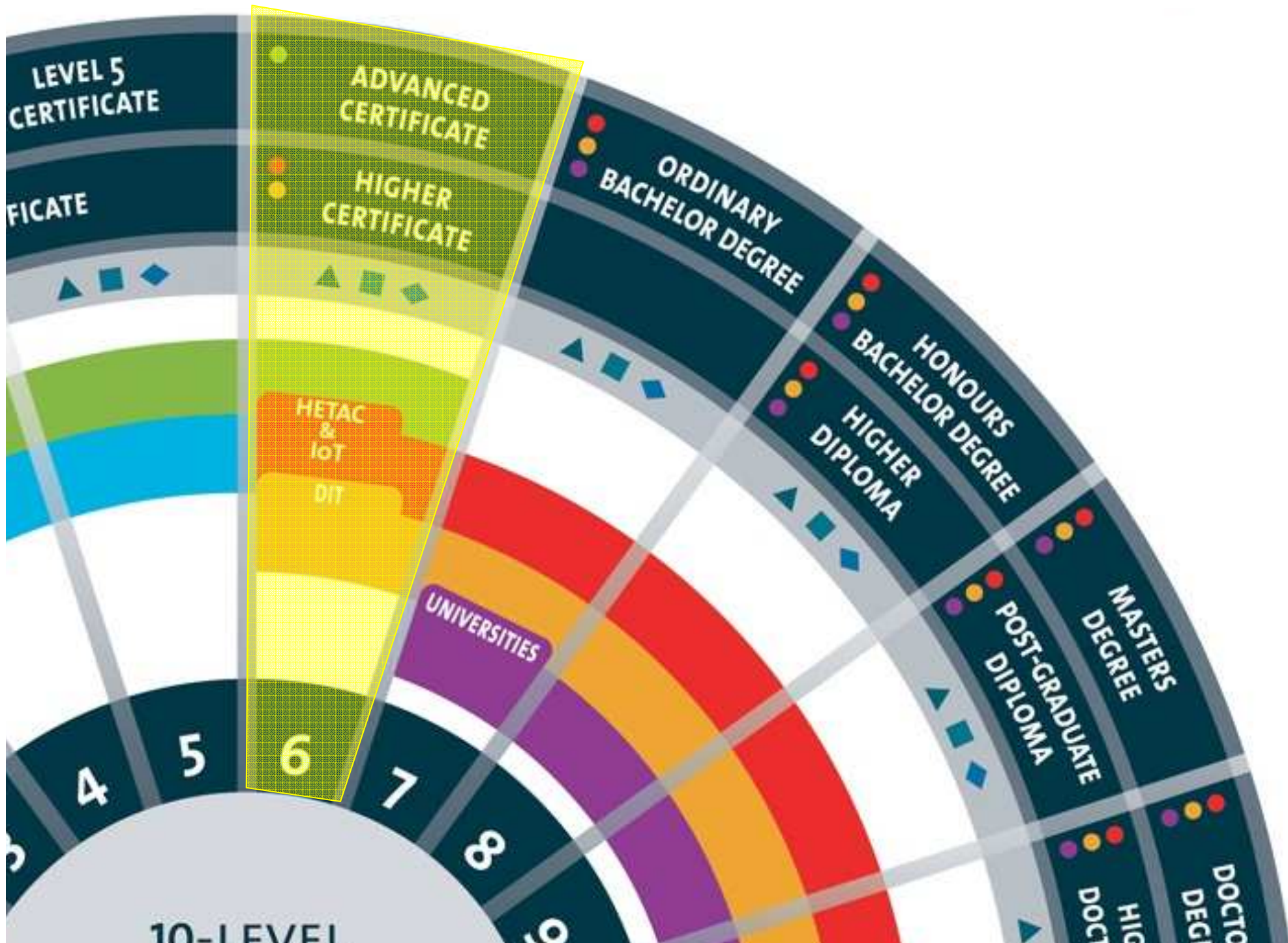
AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four types of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- Major Awards: are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ◆ Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

NFQ Level 6 / EQF Level 5

- Qualifications Authority was required to define the 'boundary' between Further Education & Training and Higher Education & Training
- Determined that this boundary is at NFQ 6
- Two major qualifications types
 - Advanced Certificate
 - Higher Certificate
- Other categories of qualifications exist throughout NFQ (minor, supplemental, special purpose)



NFQ Level 6: Advanced Certificate

WHAT ARE THE FRAMEWORK LEVELS?

WHAT IS AN AWARD-TYPE?

WHAT IS AN AWARDING BODY?

Level 6 Advanced Certificate

What is this?

An Advanced Certificate award enables development of a variety of skills which may be vocationally specific and /or of a general supervisory nature. The majority of Level 6 holders take up positions of employment. A Certificate holder at this level may also transfer to a programme leading to the next level of the framework.

Example

Advanced Certificate – Electrical.

Awarding Body

The awarding body for this award is the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC).

NFQ Level 6: Higher Certificate

WHAT ARE THE FRAMEWORK LEVELS?

WHAT IS AN AWARD -TYPE?

WHAT IS AN AWARDDING BODY?

Level 6 Higher Certificate

What is this?

The Higher Certificate is normally awarded after completion of a programme of two years duration in a recognised higher education institution. A Certificate holder at this level may transfer to a programme on the next level of the framework.

Example

Higher Certificate in Business Studies.

Awarding Body

The awarding bodies for this award are the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and the Institutes of Technology (IOT).

Learning outcomes / experience

- 16 Major Award types defined in generic learning outcomes
- Significant similarities in descriptions of major awards at NFQ 6
- Usually different learning experiences
 - Advanced Certificate (vocational orientation)
 - Higher Certificate (short cycle higher education)

Conclusion

- National solution for national needs
- Single NFQ for education and training
- Discussion continues about NFQ 6 / EQF 5

Also,

- Updated policy developed for other professional qualifications at NFQ levels 7 – 10 (EQF 6 – 8).
Implementation awaits establishment of new single body, Quality and Qualifications Ireland.
- Thank you.