

QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

#### Welcome

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### Covering ...

- Who are QQI?
- The Education System in Ireland
- The Irish NQF & EQF
- PApprenticeship programmes in Ireland





#### Who We are ...





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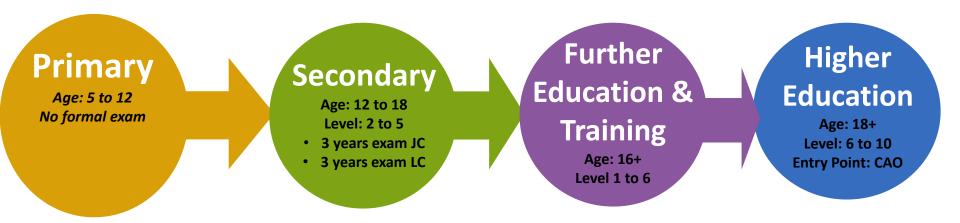


## What we do ...





# **Education System In Ireland**



Ireland's 10-level national framework of qualifications (NFQ) is referenced to the European qualifications framework (EQF). VET pertains to NFQ levels 5 to 6 (EQF 4 or 5).





# The Irish NQF



#### **AWARDING BODIES**

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training
- SEC State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities

#### AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

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



Major Awards: named in the outer rings, 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



EQF levels		EHEA Framework (Bologna)	NFQ Levels	NFQ Major Award-types
1			1	Level 1 Certificate
			2	Level 2 Certificate
2			3	Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate
3			4	Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate
4			5	Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate
5		Short Cycle within First Cycle	6	Advanced Certificate (FET award); Higher Certificate (HET award)
6		First Cycle	7	Ordinary Bachelors Degree
			8	Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma
7		Second Cycle	9	Masters Degree, Post-Graduate Diploma
8		Third cycle	10	Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate



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# QQI's Involvement in Apprenticeship



## What is an apprenticeship?

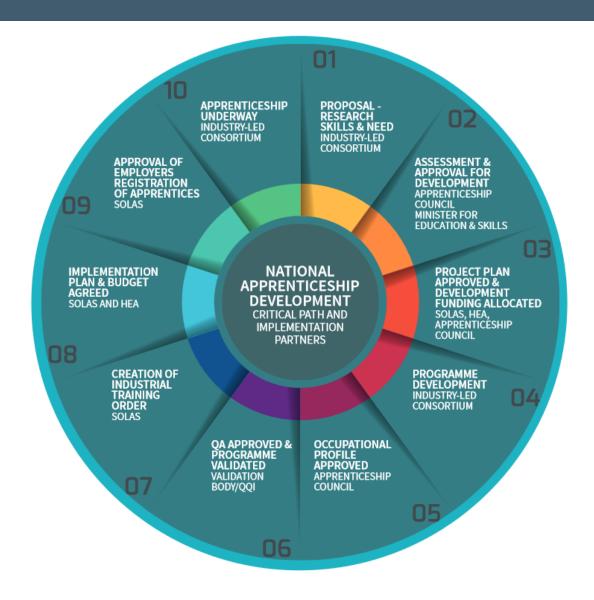
Apprenticeship is a programme of structured education and training which formally combines and alternates learning in the work place with learning in an education or training centre, (a dual system, i.e. a blended combination of on-the-job employer based training and off-the-job training) whose completion:

- Prepares the participant for an occupation
- Leads to a qualification nationally recognised from level 5 upwards

#### Statutory apprenticeship

- All statutory apprenticeship are regulated by the ITA 1967
- Section 27 of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012
- all providers required to have regard to QQI statutory Guidelines
- who wish to offer apprenticeship programmes.

# **Ensuring Quality ...**



# **Ensuring Quality ...**

#### Range of guidelines

The apprenticeship stages of particular relevance to programme validation and quality assurance are:

Stage 1: Approval of an occupational profile. Apprenticeship Council.

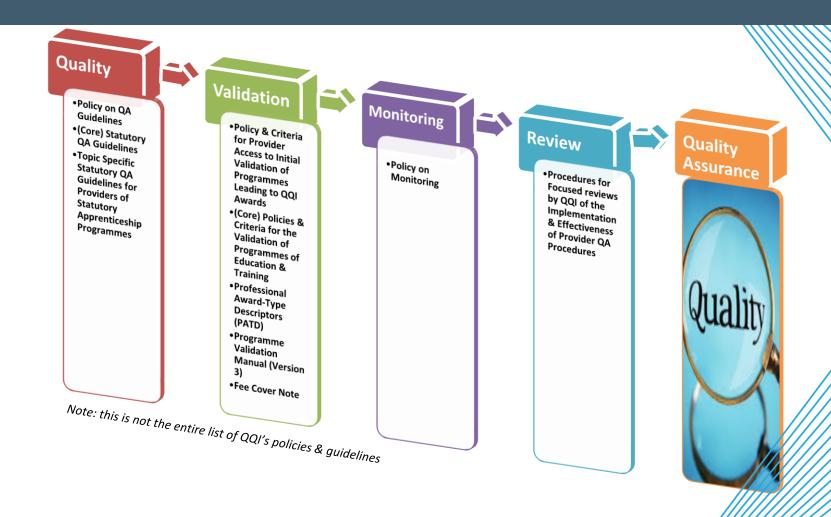
Stage 2: Development of a detailed apprenticeship programme for the purpose of seeking validation of the programme leading to an award at a specified level in the NFQ.

Stage 3: Validation of the apprenticeship programme for an award in the NFQ. The awarding body satisfies itself as to the fitness of the proposed programme in light of the award sought.

Stage 4: Provision of the apprenticeship programme and assessment of learners' achievements.

Stage 5: Continual reviews and periodic revalidation of the programme.

# The Process ...





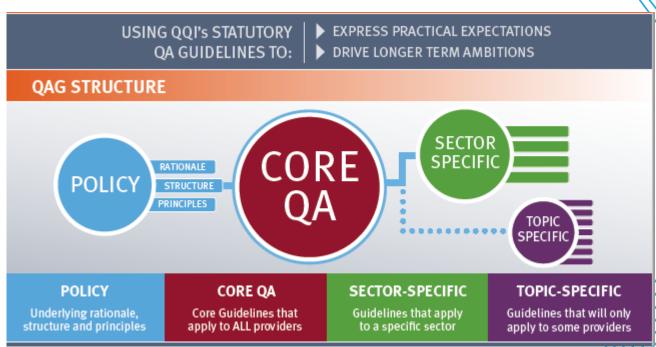
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**Apprenticeship** Real-life Learning

# **Ensuring Quality ...**



- •Policy on QA Guidelines
- •(Core) Statutory QA Guidelines
- •Topic Specific Statutory QA Guidelines for Providers of Statutory Apprenticeship Programmes





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#### **Validation Criteria**

1.
The provider is
eligible to
apply for
validation of the
programme

2.
The programme
objectives and
outcomes are
clear and
consistent with
the QQI awards
sought

The programme
concept and
implementation
strategy and its
interpretation of QQI
awards standards are well
informed and
soundly based
(considering social, cultural,
educational, professional
and employment
objectives)

The programme's access, transfer and progression arrangements are satisfactory

5.
The programme's written curriculum is well structured and fit-forpurpose



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#### **Validation Criteria**

There are There are **sound** sufficient qualified teaching and and capable **learning** teaching staff strategies available to implement the programme as The learning planned environment is consistent with 10. the needs of There are **sound** the programme's assessment learners strategies There are sufficient physical resources to implement the 12. 11. programme as planned Learners are The programme well is well informed, managed guided and cared-for QQI **Apprenticeship** Quality and Qualifications Ireland Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Real-life Learning

# The Validation Journey ...



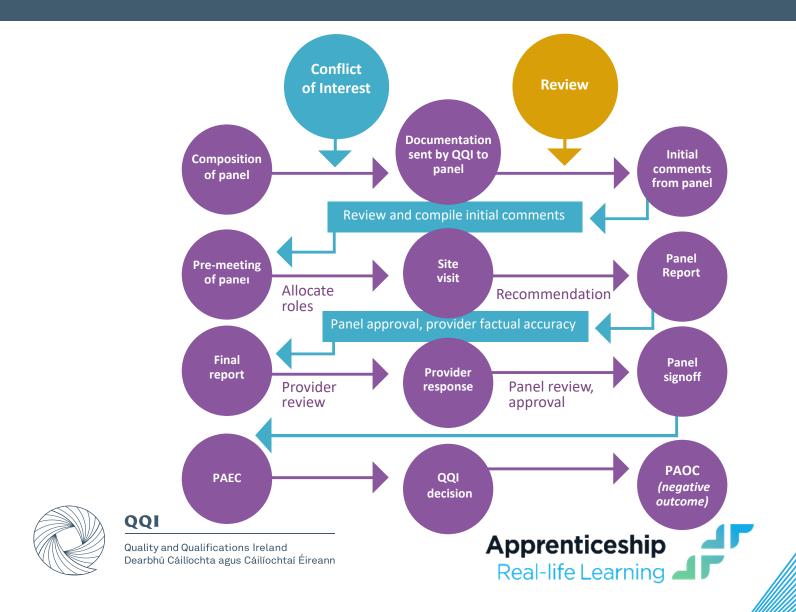
- for Provider
  for Provider
  Access to Initial
  Validation of
  Programmes
  Leading to QQI
  Awards
- (Core) Policies & Criteria for the Validation of Programmes of Education & Training





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#### **Time Commitment**



#### The Future ...

- The learner at the interface between work and education
- The development of the learner as a more effective work-based learner

#### THE LEARNER IS CENTRAL







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