

Glossary of Terms for QiW, Approvals and Designations

Term	Meaning
5-year rule (when requesting further designation)	<p>If the revised Typical Designation/Approval Final Start Date being requested by the awarding body is within 5 years of the Designation/Approval Start Date, the amendment can be processed without supporting evidence.</p> <p>If the revised Typical Designation/Approval Final Start Date is more than 5 years from the Designation/Approval Start Date, evidence of support must be provided by the awarding body as per the designation guide which can be found here: Awarding Body Guide to Designation</p>
A-Level	Advanced Level qualification.
A2	Second year A-Level. Combines with the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) qualification to gain a full A level qualification.
Age Range	These are the age ranges for which the qualification is approved or designated and therefore eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19. More than one age range can be applicable to any qualification.
Amendment	Awarding bodies can request an amendment (change) to the qualification data held on the Qualifications in Wales database (QiW).
Approval	Approval is a process designed to check that qualifications meet approval criteria before being made available to learners. You can find more information about the approval process here: Approval of Qualifications
Approved Qualifications	Approved qualifications may only be awarded in Wales and will have satisfied robust approval criteria that ensure they are designed to meet the needs of learners in the country. Approved qualifications are linked to qualifications on the Priority Qualification List (PQL).
As Level	Advanced Subsidiary Level qualification – first year of A level (or free-standing qualification).
Assessment Methods	The methods of assessment used to assess the knowledge, understanding and ability of a learner. These are specified in the qualification specification e.g., portfolio of evidence, controlled assessment. Multiple assessment methods can be selected.
Awarding Body (AB)/ Awarding Organisation (AO)	An awarding body is an organisation that issues an educational award often following formal assessment. (Formerly known as Exam Board).
Centre	An organisation accountable to an awarding body for assessment arrangements leading to the award of credit or qualifications.
Certification Period	The time between the Typical Designation/Approval Final Start Date and the Designation/Approval Certification End Date is called the Certification Period.

Credit	Credit relates to the funding an approved centre may receive for teaching the qualification.
Curriculum planning	Curriculum planning is the decision-making process about the content and the organisation of learning for which a centre is responsible. For queries regarding Curriculum Planning and Pre/Post 16 choice please contact 14-19@gov.wales
Designation/Approval Certification End Date (DACED)	The end of the designation/approval period and the final date a learner can be certificated for a qualification that is eligible for use on publicly funded programmes of learning for learners under 19; this includes resits.
Designation/Approval Period	The time between the Designation/Approval Start Date and the Designation/Approval Certification End Date.
Designation/Approval Start Date	The start of the designation/approval period and the first date that a learner can start a course leading to a qualification that is eligible for use on publicly funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19.
Designation Process	The process of reviewing qualifications against designation criteria to ensure that a qualification is fit for purpose and eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19 in Wales.
Designation Guide	This is used by QW when reviewing a qualifications' eligibility for designation. This can be found here: Awarding Body Guide to Designation
Designated Qualifications	For a qualification to be 'designated', the qualification must meet the designation criteria. Once designated, a qualification becomes available on publicly funded programmes of learning in Wales for learners under the age of 19.
E-Assessment	The end-to-end electronic processes where ICT is used for the presentation of assessment activity and the recording of responses. This includes the end-to-end assessment process from the perspective of learners, tutors, learning establishments, awarding organisations, regulators, and the public.
Entry Level	Applies to learners not ready for GCSE level qualifications.
EQF Level	This is the comparison to the European Qualification Framework. In QiW, this field is automatically generated from the Qualification Level field.
Evidence of demand	Awarding bodies are asked to provide this to prove that there is sufficient demand for the qualification in Wales from an approved centre. This is used to assist the application for the designation of a qualification. Rules about our evidence requirements can be found in the designation guide.
Evidence of professional support	Awarding bodies are asked to provide this to prove that there is sufficient support for the qualification in Wales from relevant end-users or stakeholders. This is used to support the application for the designation or extension of a qualification.

	Rules about our evidence requirements can be found in the Awarding Body Guide to Designation
For inclusion in Apprenticeship frameworks?	An indicator as to whether the qualification is to be included within apprenticeship frameworks in Wales. The following website will be used to reference this: Frameworks Library
Further designation	The extension of the end dates on a designated qualification. To do this, awarding bodies must submit an amendment request through QiW and attach any required evidence as outlined in our awarding body guide to designation which can be found here: Awarding Body Guide to Designation
FE	Further Education is education that is below degree level for people above school age.
GCSE AS/A Level	General Certificate of Education AS/A level
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
General Qualification (GQ)	We consider general qualifications to be those that assess knowledge and understanding in a chosen subject. These are generally GCSE, GCE (A-levels) and Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications.
Vocational Qualification (VQ)	We consider vocational qualifications to be those that assess knowledge, understanding and/or skills that relate explicitly to the world of work
Grading Scale	This is the scale for how the qualification is to be graded. For example: Pass, Merit and Distinction or A*-G.
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	The guided learning hours for a qualification are a notional measure of the substance of a qualification i.e. the amount of time necessary to learn it effectively. It is a Welsh Government requirement that the mean GLH of any qualification regulated in Wales is recorded on QiW.
HE	Higher education is tertiary education leading to award of an academic degree. Higher education, also called post-secondary education, third-level or tertiary education, is an optional final stage of formal learning that occurs after completion of secondary education
IVET/CVET	IVET = Initial Vocational Education and Training also known as Introductory Vocational. These qualifications are suitable for learners of all ages and abilities. These qualifications are available to pre-16 learners. CVET = Continued Vocational Education and Training also known as Occupational Competence. These qualifications are designed for learners over the age of 16. These qualifications are not available to pre 16 learners.
Language	This is the language medium that assessment of the qualification is made available through e.g. English and Welsh or Welsh only.
Learning Provider	A school, college, training centre, or workplace offering educational opportunities. These are often referred to as 'Centres' and will be subject to contractual obligations with the

	awarding body responsible for the award of the qualifications offered.
Live	A qualification remains 'Live' in QiW until the Typical Designation/Approval Final Start Date passes. Awarding bodies receive an email from QiW 6 months prior to the Typical Designation/Approval Final Start Date so that a decision can be made as to whether the qualification needs to be extended, changed to other regulated or withdrawn and archived.
National Vocational Qualifications	NVQs are based on National Occupational Standards (NOS). They are qualifications that cover all the main aspects of a specific occupation, including current best practice, the ability to adapt to future requirements and the knowledge and understanding that underpin competent performance.
National Occupational Standards (NOS)	These standards are statements of performance that describe what competent people in a particular occupation are expected to be able to do.
Ofqual	Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation. The organisation that regulates qualifications, exams, and tests in England.
Other Regulated (OR) Qualifications	Qualifications which are regulated by Qualifications Wales but are not approved/designated and therefore are not eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19 in Wales.
Pathway	A specific route of courses taken by a student to gain entry to a higher course or towards a final qualification.
Priority Qualification List (PQL)	A list which identifies qualifications for priority approval. All qualifications must be approved or designated by Qualifications Wales before the subjects can receive funding for teaching in schools and colleges.
Purpose	The qualification purpose conveys information on what a qualification is primarily designed to do rather than what it may be used for e.g. <i>"Prepare for further learning or training and/or develop knowledge and/or skills in a subject area"</i> .
Professional Body	A body or group involved in the same profession, formed usually to maintain standards, and represent the profession in discussions with other bodies, professionals, or organisations.
Qualifications Wales Act, 2015 (The Act)	The Qualifications Wales Act was established by the National Assembly for Wales in 2015 with the principal aims of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring that qualifications, and the qualification system, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales; 2. Promoting public confidence in qualifications and the Welsh qualification system.' A copy of The Act can be found here: The Qualifications Wales Act, 2015
Qualification Approval Number (QAN)	This is a qualification reference applied to qualifications that are regulated by Ofqual.

Qualifications in Wales database (QiW)	QiW is a comprehensive source of information on approved, designated and other regulated qualifications that are available to learners in Wales.																						
QiW User/s	Any person or groups of people who use QiW.																						
Qualification	An award made by an awarding body to demonstrate a learner's achievement of competence.																						
Qualification Level	<p>This shows the level of attainment a qualification represents. Level 1 is equivalent to a grade D-G at GCSE, Level 2 is equivalent to a grade A*-C at GCSE and Level 3 is equivalent to an A level. The set of levels used in Wales is part of the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales. The Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) has been aligned with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). See table below for equivalences across the frameworks:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>CQFW Level</th> <th>EQF Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Entry Level</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 1/2</td> <td>2/3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 8</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CQFW Level	EQF Level	Entry Level	1	Level 1	2	Level 1/2	2/3	Level 2	3	Level 3	4	Level 4	5	Level 5	5	Level 6	6	Level 7	7	Level 8	8
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Qualification Specification	This is the specification for the qualification supplied by the awarding body and outlines the objectives and outcomes of the qualification, along with a detailed statement defining the purpose, content, structure, and assessment arrangements for a qualification.																						
Qualification Sub-Level	This is to classify Entry level qualification onto level 1, 2 or 3.																						
Qualification Title	This allows the qualification to be easily identified in relation to the subject matter or content. The title must include the following: Name of awarding body, level of the qualification, type of qualification (where applicable) and a CONCISE indication of the content of the qualification. Please refer to Condition E2 of the General Conditions of Recognition.																						
Qualification Type	This is the type of specification the qualification is written to meet e.g., GCSE, A level.																						
Qualifications Regulator	An organisation which monitors and maintains standards for external qualifications, for example, Qualifications Wales, Ofqual (in England), CCEA (in Northern Ireland) and SQA (Scotland).																						
Qualifications Wales	Regulator of all non-degree qualifications and the qualifications system in Wales.																						

QW Approval/Designation Number	The unique number that each qualification submitted to QiW is allocated.
Refer back	A qualification may be referred back to an awarding body if there are anomalies with the information when checked against the designation/approval criteria and/or if there is insufficient evidence to enable QW to designate or approve the qualification to make it available in QiW.
Register of Regulated Qualifications (The Register)	This is a list of Regulated Awarding Bodies and their Regulated Qualifications. The register includes GCSE, A level, AS level and vocational (work related) qualifications in England (as regulated by Ofqual) and Northern Ireland (as regulated by CCEA).. This data is held and maintained by Ofqual and is completely separate to the QiW database. The register can be found here: https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/
Regulated qualifications	All non-degree qualifications (whether approved, designated, or other regulated) that are offered for award by an awarding body recognised by Qualifications Wales (unless either an awarding body has surrendered its recognition in respect of that qualification, or if an awarding body excluded that qualification from the scope of its recognition by notifying Welsh Government prior to 21 September 2015).
Regulation End Date	The final date Qualifications Wales would regulate the qualification.
Restriction	Section 14 of the Act allows Qualifications Wales to restrict a qualification that is on the Priority Qualifications List (“the List”). ¹ Qualifications Wales may consider whether to apply a restriction to a qualification on the List. A restriction will limit the number of forms (or ‘versions’) of a qualification that may be approved at any time.
Review Type	This is the type of qualification held in QiW, these are: Approved - the qualification should appear on the priority qualifications list PQL for approval qualifications and are funded by the Welsh Government; Designated - for qualifications to be used on publicly funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19 in Wales; Other regulated – qualifications regulated by Qualifications Wales but are not approved/designated and therefore are not eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19 in Wales.
Sector Reviews	Sectoral Review is the key method by which QW are approaching the review and reform of vocational qualifications in Wales. More information on sector review strategies, processes and timelines can be found here: https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/vocational-qualifications/sector-reviews/

Sector Subject Area	Sector subject areas are the series of categories based on industry sectors and academic subjects used to classify qualifications e.g., a qualification may come into the category Science and Mathematics or Health, Public Services and Care
The Standard Conditions of Recognition (SCoR)	The Standard Conditions contain the rules that all awarding bodies and their qualifications must meet when offering qualifications to learners in Wales. All regulated awarding bodies have a legal requirement to comply with these rules on an ongoing basis. A copy of the SCoR can be found here: Standard Conditions of Recognition .
Sub – Sector Subject Area	Sub sector areas are the second tier of categories based on industry sectors and academic subjects used to classify qualifications. For example, if the SSA (Sector Subject Area) is 8. Leisure, travel, and tourism the Sub-Sector Subject Area could be 8.1 Sport, leisure, and recreation .
Submission details issued to:	Awarding bodies provide an email address for any notifications regarding a designation or approval submission to be sent to.
Sub-Purpose	The sub-purpose conveys information on what a qualification is designed to do rather than what it may be used for.
Suite	This refers to a group of qualifications within the same sector. They are usually specified as Award, Certificate, Diploma but there are also others included in some suites such as Foundation, Extended Award, Extended Certificate, Extended Diploma.
Supporting Documents	This is the evidence of demand and support that awarding bodies provide to ensure qualifications meet the criteria for approval/designation. Evidence can be in the form of an email or formal letter; one to demonstrate demand in Wales and one to show professional support for the qualification.
Surrender	The decision made by an awarding body to cease to be recognised by Qualifications Wales.
Standard Conditions of Recognition (SCoR)	All conditions to which an awarding body's recognition is subject (including standard conditions imposed under Schedule 3 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015). The conditions are set out here: Standard Conditions of Recognition .
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	Total Qualification Time is the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required for a learner to achieve a qualification.
Typical Designation/Approval Final Start Date	The final date that a learner can start a course leading to a qualification that is eligible for use on publicly funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19, based on a typical delivery model.
Validation Check	These are the formal checks on the data populated on the QiW form submitted by awarding bodies wishing to designate a qualification.

Withdrawal	<p>Under Condition E6.1, if a qualification is to be regulated it must be on QiW. If it is not on QiW it will not be regulated by Qualifications Wales.</p> <p>If an awarding body decides that a qualification should no longer be offered as a regulated qualification in Wales, they may request to withdraw the qualification from offer. Awarding bodies must confirm compliance with Condition D6 of the SCoR before we agree to the withdrawal of a qualification. This is designed to protect the interest of any learners who may still be studying the qualification.</p>
Work Based Learning Providers	<p>These are stakeholders who provide students with real-life work experiences where they can apply academic and technical skills and develop their career and employability.</p>