

## iam Qualifications in UK Frameworks

The Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) is the independent regulator which regulates awarding bodies, qualifications and examinations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that qualifications and their assessments are up-to-date, fit for purpose, fair, standards are secure, and public confidence is maintained. Ofqual accredits qualifications designed by awarding bodies into the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

An awarding body is a specialist organisation designing and providing qualifications and assessment, requiring a high level of governance, experience, expertise, financial stability and quality assurance. The statutory regulation carried out by Ofqual ensures that this is the case.

Ofqual accredits qualifications into the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in order to ensure the levels of various types of qualifications designed by awarding bodies are comparable. The NQF also ensures that users understand the value of the qualifications they complete and the progression these qualifications ensure to other qualifications.

Each accredited qualification has an NQF level. If qualifications share the same level this means they are broadly similar in terms on the demand they place on the learner. However, qualifications at the same level can still be very different in terms of content and duration. Broad comparisons with NQF levels can be seen in the table below:

Level	NQF UK National Qualifications Framework	FHEQ UK Framework for Higher Educational Qualifications	iam Qualification
8		D (Doctoral) Doctorates	
7		M (Masters) Masters degrees	
6		H (Honours) Last part of a Bachelor degree	MDP Top up degree - Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Business Management
5		I (Intermediate) Middle part of a Bachelor degree 1 <sup>st</sup>	Advanced Diploma in Administrative Management (120 CATS points)
4		C (Certificate) The first part of higher education study	Diploma in Administrative Management (100 CATS points)
3	A levels		A - Certificate in Administrative Management & B - Certificate in Information and Communication Technology
2	GCSEs grades A* - C		A- Introductory Award in Administrative Management & B - Award in Information and Communication Technology
1	GCSEs grades D - G		Foundation Award in Information and Communication Technology