

| Main stages of education/training | QCF Level | Typical qualifications within each level | Available/coordinated by |
|--|-----------|---|--|
| Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment | 8 | Doctoral degrees (e.g. PhD/DPhil, Professional Doctorate). Vocational Qualifications Level 8. | Advanced Training Partnerships Universities |
| | 7 | Master's degrees (e.g. MSc, MA, MRes, MPhil). Postgraduate diplomas. Postgraduate certificates. Fellowships, NVQ level 5. Vocational Qualifications Level 7. | |
| Higher education Advanced skills training | 6 | Batchelor's degrees. Graduate diplomas. Graduate certificates. Vocational Qualifications Level 6. | Universities and Colleges |
| Entry to professional graduate employment | 5 | Foundation degrees. Higher National Diplomas (HND). NVQ Level 4. Vocational Qualifications Level 5. | Universities and Colleges |
| Specialised education and training | 4 | Higher National Certificates (HNC) Certificates of Higher Education (Cert HE) Vocational Qualifications Level 4. | Universities and Colleges |
| Qualified/Skilled worker Entry to higher education Completion of secondary education | 3 | Work Based Diploma /Certificate Level 3 Vocational Qualifications Level 3. E.g. BTEC Nationals (<i>certificate/subsidiary diploma/diploma/extended diploma</i>) GCE AS and A levels Advanced Diplomas | Colleges School 6 th Form |
| | 2 | Work Based Diploma /Certificate Level 2. Vocational Qualifications Level 2. E.g. BTEC level 2 Firsts (<i>Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma</i>) GCSEs at grade A*-C. | Colleges. Schools |
| Secondary education Initial entry into employment or further education. | 1 | Work Based Diploma / certificate Level 1. Vocational Qualifications Level 1. E.g. BTEC Level 1 Qualifications (<i>award/certificate/diploma</i>) GCSEs at grade D-G. Foundation Diplomas. | Colleges and schools |
| | Entry | Entry Level Certificates. ESOL skills for life | |

Adapted from: QAA (2011) Qualifications can cross boundaries.

Apprenticeships: Levels 2, 3, 4 & 5. BASIS foundation: Level 3, BASIS cert in crop protection: Level 6, FACTS: Level 5, BASIS Diploma in Agronomy: Level 6.