



**Joint Education and Training Standards Forum Protocol for Mutual
Recognition of Professional Qualifications
(Amended October 2020)**

1	Background
	<p>The Joint Education and Training Standards (JETS) Forum comprises the professional bodies for England, Ireland and Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales who each professionally recognise qualifying training for youth work (community learning and development in Scotland).</p> <p>Joint ETS Forum members are: National Youth Agency England; North South ETS (Ireland and Northern Ireland), Community Learning and Development Standards Council for Scotland; and, ETS Wales.</p> <p>This Protocol has been developed and agreed to govern the process through which qualifications can be regarded as mutually acceptable and recognised, in order to promote transportability of qualifications throughout all jurisdictions.</p>
2	Purpose
2.1	<p>The purpose of this Protocol is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to enable qualified practitioners to move between Joint ETS Forum constituent countries and have their qualifications accepted at initial professional training level • to maintain mutual respect amongst validation/endorsement/approval bodies for the standard and rigour of the training providers' programmes
3	Basis for the Protocol
3.1	<p>It is recognised that qualifications are developed using common drivers, including the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Youth & Community Work and the Youth Work National Occupational Standards.</p> <p>In addition, each jurisdiction develops its own requirements for professional approval/validation/endorsement based on the above documents and its own relevant policies.</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence between the European, UK and Ireland qualifications frameworks is now well embedded (Appendix 1). The levels of the qualifications in each of the countries are equal at graduate, honours degree level (level 8 in Ireland, level 10 in Scotland, level 6 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and also at postgraduate level.</p>

4	Protocol Agreement
4.1	<p>As the common features outweigh any differences, we agree that each jurisdiction will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise as qualified practitioners those holding qualifications as set out in section 4.3 below • ensure current developments (National Occupational Standards, European Qualifications Framework and the Subject Benchmark Statement) are included in any revised approval/validation/endorsement criteria • in relation to mutuality of recognition take account of European, UK and Ireland qualifications frameworks, as set out in Appendix 1 • be the reference point for qualification status enquiries and keep a publicly available up to date list • detail the range of settings for fieldwork practice requirements of approved qualifying programmes
4.2	<p>To achieve mutual recognition two key components need to be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requirements and study programmes should be mutually acceptable • fieldwork practice must demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ for Youth Work: assessed practice with young people aged 11 to 25 with a focus on 13 to 19s ○ for CLD: assessed practice in a variety of CLD settings
4.3	<p>Through discussion and study of relevant documents sufficient congruence was found in the values, ethical base, required skills, competences, and fieldwork. As such, Mutual Recognition applies to all historic awards that have been at any time approved, endorsed or validated and that have conferred professional youth and community learning and development work within any of the 5 JETS jurisdictions; and to all awards that are currently so approved, endorsed or validated.</p> <p>The qualifications that are deemed mutually acceptable and recognised as conferring professional qualification are held by each jurisdiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England NYA ETS • North South ETS • ETS Wales • CLD Standards Council
4.4	<p>The impact of each jurisdiction's changes to its own requirements for professional approval/validation/endorsement should continue to be communicated between jurisdictions and monitored by JETS.</p>
4.5	<p>Queries should be put to the relevant officer within local jurisdictions in the first instance. See below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susie Bisset (Susan.Bisset@CLDStandardsCouncil.org.uk) • Kevin Jones (kevinj@nya.org.uk) • Olive Ring (nsets@nyci.ie) • Elizabeth Rose (elizabeth.rose@wlga.gov.uk)

5.0	Changes to Protocol Agreement
5.1	The Joint ETS must agree significant changes to the Protocol for Mutual Recognition. Minor changes (such as the name of a member committee) may be notified between meetings and ratified at the following meeting of the Joint ETS. Protocol to be reviewed every 3 years.

Date current version agreed: 13 October 2020

Date to be reviewed: October 2023

Appendix 1

Within Europe, two overarching qualifications frameworks exist to which the national qualifications frameworks of the UK and Ireland relate.

- The European Qualifications Framework (EQF);
- The Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA) also known as the Bologna Framework.

Qualifications can Cross Boundaries: a guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland shows:

- correspondence of levels established between national qualifications and the European Quality Framework (EFQ)
- the outcome of verifying the compatibility of higher education frameworks for Scotland (FQHEIS/SCQF), for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) and for the NFQ for Ireland (NFQ IE) with the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA)