



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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 Qualifications  
Frameworks  
in the UK

# EU tools for helping people work and study in other countries

*The European Union has created tools to help people understand  
the qualifications in different countries and make the most of their  
own qualifications and experience*





## Help for people on the move

The European tools help people who are moving for work or study. They help to make learning visible even if it is not yet part of a full qualification.

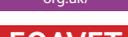
### Consider this scenario

*My friend, who lives in Portugal, invited me to come over and spend a year doing some work experience linked to my degree course. I found out that my qualifications from the UK can be compared to qualifications in Portugal using something called the European Qualifications Framework and that it will be possible to get some credit for my work experience and bring it back to my degree course when I return to the UK. All I need to do is make sure that my course tutor and the Portuguese employer knows about ECVET. I started off by filling in a European style CV; this was easy using a Europass CV form that is on the web. Apparently millions of people across Europe have filled in a European CV. Now I need to send mine to some Portuguese employers. I am checking out some of the main firms in Lisbon where my friend lives...*

# How the European Tools can help



## Together with European tools

- **Europass**  
[www.uknec.org.uk/](http://www.uknec.org.uk/) Makes achievements visible and understandable abroad
- **ESCO**  
[www.ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/home](http://www.ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/home) Provides information about jobs and the knowledge and skills to do them
- **EQF**  
[www.ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en](http://www.ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en) Know the level of qualifications abroad
- **ECVET**  
[www.ecvetexperts.org.uk/](http://www.ecvetexperts.org.uk/) Credit for earning and working abroad
- **EQAVET**  
[www.eqavet.eu/gns/about-eqavet/network-members/national-reference-points/uk.aspx](http://www.eqavet.eu/gns/about-eqavet/network-members/national-reference-points/uk.aspx) Be confident that training is of good quality

## To help achieve a



## EU tools for helping people work and study in other countries

Countries in Europe have worked together to create some tools to help people move around Europe more easily to take up employment and studies. This leaflet explains the tools and their benefits for learners, workers, jobseekers, employers and careers advisors.

There are five main European tools in the field of vocational education and training that are being used in the UK. The tools work together to help with the recognition of learning throughout life and throughout Europe.

EU Tools Explained (EU logo)	What it can do for learners, workers and jobseekers
<p><b>European Qualifications Framework (EQF)</b></p> <p>A way of understanding qualifications levels in different countries</p>	<p>Compare your qualifications with one at the same level in another country – go to <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en/compare">https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en/compare</a> and start by selecting your own national framework.</p>
<p><b>Europass</b></p> <p>A way of describing a person's knowledge and skills used across Europe</p>	<p>This set of forms (including one for a European CV) will help you if you want to move jobs in the UK or abroad or if you want to study in a different country. The forms make it clear to others what you have learned, including your qualifications and personal achievements.</p> <p>60 million people have completed a Europass CV so far. Sometimes in CVs the title of your course such as 'Language and History' does not mean much to an employer on its own, the Europass supplements help to explain what was involved in your course in much more detail. This helps you to make your learning experience obvious to employers and admissions staff.</p> <p>One of the Europass forms helps you explain how well you know other languages.</p>

What it can do for employers and college admissions staff	What it can do for careers advisors
<p>Find out how the qualifications of an applicant compares to a UK qualification.</p>	<p>Help explain UK qualifications and levels to clients from other countries.</p> <p>Guide clients from the UK towards jobs and courses abroad that are accessible with their UK qualifications.</p>
<p>Help you to appreciate what a non-UK applicant has achieved. It covers more than qualifications and formal achievements, for example it shows their language competencies.</p> <p>Makes recruitment easier. The five documents can help to identify the most suitable applicants, because they present and demonstrate the individual's skills and competences in a presentable format.</p>	<p>Get clients off to a good start in describing their achievements ready for applying for work or study abroad.</p>

## EU tools for helping people work and study in other countries

EU Tools Explained (EU logo)	What it can do for learners, workers and jobseekers
<p><b>European Credit transfer system for VET (ECVET)</b></p> <p>A way of getting work or study abroad recognised</p>	<p>If you study or work for a short time in another country ECVET will help you to have what you learned there count towards your studies for a UK qualification. It will also let you have your UK learning recognised in another country.</p> <p>Not all people have a fixed learning pathway for qualifications. Some change their minds and others have a break from courses. ECVET supports your national system to help you carry forward your past learning achievements to a new qualification.</p> <p>Acknowledgement and recognition of achieved learning outcomes gives value to all learning experiences thus improving employability.</p>
<p><b>European Quality Assurance system for VET (EQAVET)</b></p> <p>A way to be confident that training at home and abroad is good</p>	<p>EQAVET works in the background to make sure the quality of education and training programmes (in the UK and abroad) can be trusted so you can feel more confident that you will benefit from your training and qualifications.</p>
<p><b>European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) (Under development)</b></p> <p>A way of understanding what's needed for jobs in other countries</p>	<p>ESCO will be able to help you find jobs in the UK and other countries. It will allow you to see what employers from the UK and other countries want in terms of skills and qualifications and it will help you to appreciate what skills and qualifications you have or that you might need for certain jobs.</p> <p>ESCO will allow a more efficient approach to Job matching. Not only does online job matching provide job seekers with a wide range of relevant opportunities, it also helps employees to identify new career paths and show what transferable skills they have between occupations.</p>

What it can do for employers and college admissions staff	What it can do for careers advisors
<p>Where you see signs of ECVET being used it probably indicates quality in an applicant's training. New recruits from abroad will be able to build on learning outcomes achieved in their home country.</p> <p>Your employees that are embarking on periods of work abroad will be able to use the experience in gaining formal qualifications in their home country. Their knowledge and understanding will also be improved through exposure to new and different work practices.</p>	<p>Clients might find the possibility of gaining formal recognition of periods of work and training abroad an advantage and improve their employability</p>
<p>EQAVET ensures that training programmes can be designed using the same quality standards.</p> <p>Employers can be more confident that recruits have gone through a quality training scheme and have qualifications that will meet their needs.</p>	<p>You and your clients can be more confident in the training options abroad as EQAVET works to improve the quality of vocational education and training in the different European countries.</p>
<p>In conjunction with other tools it makes it easier for employers to make their job vacancies available in other countries. In the past the different languages of the EU has been a barrier to people looking for jobs in other countries and for employers trying to recruit people from other countries. ESCO aims to break down this barrier.</p>	<p>When ESCO is fully operational it will serve as a key tool for professionals in careers and employment services as it opens up the single European labour market to individuals. It will make the learning opportunities databases more useful.</p> <p>By using ESCO, employment services will be able to exchange job vacancies, CVs and other meaningful information across the European Union. This will encourage occupational and regional mobility, reduce mismatches between labour market demand and supply and lower operating costs for employment service providers.</p>

## Employers and college admissions staff

The different qualifications systems in Europe can be confusing to people looking at CVs of applicants. There are more and more people coming to the UK to work and recruiters need to know the standard of the qualifications people hold and whether they are current, highly regarded qualifications. The EU tools aim to make the process of recruiting people from other countries more manageable.

### Consider this scenario

*In order to make sure that the people in my company are the best, I have no choice but to broaden my recruitment outside the UK. The trouble is, I don't know anything about education anywhere else in Europe, or what qualifications from other European countries mean. I am gradually picking it up using the EQF and I'm also comparing the supplements in the Europass CVs presented by job applicants."*

The European Skills, Competences and Occupations initiative, when fully functional, will allow employers to display job vacancies in a way that people in other countries will understand. It will signal to individuals the valued characteristics in job profiles.

### Careers advisers

People intending to work or study abroad need to know what they are aiming for in terms of the qualifications they need to get a job or enroll on a course in a different country. Careers advisers need access to the latest official comparisons of UK qualifications and those in different countries. ESCO will help careers advisors with real time information on job vacancies. The EQF helps with this and a website is available that provides the information needed, not just about qualifications levels but also about foreign qualifications in different countries. It also provides lots of up-to-date information about learning opportunities. Try it:

<http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en>



## Consider this scenario

*I saw several people last week that had come as a group from the same town in Hungary to the UK to live and work. They worked as paramedics and ambulance drivers back home. I needed to find out about what their Hungarian jobs involved, the UK standing of their qualifications and about how their qualifications might be accepted as entry requirements to jobs and courses. I used the website Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe and then consulted my contacts before getting the people to fill in Europass style CVs.*

## The tools and learning providers

The UK national agency for the Erasmus + programme aims to support all UK learning providers to use the opportunities, for both students and staff, of studying abroad, which are provided by the programme. The agency works to promote the Erasmus+ programme with UK learning organisations, and is also involved in the promotion and use of Europass and ECVET within mobility projects.

*<https://erasmusplus.org.uk/about-the-uk-national-agency>*

## Recognising qualifications in Europe and beyond

There is a network of organisations across the world that aim to help interested organisations and individuals easily find information on current issues related to international academic and professional mobility, and on the procedures for the recognition of foreign qualifications.

*<http://www.enic-naric.net/united-kingdom.aspx>*

## Comparing Qualifications in the UK and Ireland

The qualifications systems in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland are different and each part of the UK has a different way of showing its qualifications system. For information on how qualifications in one part of the UK compare to another, a simple leaflet is available called 'Qualifications can cross boundaries'. The leaflet also shows how UK qualifications compare to Irish qualifications, and to the European Qualifications Framework levels.

*[www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-can-cross-boundaries.pdf](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-can-cross-boundaries.pdf)*



## EU tools for helping people work and study in other countries

“ I really wanted to work abroad but I saw so many problems, not least understanding what my qualifications and experience was worth and what it would allow me to do. ”



## Getting the information you want

England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have designated National Contact Points (NCPs) for implementation of the European tools. Each of them has a web site that explains the tools and contains up to date information and advice. The EQF NCP web addresses and contact details are shown below.

### In England

Ofqual  
Spring Place  
Coventry Business Park  
Herald Avenue  
Coventry  
CV5 6UB  
0300 303 3344  
[info@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:info@ofqual.gov.uk)  
[www.ofqual.gov.uk](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk)

### In Northern Ireland

Council for the Curriculum  
Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)  
29 Clarendon Road  
Clarendon Dock  
Belfast BT1 3BG  
028 9026 1200  
[info@ccea.org.uk](mailto:info@ccea.org.uk)  
[www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)

### In Scotland

SCQF Partnership  
201 West George Street  
Glasgow  
G2 2LW  
0845 270 7371  
[info@scqf.org.uk](mailto:info@scqf.org.uk)  
[www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk)

### In Wales

Colegau Cymru/Colleges Wales  
Unit 7 Cae Gwyrdd  
Greenmeadow Springs  
Tongwynlais  
Cardiff  
CF15 7AB  
[info@colegaucymru.ac.uk](mailto:info@colegaucymru.ac.uk)  
[www.colegaucymru.ac.uk](http://www.colegaucymru.ac.uk)