



هيئة جودة التعليم والتدريب  
Education & Training Quality Authority

# **Frequently Asked Question (Leaders & Practitioners)**

## **National Qualifications Framework (NQF)**



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

### What is the National Qualifications Framework?

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a system for recognising all forms of learning through national qualifications that are classified according to a set of sequential and coherent levels of learning outcomes. The NQF also aligns foreign qualifications awarded by institutions outside the Kingdom of Bahrain to the levels of the framework.

### How many levels does the NQF comprise?

The NQF comprises 10 levels; each is determined by a set of level descriptors and each level measures the difficulty of its intended learning outcomes and their fulfilment of the core knowledge, skills and competencies.

### What are the benefits of the NQF?

- provides a stronger basis for the understanding, comparison and recognition of national and foreign qualifications, thereby, improving employers', parents' and learners' understanding of the value of qualifications offered by different institutions.
- provides fit-for-purpose qualifications that have stronger linkages with learner needs and labour market needs. increases the accountability of education and training institutions towards maintaining high quality standards of their offerings, fostering mutual trust and recognition between institutions in different sectors.
- enhances the value and credibility of qualifications and institutions, leading to increased opportunities for learners' mobility and progression within and across vocational and academic sectors.
- promotes the concept of lifelong learning, through the promotion of all types of learning: formal, informal and non-formal, and encourages institutions to establish learning pathways between the education and training sectors.

### What are the NQF operations?

The NQF operations include the institutional listing, the placement of national qualifications, and the alignment of foreign qualifications to the NQF.

### What is the Institutional Listing (IL) process?

A process through which the BQA ensures that the institutions develop formal proper arrangements to maintain the standards of their qualifications placed on the NQF.



### **What is the National Qualification Placement (QP) process?**

The process by which all the national qualifications offered by the listed education and training institutions are validated to be placed on the NQF.

### **What is the Alignment of Foreign Qualifications process?**

The process of comparing and evaluating a foreign qualification against the NQF levels.

### **What type of support is provided to institutions to prepare for the NQF processes?**

The BQA provides capacity building to institutions on NQF operations and answer any enquiries on the submission of the NQF applications.

### **On what basis is the number of NQF Credits identified?**

The NQF Credits are based on Notional Learning Hours which a learner needs at a certain level to accomplish a set of intended learning outcomes (ILOs); therefore, Notional Learning Hours must be allocated to the qualification units, taking into account all forms of learning activities that contribute to achieve the ILOs. One NQF Credit equates to ten Notional Learning Hours. NQF Credits are used to reflect the volume of units and qualifications.

### **What is the 'Credit Framework'?**

It is a framework which describes the titles and description of higher education qualifications, vocational education and training (VET), and general education qualifications. NQF Level and Credits are allocated to each qualification according to the complexity of the learning process as well as the time required by the learner to achieve the learning outcomes for the qualification and its units.

### **What is the timeframe for the Institutional Listing process?**

The institutional listing process goes through a number of stages starting from receiving the application and sending acknowledgment of receipt to the institution, then evaluation of the application, followed by finalizing the report by the evaluation panel. This process normally takes 60 working days.

### **What is the timeframe for the National Qualification Placement process?**

The qualification placement process goes through a number of stages starting from receiving the application and sending acknowledgment of receipt to the institution, then verification and validation of the qualification, followed by finalizing the qualification validation report by the validation panel. This process normally takes 90 working days.

**What is the timeframe for the Alignment of Foreign Qualifications process?**

The Alignment of Foreign Qualifications process goes through a number of stages starting from receiving the request and sending acknowledgment of receipt to the institution, then conducting a review and verifying, followed by finalizing the alignment report. This process normally takes 54 working days.

**Where the information on NQF operations outcomes can be found?**

The outcomes of the NQF operations are found on the NQF Register on the BQA's website ([www.bqa.gov.bh](http://www.bqa.gov.bh)).