

Education Action

A guide to British qualifications



A comparison of academic and vocational qualifications

Academic qualifications	Technical and vocational qualifications		
	BTEC	GNVQ	NVQ
GCSEs	First Certificate or Diploma	Foundation Level Intermediate Level (5 GCSEs grades A-C)	Level 1 (Foundation) Level 2 (Craft)
'A' Levels and AS Levels Access to HE courses Foundation stage of 1 st Degree Courses	National Certificate or Diploma	AVCE	Level 3 (Technician, Supervisor)
New Foundation Degrees Undergraduate degree (BA, BSc, BEng, LLB, etc.)	Higher National Certificate or Diploma (HNC/HND)		Level 4 (Higher Technician, Junior Management)
Postgraduate study (Diploma, MA, MSc, MPhil, LLM, PhD, etc.)			Level 5 (Professional, Senior Management)

Glossary

'A' Level: Advanced level GCE
 'AS' Level: Advanced Subsidiary level GCE (The equivalent of half an 'A'-level)
 AVCE: Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education
 BA: Bachelor of Arts
 BEng: Bachelor of Engineering
 BSc: Bachelor of Science
 BTEC: Business and Technology Education Council
 GCE: General Certificate of Education
 GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary Education (previously called 'O' Level)

GNVQ: General National Vocational Qualification
 LLB: Bachelor of Law
 LLM: Master of Law
 MA: Master of Arts
 MPhil: Master of Philosophy
 MSc: Master of Science
 NVQ: National Vocational Qualification (incorporates qualifications offered by various vocational boards, e.g. City & Guilds, etc)
 PhD: Doctor of Philosophy

Academic qualifications

International comparison and assessment of academic qualifications is done by the UK NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre) ECCTIS 2000. UK NARIC produces a publication entitled *The International Guide to Qualifications in Education*, outlining the education system of each country in the world and comparing each country's qualifications with those in the UK.

UK NARIC also offers UK course vacancy information via the Internet and UK Course Discoverer on CD-ROM. Education Action runs subscription with NARIC and we can write to NARIC enquiry service on behalf of our clients. However, individuals will be charged a fee for the same service. Information provided by NARIC has no legal authority, although it is accepted by most employers and academic institutions.

UK NARIC

ECCTIS 2000 Ltd

Oriel House

Oriel Road

Cheltenham

Gloucestershire

GL50 IXP

Tel: 01242 260 010

Website: www.naric.org.uk

Professional and technical qualifications

There is no NARIC equivalent for the assessment or evaluation of professional or technical overseas qualifications. It is usually necessary to contact the administering body in the UK for the profession question, in order to ascertain whether or not a specific qualification is recognised in this country.

Architects

Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA)

66 Portland Place

London

W1B 1AD

Tel: 020 7580 5533

Website: <http://site.yahoo.net/about-riba>

Accounting Technicians

Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)

153 Clerkenwell Rd

London

EC1R 5AD

Tel: 020 7837 8600

Website: www.aat.co.uk

Certified Accountants

Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA)

29 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London

WC2A 3EE

Tel: 020 7242 6855

Website: www.acca.org.uk

Chartered Accountants

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ACA)

P.O. Box 433

Moorgate Place

London

EC2P 2BJ

Tel: 020 7628 7060

Website: www.icaew.co.uk

Civil Engineers

Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)

One Great George Street

London

SW1P 3AA

Tel: 020 7222 7722

Website: www.ice.org.uk

Dentists

General Dental Council

37 Wimpole Street

London

W1G 8DQ

Tel: 020 7887 3800

Website: www.gdc-uk.org

Doctors

The General Medical Council

Overseas Division

178 Great Portland Street

London

W1W 5JE

Tel: 020 7580 7642

Website: www.gmc-uk.org

Lawyers

The Law Society

113 Chancery Lane

London

WC2A 1LL

Tel: 020 7242 1222

01527 517 141

Website: www.lawsociety.org.uk

The Council of Legal Education

4 Gray's Inn Place

Gray's Inn

London

WC1R 5DX

Tel: 020 7404 5787

Website: www.barcouncil.org.uk

Mechanical Engineers

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

1 Birdcage Road

London

SW1H 9JJ

Tel: 020 7222 7899

Web: www.imeche.org.uk

Nurses

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

23 Portland Place

London

W1B 1PZ

Tel: 020 7637 7181

Website: www.nmc-uk.org

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Education Action works with war torn communities across the world to rebuild their lives through education.

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Education Action
Defending Rights, Unlocking Potential

