



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Fees for QQI Services

QQI, an integrated agency for quality and qualifications in Ireland

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Fees for QQI Services

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1 SUMMARY

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) was established in November 2012 by the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 (the 2012 Act).

The 2012 Act sets out a range of services that QQI can charge fees for. These fees will be set out in a Schedule of Fees, determined by QQI with the consent of the Minister for Education and Skills and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

This document sets out the principles and policies which will inform the determination of the Schedule of Fees for specified QQI services.

QQI policy is developed through a consultative process involving all stakeholders. QQI policy is adopted by the Board and implemented by the executive accordingly.

2 INTRODUCTION

Section 80 of the 2012 Act specifies the services for which fees may be charged. In addition to fees for specified services, Section 62 of the 2012 Act provides for an annual charge for the use of the International Education Mark (IEM). QQI will apply the same principles to fees and to this charge.

The Irish education and training landscape is increasingly complex and there is an expectation from Government and the wider society that state agencies should be more responsible than heretofore for cost recovery for public services. The Minister for Education and Skills, with the sanction of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, has responsibility for the public funding of QQI. The two Ministers also have responsibility to consent to the level of fees charged by QQI.

The principles outlined in this policy inform the Schedule of Fees that is determined by QQI and agreed with the Ministers.

Practice in relation to charging fees for services differed in the past across the predecessor organisations. In some parts of the education and training sector, there is no tradition of fees being charged. However, QQI incurs costs in providing services and it is therefore considered reasonable for it to charge appropriately. Where possible, fees charged will be benchmarked against fees charged by comparable bodies both within and outside of the state.

QQI is aware that the range of providers with whom it has a relationship is diverse. A significant number of providers are state funded, in whole or in part. Some providers have charitable status and are not-for-profit, while others are for-profit businesses. It is important to note that many providers who engage with QQI, and become relevant providers, do so on a voluntary basis. They may (and some do) enter into arrangements with other awarding bodies.

This policy applies to all education and training providers who are, or who seek to become, relevant providers and who avail of services for which fees are provided for under the 2012 Act. This will include providers whose only engagement with QQI will be



for the use of the IEM. It will also apply to learners who make an application for a QQI award.

2.1 **Legal Interpretation**

Fees for a range of services are provided for in the 2012 Act as specified in Section 80.

The 2012 Act also provides for:

- Different fees for different applications, requests, submissions and reviews for the same provider
- Different fees for different classes of applications, requests, submissions and reviews
- Exemptions from the payment of fees in specified circumstances
- Waivers, remissions, or refunds, in whole or in part, of fees in specified circumstances
- The sequencing of payment of fees (see Appendix 1)

The 2012 Act specifies that the annual charge for the IEM shall not exceed €50,000 per provider.

QQI proposes a Schedule of Fees to the Minister for Education and Skills and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. QQI will publish the Schedule of Fees as soon as practicable after the consent of the Ministers is received. QQI may subsequently adjust the Schedule of Fees in line with changes in the Consumer Price Index without ministerial consent.

3 **PRINCIPLES**

The fees determined by QQI are governed by a set of principles:

- 3.1** Fees will be comprehensive and coherent.
- 3.2** Fees will be fair, transparent and fit for purpose.
- 3.3** Fees will apply to awards at all levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.
- 3.4** Fees will apply to services availed of by relevant providers and learners.
- 3.5** Fees will promote cost transparency, including in respect of various public funding streams.
- 3.6** Fees will reflect the amount and complexity of the work undertaken by QQI in considering different applications, requests, submissions and reviews.
- 3.7** Fees will reflect the added-value of the service to the beneficiary.

- [3.8](#) Fees will support QQI's approach to engagement with providers when they have a reasonable prospect of a positive outcome from their application.
- [3.9](#) Fees will be set at a level that is sustainable both for QQI and for the education and training sector.
- [3.10](#) The determination of fees will have regard to public policy priorities.
- [3.11](#) The determination of fees will have regard to the nature, type and mission of providers and the programmes they offer.
- [3.12](#) Providers must be in good financial standing with QQI. Providers who fail to pay fees or charges will be subject to sanctions.
- [3.13](#) Exemptions and waivers may be provided for in specified circumstances.
- [3.14](#) Fees will be charged for the resubmission of applications for validation.
- [3.15](#) Fees will be consolidated into a single composite fee where QQI has multiple relationships with a provider, and where there are clear synergies and efficiencies.
- [3.16](#) Fees for some services will be set at a level which will reflect full cost recovery, including for transnational activity.
- [3.17](#) A range of fees for individual services may apply.
- [3.18](#) A single multi-annual fee will be considered where possible.
- [3.19](#) A reduction in fees may apply when certain methods of payment are chosen.
- [3.20](#) Fees will be adjusted regularly for inflation.
- [3.21](#) Fees will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis, and as required, to ensure sustainability.

**APPENDIX 1****Sequence in which fees are payable in accordance with the 2012 Act:**

	Service	Fee payable with application	Fee payable within one month of the completion of the review
1.	Agreement of Quality Assurance procedures	Yes	
2.	Review of Quality Assurance Procedures		Yes
3.	Request from designated provider to review a linked provider	Yes	
4.	Review of the Quality Assurance Procedures of the National University of Ireland		Yes
5.	Programme validation	Yes	
6.	Review of programme validation		Yes
7.	Making awards	Yes	
8.	Making joint awards	Yes	
9.	Application for delegated authority to make awards	Yes	
10.	Review of delegated authority to make awards		Yes
11.	Approval of procedures for access, transfer and progression	Yes	
12.	Review of procedures for access, transfer and progression		Yes
13.	Application to use the International Education Mark	Yes	
14.	Review of use the International Education Mark		Yes
15.	Appeals	Yes	

The annual charge for the use of the International Education Mark is payable on or before the anniversary date of its authorisation.



www.QQI.ie

26/27 Denzille Lane,
Dublin 2,
Ireland.
t +353 (0) 1 905 8100