

# The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) replaced the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) (formally known as the National Qualification Framework (NQF) in October 2015.

## What is the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)?

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) is a national register of qualifications regulated by Ofqual (in England), DCELLS (in Wales) and CCEA (in Northern Ireland). The regulators ensure that the standard of the qualifications and the awarding bodies meet certain regulatory requirements which are agreed by the regulators in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

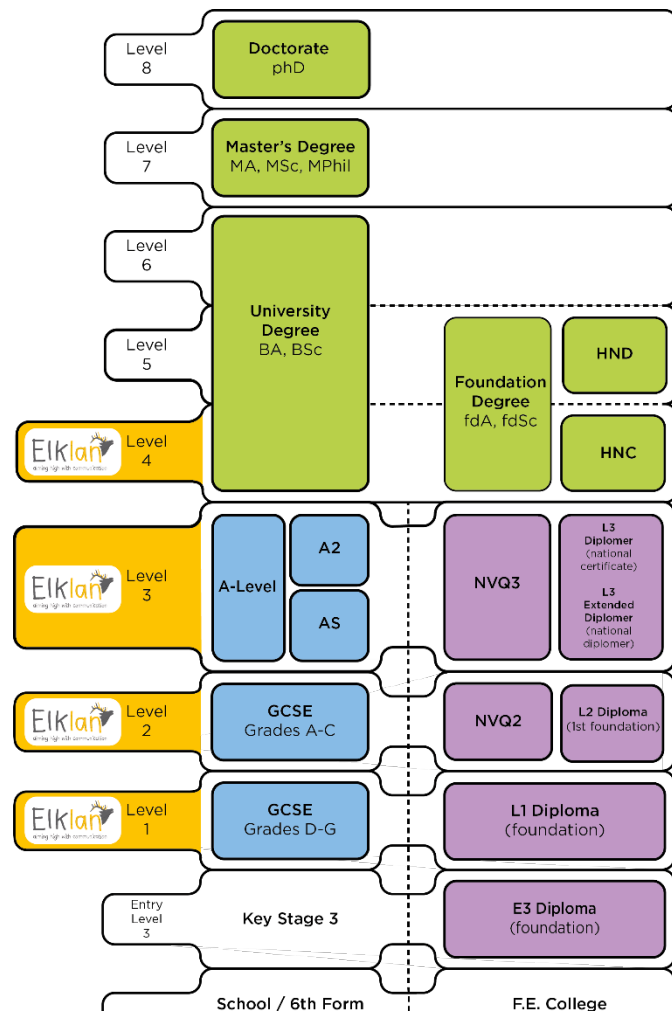
The RCF system is based on units which have credit value and levels (from Entry Level to Level 8).

## What do the different 'levels' mean?

The table below shows the equivalent level of study. So an RQF level 3 requires a similar level of study as an A level or NVQ3. Elklan courses are available at levels 1-4 but it is important to appreciate that an Elklan level 3 is NOT equivalent to an A-level it just states the level of study.

## What does the term 'credit' mean?

One credit roughly equals 10 hours spent learning. For Elklan courses this includes face-to-face training with a qualified Elklan tutor, e-learning and personal study – observations, reading, planning activities to complete portfolio tasks and writing up portfolios. Most Elklan courses are 9 credit courses but some courses are 3, 6 or 10 credits.



## What qualification is achieved?

There are different levels of qualifications depending on the number of credits.

**An award** = 1-12 credit courses

**A certificate** = 13-26 credits. Elklan offers certificate level qualifications by combining certain courses e.g. 'Speech and Language Support for 5-11s' (9 credits at level 3) and 'Creating Communication Friendly Settings (10 credits at level 4). This gives a total of 19 credits so learners receive a 'Certificate' level qualification.

**A diploma** = over 37 credits. Elklan does not offer diploma qualifications.

## What is an Awarding Centre?

Elklan is an Awarding Centre. Elklan is able to deliver courses which are quality assured by an Awarding Body. All Elklan courses are checked by internal verifiers to ensure a standard quality of portfolio evidence is submitted across the UK and other countries. An organisation such as Elklan has to apply to an awarding body and undergo a rigorous process of quality assurance to become a centre and maintain this status.

## What is an Awarding Body?

An awarding body regulates awarding centres. There are a number of different awarding bodies in the UK but they are all regulated by a single organisation such as Ofqual in England (see above for more details). It is the awarding bodies' responsibility to quality assure courses delivered by their awarding centres. Elklan's awarding body is OCN London.

## The following table compares the English, Welsh, Scottish, Irish and European Qualification Frameworks

England, Wales and Northern Ireland RQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	Irish Credit and Qualifications Framework (QQI)	European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
8	12	10	8
7	11	9	7
6	10/9	8/7	6
5/4	8/7	6	5
3	6	5/4	4
2	5	3	3
1	4	2/1	2/1

### **What happens in Ireland?**

Ireland has a credit based system too but they are regulated by the QQI (Quality Qualifications Ireland). Please note - the levels are slightly different to that in the UK.

A Level 2 qualification = an Irish Level 3

A Level 3 qualification = an Irish Level 5 qualification.

Qualifications on the RQF in England are recognised by the QQI. The Ireland/UK equivalent levels are now printed on the reverse of every Elklan certificate.