

COMMUNICATION TO LICENSED FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

<i>Title:</i> Qualification Level for Tutors		
<i>From:</i> Sandro Spiteri, Director	<i>Date:</i> 15 th October 2014	<i>Comm. No.:</i> 23/2014

Dear colleagues

Since before the setting up of the Malta Qualifications Council (MQC), the accepted practice in Malta has been that generally speaking, the tutor or lecturer of a course¹ would have qualification/s of an MQF Level that would be higher than the course itself. This is the principle with which the accreditation of courses has been processed by the MQC and, since 2012, by the NCFHE. The following regulations are intended to serve as guidelines for providers. In all cases, the NCFHE reserves the right to determine particular requirements on a case-by-case basis.

1. Academic courses pegged at MQF Levels 1 – 5 require tutors² who are qualified at least with a relevant degree or equivalent at MQF Level 6.
2. In addition to point 1 above, mainstream academic courses³ require tutors who are in possession of a valid Teacher's Warrant issued or otherwise recognised by the Council for the Teaching Profession as per the Education Act.
3. Vocational courses at MQF Levels 1 – 4 require tutors who are qualified at least with a relevant full qualification at Level 5.
4. Vocational courses at MQF Levels 5 and 6 as well as academic courses at Levels 6 and 7 require tutors who have a full relevant qualification at least one Level up from the course being provided.
5. In the case of vocational courses up to level 5, when there is clear evidence that the local market does not provide tutors of the required qualification level, the NCFHE will consider proposals for twinned provision, namely that in which a highly-experienced and effective tutor with a lower qualification level is mentored by a colleague with a qualification at the appropriate level, who is preferably also be involved in co-delivery, to ensure that the required level of learning outcomes delivery and assessment is maintained. Such proposals would have to indicate clearly the role of the mentoring tutor, what relevant documentation is being retained to substantiate this role and how this documentation is being used for IQA purposes.

¹ In this Communication, 'course' refers to any full or partial programme of studies that is or in the process of being accredited.

² In this Communication, 'tutors' refers to any lecturer, tutor, teacher or other person providing tuition of any kind, including supervised and distance learning.

³ i.e. similar in content to those provided in Malta's schools, VI Forms and Junior College

6. Degrees and other courses at Level 7 need to have course/module coordinators with a full relevant qualification at Level 8. Such courses may include input from tutors that have a full relevant qualification at Level 7 and at least 10 years of relevant high level / executive experience in the field, which needs to be specified in the application. The academic/theoretical aspects of such degrees still require input from tutors with a full relevant qualification at Level 8.
7. Courses at MQF Level 8 require tutors at MQF Level 8.
8. In the case of courses that are not clearly academic, vocational or professional/executive in nature, the NCFHE shall make a final judgement as to the category and process accordingly.

Regards

Sandro Spiteri
Director for Quality Assurance