

COMMUNICATION TO LICENSED FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Title: Providing Correct Information to Prospective Students of Courses Accredited by OFQUAL		
From: Sandro Spiteri, Head of QA Unit	Date: 20 th April 2015	Comm. No.: 05/2015

Dear colleagues

The NCFHE register has recently been updated to provide further information. It should be noted that some local providers offer UK programmes that are accredited by OFQUAL. The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (OFQUAL) regulates non-university qualifications, examinations and assessments in England and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. Its main responsibilities include making sure that:

- regulated qualifications reliably indicate the knowledge, skills and understanding students have demonstrated;
- assessments and exams show what a student has achieved;
- people have confidence in the qualifications that we regulate;
- students and teachers have information on the full range of qualifications that we regulated.

As from May 2015, courses offered by licence holders that are accredited through OFQUAL shall be hyperlinked on the NCFHE Register to provide relevant information including the operational end date and certification end date. Local providers offering such courses are to take note of the following:

- **Operational End Date** is the **last date** candidate can register for the qualification.
- **Certification End Date** means that the candidate must be **Certified ON or BEFORE** that date, meaning that the certificate needs to be dated prior to the Certification End Date. After that particular date the qualification is not regulated by OFQUAL and therefore cannot be recognized by the NCFHE.
- In a few cases, the OFQUAL website gives the Operational End Date and the Certificate End Date for a particular course as the same. Local providers have the duty to inform prospective learners that in all such cases, the Certification End Date is deemed by the NCFHE to be operative. In practice, these courses should not be offered by the local provider.

In view of the above, local accredited providers shall commit to ensure that any further provision of programmes that are accredited by OFQUAL will respect the operational and certification end date. This information is available on <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Qualification>

Regards

Sandro Spiteri

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