

PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND PROFESSIONAL AWARDS MADE IN IRELAND

There are a large number of professional bodies operating in Ireland. The role and functions of professional bodies can include the regulation of a profession or the use of a professional title; providing representation; offering opportunities for continuous professional development; and standard setting. Where a profession is regulated by law, a competent authority is assigned to determine the eligibility or otherwise of applicants seeking to work within that field. The competent authority will maintain a register of persons qualified to work in the profession and will review and make decisions on qualifications presented from abroad in line with EU law. Professions which are not regulated may have a voluntary system of registration organised by the respective professional body.

Some professional bodies, established by statute or Charter, offer awards leading to membership and/or registration with the body. Bodies not established by statute or Charter may however enjoy strong public recognition of their awards. Where professional bodies do not themselves make awards, they often assess education awards and/or other criteria in determining eligibility for membership/registration.

The NQAI published its policies on the inclusion/alignment of the awards of professional bodies in the National Framework of Qualifications in 2006. They are available from the following link: <http://www.nqai.ie/applications.html>

A list of the regulated professions in Ireland is available here: <http://www.education.ie/home/home.jsp?maincat=17216&pcategory=17216&ecategory=28970§ionpage=12251&language=EN&link=link001&page=1&doc=26573>