

Qualifications Recognition – Ireland 2007 Annual Report

Applications Received

During 2007, Qualifications Recognition – Ireland dealt with approximately 9,500 queries and applications, which is a 31.9% increase on the previous year. This figure includes applications concerning the recognition of foreign qualifications as well as applications and enquiries from individuals, employers and other stakeholders concerning a variety of qualification-related matters.

1,840 applications requesting recognition of a foreign qualification were received from 100 different countries, 1,401 of these were processed and closed by the end of 2007. The remaining 439 applications include those that require further research to establish comparability and applications that did not contain sufficient information in order to make a determination.

Since 2006, the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland has assisted in determining the comparability of foreign qualifications for the purposes of meeting the minimum entry requirements for An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service. The figures below reflect applications for 2007 concerning higher education, further education, school awards and those applications received in relation to the Garda competition (these are captured under the school award column).

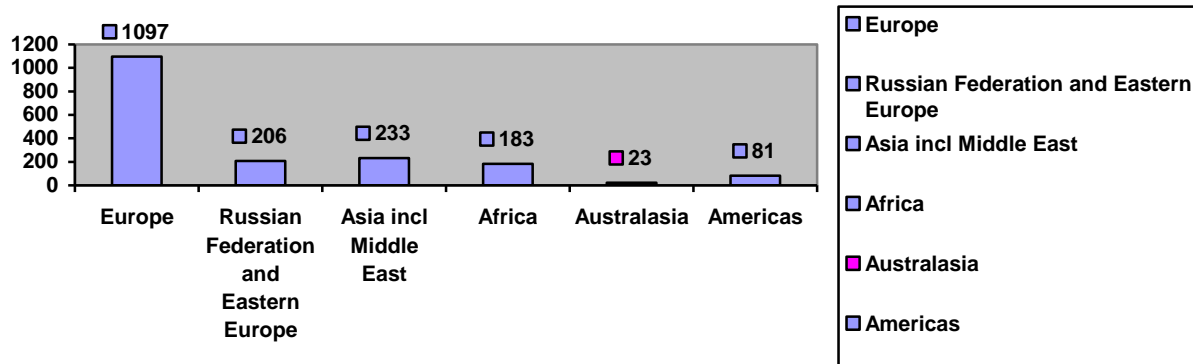
Country	DES	Higher Ed	Further Ed	Garda	Non Higher ed	Teagasc	Total
Abijan							
Albania	2	2	1				5
Algeria		4	2				6
Arab Repub of Egypt		1					1
Argentina		5	1				6
Australia	8	7	5				20
Austria			1				1
Azerbaijan		1					1
Bangladesh		3		1			4
Belarus		32	2				34
Belgium		4					4
Botswana		1					1
Brazil	1	9	2	1			13
Bulgaria	2	16	2				20
Cameroon		5	1				6
Canada		6					6
China	3	14	3	27	1		48
Colombia		1					1
Congo		1					1
Costa Rica		1					1
Cuba	1	3					4
Cyprus		1		1			2
Czech Republic	3	7	7		1		18
Denmark			1				1
Egypt		6					6
England	1	5	11	3	22	3	45
Estonia	2	3	2		1		8
Ethiopia		1	1		1		3
Finland		2	1				3
France	2	8	5		1		16
Georgia		4					4
Germany	6	18	21	1	3		49
Greece		2					2
Ghana	1						1
Hungary		12	3				15
India/India		64	11	3	1		79
Iran		3					3
Iraq		20	1				21
Ireland	3		14	7	36	4	64
Italy	3	15	2				20
Ivory Coast					1		1
Jersey					1		1
Jordan		2					2
Kazakhstan		3					3

Kenya			2		1		3
Latvia	3	18	6	4	2		33
Lithuania	7	65	9	4	1		86
Macedonia	1	1					2
Malawi		1					1
Malaysia		1					1
Malta		2					2
Mauritius	1	3	1	1	1		7
Moldova		19	4	1			24
Mongolia		3					3
Morocco		1					1
Namibia		1	1				2
Nepal		2	1	1			4
Netherlands		6	3				9
New Zealand	1		2				3
Nigeria	7	84	4		12		107
Northern Ireland	3	1		18	4	1	27
Norway				1			1
Pakistan	6	11	1	5			23
Peru	1						1
Phillippines		27		1	1		29
Poland	18	281	87	22	21		429
Portugal		5			1		6
Republic of Guinea		1					1
Romania	6	56	12	2	1		77
Russia	3	51	5		1		60
Scotland	1	1	1	4	5		12
Serbia		6					6
Slovakia	2	27	7		1		37
South Africa	2	7	4	2			15
South Korea		1					1
Spain	4	18	7	1	1		31
Suceava		1					1
Sudan		4					4
Sweden		1	1				2
Switzerland			2				2
Syria		2					2
Tadjikistan		1					1
Taiwan		1					1
Thailand	1	1					2
Togo	1						1
Turkey		2					2
Turkey	2	12	3				17
U.S.A	1	7					8
Uganda	1	2					3
UK	4	19	13	5	23	2	66
United Arab Emirates	1						1

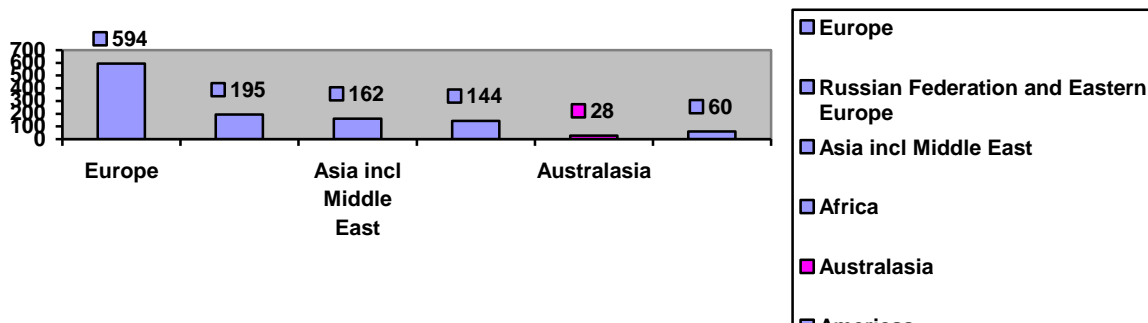
Ukraine	2	51	9		1		63
USA	4	30	5	2	5		46
Venezuela		1					1
Vietnam		1		1			2
Wales	2				3		5
West Indies		1					1
Zaire			1				1
Zambia	1	1					2
Zimbabwe		10	2				12
Total	123	1140	294	119	154	10	1840

During 2007, 60% of applications originated from countries in the European Union, 11.3% came from the Russian Federation and Rest of Europe, 12.7% from Asia, while 10% came from Africa, 1.2% from Australasia and 4.4% from the America(s).

2007



2006



General Queries

Qualifications Recognition Ireland operates an open door policy and as such accepts queries and applications from people calling into the office during working hours of 8.30 – 5.30. In addition to this we receive many queries by phone, fax and e-mail. It has been observed that the number of queries has increased over the past year; in particular there is now regular communication with the county councils, vocational education committees and some regulating professions for the purposes of assisting with award recognition.

Recognition agencies in other countries and professional bodies in Ireland and abroad also contact us from time to time seeking clarification of Irish awards.

In 2007 the recognition service was enhanced by the publication of an international database of qualifications on the recognition website which currently features ten countries, listing the national qualifications available in the country and the comparable Irish qualification. Applications from Poland, UK and Romania are processed as 'rapid responses', as comparabilities between awards available in the Irish education system and these systems have been established.

Awarding bodies consulted

In processing applications for recognition, the Authority reviews its database to establish if precedence has been set on a previously assessed application. If the Authority has established the comparability of the award previously, the applicant is informed of the outcome by the Authority. If the award has not been dealt with previously, the Authority endeavours to establish the comparability of the award within the context of the National Framework of Qualifications and may seek the advice of an awarding body in Ireland.

Review Process

Cases may occur where individuals are not satisfied with the recognition advice with which they have been issued by Qualifications Recognition - Ireland. The review process is applicable to academic recognition applications which have been processed by Qualifications Recognition - Ireland. The professional recognition system is a distinct process which has its own appeals mechanism in place which is separate from this review process.

A report on the reassessment applications received in 2007 is attached below.

Report on Reassessment Applications received in 2007

The review process currently engaged by Qualifications Recognition - Ireland consists of three stages:

1. Information Provision
2. Formal Reassessment
3. Formal Review

1. Information Provision

The aim of the advice provided by Qualifications Recognition Ireland is to clearly set out how the foreign qualification held by an individual compares to a qualification that is placed at a particular level on the National Framework of Qualifications. In the majority of cases applicants find the information to be clear in its content. In some more complex cases applicants are seeking clarification on points made in the advice issued and these can be addressed with an early response either via e-mail or telephone.

2. Formal Reassessment

In 2007, 14 applications were received requesting formal reassessment of their qualifications, 11 are higher education qualifications, 2 relate to further education qualifications and 1 related to a school qualification.

Out of these 14, 1 related to an award assessed in 2005, 6 related to awards assessed in 2006 and 7 related to awards assessed in 2007.

5 out of 14 resulted in the award being recognised at the next highest level on in the National Framework of Qualifications e.g. Ordinary Bachelor Degree being amended to Honours Bachelor Degree.

6 remained the same and 3 applications remain open.

3. Formal Review

1 formal review request has been received by the Authority and is currently being investigated.