

CFA's Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement benchmarked to Bachelor Level

The CFA Institute has received a further boost with UK NARIC benchmarking their Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement Expert Level and the professional designation to Bachelor Level.

In the recent benchmarking project, UK NARIC assessed the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute's Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement (CIPM) programme and professional designation. Each level of the CIPM programme has been compared against levels within the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) as follows:

- CIPM Expert Level and the professional designation are comparable to QCF Level 6
- CIPM Principles Level is comparable to QCF Level 5

Dr Cloud Bai-Yun stated "The benchmarking of the CIPM provides a useful reference point for employers and educational bodies, indicating the comparability and value of the global standard in performance measurement. Both the CIPM Association and designation holders will benefit greatly from NARIC's wider publication of results, which will aim to increase recognition of the CIPM qualification and designation alongside the CFA charter."

Philip Lawton, CFA, CIPM, head of the CIPM program, said, "The recognition by UK NARIC of the CIPM designation as comparable to a Bachelor's degree level is a great honour and a big step forward for the CIPM programme. We at CFA Institute are delighted that the CIPM has joined the CFA programme in being recognised for the high level of learning and understanding that it demands."

UK BA launch draft Good Practice Guide



The UK Border Agency has published a draft guidance document that sets out the practices that are expected to be adopted by education providers wishing to attain Highly Trusted Sponsor status. The document, published in March this year, sits alongside the Tier 4 Guidance

documents and specifies advice and highlights issues that they would like all sponsors to be aware of when recruiting international students.

There are a number of areas covered by the guide: personal circumstances of the potential migrant, financial considerations, educational background and assessment of ability, use of overseas recruitment agents and geographical areas.

"The document is something that providers have been asking for," commented Ian Bassett, Head of NARIC Service Group. "The feedback we have had from new and existing members has been very positive."

"The information in the guide is very useful," said Poppy Sharpe, Head of Membership Services. "It sets out what UK BA expects providers to do, and it does it very clearly. One of the key areas that concerns UK BA is the intention of the individual to study, and the best way of proving this is through previous academic attainment"

The guidance document states that UK BA "...expects students applying to come to the UK under Tier 4 to have a proven track record of study, which they can demonstrate to sponsors, to provide some assurance of their genuine intention to further their study at an institution in the UK."

One of the key areas to consider is qualification equivalence. UK BA states that "The sponsor should use a service to establish the British equivalence of the qualifications presented e.g. UK NARIC."

UK NCP Update

NATIONAL CONTACT POINT
for PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

In April, UK NCP launched a new website to replace the 'Europe Open' site – this can now be accessed at www.ukncp.org.uk. The new site features a drop-down interface for finding the details on regulated professions in the UK and the associated competent authority, as well as links to sources of information on the professional recognition system (for now, www.europeopen.org.uk will redirect to the new site, but remember to change your bookmarks!)

Additionally, UK NCP coordinated the response to a European Commission survey on EU professional recognition during the month of June. Involving the input of multiple UK professional bodies, the survey focused on the experience of individuals applying for professional recognition in the EU. UK NCP and the professional bodies drew on their expertise in dealing with applicants for professional recognition to comment on questions about the expectations applicants have regarding the process, the timing of their enquiries, and the difficulties that are most often encountered (which included problems obtaining enough information about the person's qualification and the difficulties associated with submitting multiple documents that must also first be translated).



Europass

At the midway point of 2010, there are further encouraging signs, with statistics indicating that Europass usage is continuing to increase. A dramatic increase in CV, Language Passport and Mobility Supplement usage is evident, with forecast figures for 2010 seeing nearly a 100% increase.

Ongoing collaborations with other EU Programmes, particularly the Lifelong Learning Programme, are yielding improved uptake for the Mobility Supplement. This is evident in particular with the Leonardo da Vinci Programme, and the Mobility Supplement's role in recording and formalising Mobility



experiences in Europe is increasingly being recognised. The UK NEC has been invited to, and has attended Leonardo da Vinci start-up meetings with a view to further promotion of this document, as well as other LLP events such as Comenius' E-twinning event.

The UK NEC has been involved in the development of an iPhone application for the Language Passport, which provides individuals with an alternative interface to the traditional web based form. This exciting tool enables users to complete the Language Passport in their iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad and have a completed PDF document sent to their email address. The Application is now available free of charge from iTunes.

As well as receiving considerable interest at a number of graduate and careers fairs, the UK NEC has increased Europass' presence through collaborations with various organisations, including:

- Eurodesk, Euroguidance and EURES
- The Lifelong Learning Programmes, through ECOTEC and the British Council
- The Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Europe Unit
- The Bologna Experts
- The Welsh Assembly at the CQFW 26th Credit Common Accord Forum
- England and Northern Ireland European Qualifications Framework Contact Point
- Council of Wales for Voluntary Youth Services

In particular, in the next few months, the UK NEC is particularly looking forward to four seminars (one in each of the four devolved administrations), that are being hosted in collaboration with the British Council, aimed at promoting the Europass Diploma Supplement.

What's new

After a few months' busy research, a number of key updates have been made on our three main databases: *International Comparisons (IC)*, *Vocational Comparisons (VC)* and *Teaching Comparisons (TC)*. In line with the UK NARIC Information Development Plan, the work of the Research and Data team during the first half of the year has focused on updates to the Grade Comparisons database. The following country files have been fully or partially reviewed and updated on IC, following desk based research:

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|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| • Austria | • France | • Netherlands |
| • Belgium | • Germany | • Norway |
| • Bulgaria | • Greece | • Poland |
| • Croatia | • Hungary | • Romania |
| • Cyprus | • Iceland | • Russian Federation |
| • Denmark | • Ireland | • Scotland |
| • England, Wales and Northern Ireland | • Italy | • Slovenia |
| • Estonia | • Latvia | • Slovakia |
| • Finland | • Lithuania | • Sweden |
| | • Luxembourg | • Switzerland |
| | • Malta | |

The HEI lists for 38 countries have been fully or partially updated, including Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian National Authority/West Bank & Gaza, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sweden, Tanzania, UAE, Ukraine and Venezuela, covering more than 312 institutions. Forty qualifications and/or comparability statements have been added or changed, largely as a result of the latest information gathered through desk-based research and information provided by overseas authorities.

Where have we been?

Research in the last three months has been mainly desk-based, but we made one study visit to Vietnam. New information and data is being reviewed and processed in order to appear on UK NARIC products in the near future.

Research update

The current research work being undertaken by UK NARIC has focused on continued work with current commercial and funded projects. In addition to this, there has been a flurry of activity from the recruitment perspective, with the addition of four new project officers to augment staff numbers within the group.

Commercial projects have witnessed the successful completion of the benchmarking report for the South African National Senior Certificate, as mentioned in the cover story of this edition. In addition, a number of proposals for benchmarking qualifications have been submitted to various bodies within the UK professional sector. Other proposals have been submitted for qualifications from India, Australia and the United States.

Work continues on European co-funded projects; the CoRe 2 project is now entering into the final stages with completion anticipated for the autumn. The central aim behind this work is the development of a degree profile template for graduates in higher education throughout Europe.

The addition of the new members of staff is expected to increase the capacity for delivery of a greater number of research-based projects in the coming year.

Stats

The number of individual enquiries received by UK NARIC has increased slightly over the last four months compared to the same period in 2009. During this time, an average of 2250 Statements of Comparability per month were issued to individuals from countries worldwide. The majority of enquiries received from individuals relate to professional employment; undergraduate education is the least common purpose of enquiry representing less than 5% of the total number of enquiries received from individuals. India, Pakistan and Poland remain top of the country league, followed by Philippines, South Africa and Nigeria.

In recent months, over 85% of enquiries received from subscribing organisations have been submitted from the Higher Education sector. Here China, India, UK and Pakistan are top of the country league.

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS

Annual Conference 2010: CHANGE OF DATE & VENUE

Due to a significant increase in membership, the UK NARIC Annual Conference will now be held on 8th & 9th of November 2010 at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London. Following the success of last year, we once again have the first day focusing on the needs of education members, and the second day on the needs of our members from the commercial sector, as well as those from Professional Bodies and Careers Advisory Services. Information about the event will be sent out to members in the near future.

UK NARIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hotel Russell, London	08/11/2010	All day
Hotel Russell, London	09/11/2010	All day

Internal and External Training Events UK

Demand for our training has increased significantly over the past few months and we are pleased to announce the following sessions are taking place across the UK and Ireland:

Morning sessions run from 09.30-12.30 and afternoon sessions from 13.30-16.30.

DEGREES OF DECEPTION – COMBATING EDUCATION FRAUD

Southampton Solent University, Southampton	09/09/2010	Morning
The Studio, Manchester	28/09/2010	Morning
Jurys Inn Custom House, Dublin	20/10/2010	Afternoon
Mostyn Hotel, London	04/11/2010	Morning

EVALUATING INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Southampton Solent University, Southampton	08/09/2010	Morning
The Studio, Manchester	27/09/2010	Morning
Jurys Inn Custom House, Dublin	20/10/2010	Morning
Mostyn Hotel, London	03/11/2010	Morning

USING UK NARIC'S INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Southampton Solent University, Southampton	08/09/2010	Afternoon
The Studio, Manchester	27/09/2010	Afternoon

EDUCATION IN CHINA

Southampton Solent University, Southampton	09/09/2010	Afternoon
The Studio, Manchester	29/09/2010	Morning
Jurys Inn Custom House, Dublin	21/10/2010	Morning

EDUCATION IN EASTERN EU MEMBER STATES

The Studio, Manchester	28/09/2010	Afternoon
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EDUCATION IN ENGLISH SPEAKING AFRICA

Mostyn Hotel, London	04/11/2010	Afternoon
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EDUCATION IN INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH

Jurys Inn Custom House, Dublin	21/10/2010	Afternoon
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EDUCATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Mostyn Hotel, London	03/11/2010	Afternoon
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EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Studio, Manchester	29/09/2010	Afternoon
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Early Bird Training Discount

If you book up to two months before the event, the cost will be £200 + VAT for a half day (instead of £225 + VAT) and £350 + VAT for a full day (instead of £400 + VAT). Member organisations should contact their **Account Manager** for more information.

For more details on UK NARIC Training courses, or if you would like to host your own event, please contact our training department on e. sales@naric.org.uk or t. +44 (0)871 330 7303.

UK NARIC training in Canada

During May and June, the UK NARIC training team travelled to Canada for the first time to provide our growing number of Canadian members with two day training sessions in Toronto and Vancouver.

The sessions held were *Evaluating International Qualifications, Education in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Degrees of Deception* and *Education in the Middle East*. They were very well attended by members from 20 different institutions. One of the most popular topics of conversation was the developments in European Higher Education Area and the Bologna Process, and both events saw sharing of best practice with the other credential evaluators from different regional offices. Additionally, delegates found the sessions were a great forum for sharing ideas on admission practices. The trip was also a great opportunity for UK NARIC to meet our Canadian members from different regions.

The trip was a success and well received, and we look forward to going over again in 2011.

Feedback

If you have any comments about the service that we provide, or any of the articles in this edition of NARIC News, please contact us on feedback@naric.org.uk

FOR FULL DETAILS ON UK NARIC SERVICES AND MEMBERSHIP CONTACT US DIRECTLY:

For Training, Customer Service and Membership Information t +44 (0) 871 330 7303 f. +44 (0) 871 330 7005 e. customer.services@naric.org.uk
Member Hotline for Qualification Queries t +44 (0) 871 330 8781 f. +44 (0) 871 330 7005 e. naric.member@naric.org.uk
Technical Support t +44 (0) 871 330 9332 f. +44 (0) 871 330 7005 e. technical.support@naric.org.uk