



Supporting International Understanding and Recognition of THE-ICE members' Qualifications

About UK NARIC

Who we are

UK NARIC is the UK's National Agency responsible for providing informed advice and guidance on vocational, academic and professional qualifications from over 190 countries worldwide. The information provided by UK NARIC enables organisations, institutions and government departments across the globe to develop informed opinions when considering qualifications or training systems from overseas.

UK NARIC also manages a number of programmes and agencies on behalf of British Government¹. This work has further enabled UK NARIC to develop a strong network of national and international experts and stakeholders within different sectors, at institutional, organisational and governmental levels.

What we do

With the knowledge and expertise acquired from running these agencies, UK NARIC has established itself as an expert and leading voice in the recognition, understanding and evaluation of international qualifications, playing a key role in research, consultancy and training.

Through successful delivery of an extensive portfolio of projects, UK NARIC has developed and refined robust and dynamic methodologies over the last decade, with particular expertise in the following areas:

- Comparative analysis and benchmarking of qualifications
- Evaluation of educational and training programmes
- Guidance on recognition criteria and processes
- Qualification framework development and referencing
- Implementation of quality assurance principles and mechanisms in higher education, vocational education and training and professional education
- Skills mapping in a number of different sectors.

¹ The [UK National Europass Centre](#), the [UK Centre for Professional Qualifications](#)¹, [ECVET England](#), [UK ReferNet](#)

Recognition Services for THE-ICE members

UK NARIC, building on THE-ICE accreditation, is able to offer THE-ICE members three streamlined services

1. Qualifications Benchmarking
2. TVET - Quality Review and Accreditation
3. TNE Quality Benchmark.

Qualifications Benchmarking

Qualifications Benchmarking serves to enhance international understanding of providers' qualifications with a view to supporting recognition of skills and qualifications by institutions, employers and other key stakeholders, enabling graduate progression and mobility.

Qualifications Benchmarking determines the comparable level of a qualification or a set of qualifications against agreed national or international qualifications frameworks. It is based on a desk-based analysis of the core components of a qualification, that is: duration, structure and content, learning outcomes, assessment and grading and certification, and associated outcomes (i.e. progression routes to further study or employment).

Outcomes

The outcome of Qualification Benchmarking consists in a Statement of Comparability and a short (8-10 pages) publishable summary findings report.

- *Statement of Comparability*

This is a formal statement affirming the appropriate level of the benchmarked qualification within the national qualifications framework used as reference point; for countries with no national qualifications framework, reference is made to the most appropriate qualification level.

NOTE: graduates of benchmarked qualifications will also be able to request, as an additional service, a Statement of Comparability stating that their qualification has been benchmarked by UK NARIC against the agreed reference point for the benchmarking exercise at the determined level. This is a statement that graduates can present to employers or other education institutions for further studies.²

- *Findings reports*

The report offers an overview of the benchmarked qualifications (with a focus on its core components), and a concise comparative analysis with the selected reference framework. A summary of the UK NARIC benchmarking methodology is provided, together with final comparability outcome

² This is an additional service which will be charged separately to graduates at a cost of £49.50 + VAT. It is possible to agree with providers bundles of statements for reduced prices.

Benefits to THE-ICE members

Qualifications Benchmarking could be carried out independently or in conjunction with THE-ICE accreditation. In both cases, UK NARIC will be able to rely on THE-ICE accreditation to provide confidence about the institutional quality assurance policies and practices. It is also expected that THE-ICE members will not need a full report with detailed benchmarking analysis and recommendations for improving their qualifications' alignment with the qualifications framework of reference. This will allow UK NARIC to streamline its Qualification Benchmarking service reducing costs.

Costs

The costs of a standard Qualification Benchmarking exercise vary depending on its specific nature and scope, normally ranging between £18,000 and £20,000 for one qualification, with each additional qualification costed at £9,000 / £10,000.

Being able to rely on THE-ICE accreditation, the cost of a Qualification Benchmarking exercise for THE-ICE accredited institutions will be in the range of £9,500 for one qualification, with additional qualifications costed at about £5,000 each.

For providers with a large portfolio of qualifications it will be possible to carry out a qualification benchmarking exercise looking at a representative sample of qualifications, with the outcome applying to the whole suite of qualifications

TVET Quality Review and Accreditation (TVET-QRA)

Vocational Education and Training Quality Review and Accreditation (TVET-QRA) offers vocational education and training providers operating in any national jurisdiction an independent peer review assessment that can lead to UK NARIC accreditation.

TVET-QRA assesses whether a TVET provider meets a set of standards developed in alignment with the European Quality Assurance Reference Frameworks for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET).

TVET-QRA builds on UK NARIC's extensive experience of vocational education and training in the European context, as the National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) for England, and the coordinator of UK ReferNet, the European network of reference and expertise in Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

It further complements and draws on UK NARIC expertise in providing guidance on the recognition of professional qualifications as the Centre for Professional Qualifications, and the support UK NARIC offers VETASSES, Australia's leading vocational education and training (TVET) skills assessment provider, in the assessment of skills of residents of the UK and Europe who want to migrate to Australia.

Outcomes:

The outcome of TVET-QRA is a findings report including recommendations for improvement and a recommendation to the TVET-QRA Accreditation Board to confer the TVET-QRA Quality Mark.

A successful TVET-QRA review will entitle accredited providers to

- use the **TVET-QRA Quality Mark**;
- be listed on **the TVET-QRA section** of the UK NARIC **International Comparisons database**, consulted worldwide to inform recognition decisions.

Detailed information about the TVET-QRA scheme can be found [here](#).

Benefits to THE-ICE members

THE-ICE members will be able to benefit from a streamlined TVET-QRA review, either in conjunction with or independent from THE-ICE accreditation, with reduced costs.

Exact costs can be affected by a number of considerations, including the size and complexity of the operation, and the possibility to carry out joint reviews with other accreditation bodies, including THE-ICE itself. Costs will be discussed on an individual basis with interested providers.

TNE Quality Benchmark (TNE QB)

TNE QB is the international peer-review process through which UK NARIC provides external and independent reassurance that an awarding institution has the capacity to deliver TNE qualifications that:

- are of comparable standards to those of similar provision it offers in its home country (or across its delivery model for online learning);
- provide a learning experience that ensures the achievement of the expected learning outcomes;
- take into account the education, training and skills needs of the location of delivery

TNE QB serves the primary purpose of improving international understanding of and confidence in TNE qualifications, with a view to facilitating the international recognition of TNE qualifications.

TNE QB is informed by UK NARIC's broader strategic engagement with national authorities, regulators, qualifications recognition bodies, networks, and other TNE stakeholders internationally, aimed at improving the recognition climate for TNE of demonstrated quality and standards.

To support the implementation of the TNE QB service UK NARIC has so far established formal memorandum of understanding with the Arab Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE), the Asian Pacific Quality Network (APQN), and the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE).

Scope of TNE QB

The scope of TNE QB is specific TNE operation, such as a specific TNE partnership or branch campus, or online delivery model.

The review is carried out against a set of international standards aligned with existing international guidelines and reference points covering 5 key areas:

- Management of TNE operations
- Standards of the programme of study
- Quality of the student experience
- Alignment with local requirements
- Information to students and the public

An international peer-review team will assess through desk-based analysis and meetings with key stakeholders whether TNE operations meet the international expectations in these 5 key areas.

Outcomes:

The outcome of a TNE QB exercise is a finding report including recommendations for improvement and a recommendation to the TNE QB Advisory Board to confer the TNE QB Quality Mark.

A successful TNE QB review will entitle benchmarked TNE operations to

- use the **TNE QB Quality Mark** for their benchmarked TNE provision, e.g. in their course information and marketing material;
- be listed on **the TNE QB section** of the UK NARIC **International Comparisons database**, consulted worldwide to inform recognition decisions;

A successful TNE QB review will also entitle graduates of benchmarked TNE provision to:

- a **TNE QB Statement of Comparability** stating that the awarded qualification has been successfully benchmarked by UK NARIC³;
- an **English language proficiency statement** for UK work visa or further study purposes

Detailed information about the TNE QB scheme can be found [here](#).

Benefits to THE-ICE members

THE-ICE members will be able to benefit from a streamlined TNE QB review, either in conjunction with or independent from THE-ICE accreditation, with reduced costs.

Exact costs depends on the precise scope of a TNE QB exercise, with the possibility to review multiple TNE operations as part of a same exercise, as well as the possibility to carry out joint reviews with host countries' regulators or other accreditation bodies, including THE-ICE. Costs will be discussed on an individual basis with interested providers.

³ This is an additional service which will be charged separately to graduates at a cost of £36 + VAT. It is possible to agree with providers bundles of statements for reduced prices.

Dissemination

UK NARIC is able to offer a range of communication and dissemination solutions to support enhanced visibility of the outcomes of UK NARIC benchmarking, review or accreditation, among our established networks.



- **Inclusion in UK NARIC's Publications**

UK NARIC Publications form part of UK NARIC's suite of databases, subscribed to by over 800 organisations, to support their work evaluating qualifications for the purposes of further study, immigration, employment, or registration. Including the outcomes of UK NARIC benchmarking or review will help ensure the findings reach a targeted audience.

- **NARIC News**

NARIC News is distributed via email on a monthly basis to approximately 20,000 professionals in 62 different countries. These professionals work in colleges, higher education admissions, professional bodies, ENIC-NARIC offices, careers offices and government agencies in the UK and internationally. This option therefore provides access to a large yet targeted audience.