

Erasmus+ - project  
„European qualification concept –  
Specialist for Vocational Orientation”



Guideline for implementation  
of the European qualification concept  
in United Kingdom  
( Kathryn Bishop, Natalie Goodger )

**Developed by the UK partner  
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## 1. Description of the VET system in UK

Vocational education and training (VET) is offered at most levels of the qualifications frameworks in the UK. A separate qualifications and credit framework exists in England and Northern Ireland from the ones in Scotland and Wales. There are around 200 awarding organisations in the UK and several thousand accredited qualifications.

Awarding organisations design and award qualifications, while education and training providers deliver learning. VET providers include secondary schools, school sixth forms, sixth form colleges, further education colleges and higher education institutions. Further education colleges represent the largest group of VET providers offering education to learners that are 16 years or older, including a large number of adult learners.

VET qualifications are offered through work-related Business and Technology Education Council qualifications, national vocational qualifications/Scottish vocational qualifications and other recognised vocational qualifications. School-based programmes that combine general academic study with vocational elements exist alongside broad vocational programmes and specialist occupational programmes that may take place both in a school setting and the work place. VET is offered on a full-time and part-time basis and students may attend training on a block-release or day-release basis from employers or attend evening or weekend learning.

The system of vocational education in the UK initially developed independently, with bodies such as the RSA and City & Guilds setting examinations for technical subjects.

In the UK some higher engineering-technician positions that require 4–5 years' apprenticeship require academic study to HNC / HND or higher City & Guilds level. Apprenticeships are increasingly recognised as the gold standard for work-based training. There are four levels of apprenticeship available for those aged 16 and over:

### 1 - Intermediate-level apprenticeships

Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 2 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification.

### 2 - Advanced-level apprenticeships

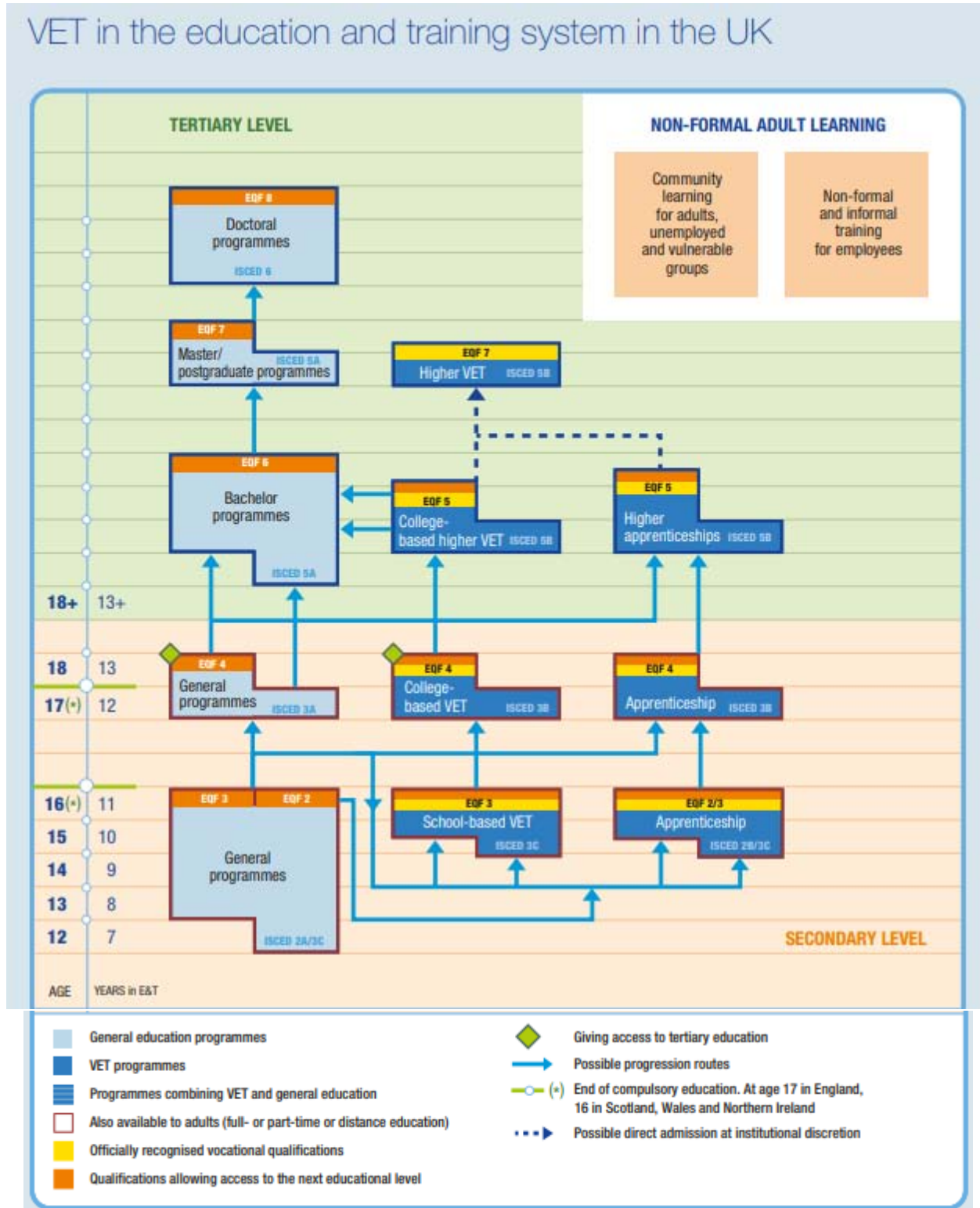
Apprentices work towards work-based learning such as a Level 3 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge based qualification. They can take four years to complete.

### 3 - Higher apprenticeships

Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 4 and 5 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualification such as a Foundation Degree. They can take between four and five years to complete, depending on the level at which an apprentice enrolls.

#### 4 - Degree and professional apprenticeships

They are similar to higher apprenticeships, but differ in that they provide an opportunity to gain a full bachelor's (Level 6) or master's degree (Level 7). The courses are designed in partnership with employers, with part-time study taking place at a university. They can take between four and six years to complete, depending on the level of the course, and the level of entry.



## 2. Proposals for implementation of the European qualification concept in UK

- College open days/events and functions in partnership with external stakeholders - such as Career Wales and Job Centre Plus to allow for the implementation of the qualification concepts as taster sessions
- Core to Curriculum – concept to be embedded in learning. Individual units to be added to sections such as employability skills, end of course module – college leaver to complete remaining units to allow further knowledge for post college progression/higher education paths
- School Links – roll out concept with school links aimed at 14 – 19 year olds, designated co-ordinator to ensure school learners are prepared for FE and/or chosen career path
- CPD – Continuous Professional Development offering the qualification to staff allowing them to upskill or train and develop the knowledge and skills, modules surrounding VO. Opportunity to be implemented as part of 'Train the Trainer', 'Careers Advice and Guidance' qualification
- CPD in FE – teachers return to industry to update professional vocational competency to allow better understanding of industry needs and skills to enable guidance and support for learners in their chosen career path

## 3. Proposals for financing the European qualification concept in UK

- Funding through projects in partnership with external stakeholders – employability skills and creating job opportunities in chosen career path
- Commercial – qualification offer for those wishing to enter the profession of careers advice and guidance
- Higher Level Apprenticeship (Level 4) – to be embedded as a module within the career information and advice
- Government funding – Individual unit/programme - incorporated as part of the BOOST enrichment financed via core funding. Added value to learner journey – CV skills, soft skills, employability skills

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