

Qualifications

Recognition of qualifications

Equality legislation should ensure that equivalent achievements and skills are accepted and the **Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)** accredits and regulates qualifications here. The **National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ)** indicates equivalent qualifications See <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>.

In reality however, employers may well find it simpler to apply their own internal methods of assessment. One group of researchers found that someone who had studied in South America was told that a qualification from a ‘jungle university’ was not acceptable. (D. Holder and C. Lanao, *Case Studies of discrimination and disadvantage for Portuguese Migrant Workers*. Dungannon: STEP, Animate, 2005.) Agencies say that checking foreign qualifications is very time consuming. For some applicants, their level of English language skill can be an added barrier.

By progressing from job to job there is sometimes a happy ending.

‘My qualification [from Poland] was in food technology. I started working in a chip shop in the village, then my English got better and I saw lots of opportunities to use my qualifications. I got a job as a quality control manager, what I always wanted to do in Poland.’

Worker quoted in “...Easy Life, Great People, Bad Weather” A Report on the Experiences of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland by John Bell, Anne Caughey, Ulf Hansson. Agnieszka Martynowicz and Maura Scully, Institute for Conflict Research, December 2009.
http://www.delni.gov.uk/a_report_on_the_experiences_of_migrant_workers_in_northern_ireland.pdf

The Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) is trialling an initiative where job seekers can be given a document with the DEL letterhead to demonstrate to prospective employers how their qualifications equate to UK qualifications.