

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



MALDIVES NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Maldives Accreditation Board
Ministry of Education
Male', Maldives

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Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF)

Introduction

Today, the Maldivian post-secondary education sector is growing rapidly, with an increasing number of private providers entering the sector to meet the demand. Emerging from this growing importance of post-secondary education is the concomitant requirement to assure the quality of qualifications awarded in testimony of educational attainments. Thus, the Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF) is designed to:

1. Facilitate the development of a quality assurance mechanism for the post-secondary education sector.
2. Provide a framework for recognition of qualifications offered in the Maldives and abroad.

MNQF provides a comprehensive and coherent national framework that facilitates quality improvement, quality assurance, and private sector participation in post-secondary education. MNQF also ensures that students, employers, education providers and the community at large easily understand the learning outcomes involved in various qualifications.

Objectives

The main objective of MNQF is to provide learners, employers and education providers with qualifications that are nationally standardized and quality assured. Specifically, MNQF is designed to:

- Rationalize and recognize various industry, vocational, and academic qualifications within a coherent system.
- Support flexible and continuous upgrading of knowledge and skills through life-long learning.
- Provide a framework for private education providers to demonstrate credibility and quality.
- Protect public interest through a quality assurance framework.

Features

MNQF consists of the following features:

- The qualifications recognized in the MNQF are classified in two groups: (1) Further Education and Training, and (2) Higher Education.
- The levels of qualifications (e.g. Certificate I and Certificates II) are differentiated based on the breadth, depth and complexity of knowledge and skills that are included in various qualifications.
- All qualifications in the MNQF have a purpose and are interrelated to each other, providing for articulation from one qualification to the other by recognizing prior learning.
- Qualifications recognized within the MNQF will be readily understood by the public, credible and useful to the employers.
- MNQF provides pathways for life-long learning.
- The recommended minimum *credit hours* and *credit points* for each qualification are provided. (*see page 5*)
- The length of time it would normally take to complete a course leading to each qualification is expressed in weeks and academic years.

Benefits

The *learners* will be able to obtain qualifications that are:

- Recognized by employers, educational institutions and the general public.
- Transferable for various other courses the learner may take in the future.
- Able to provide greater choice and flexibility in what, where and how to learn.

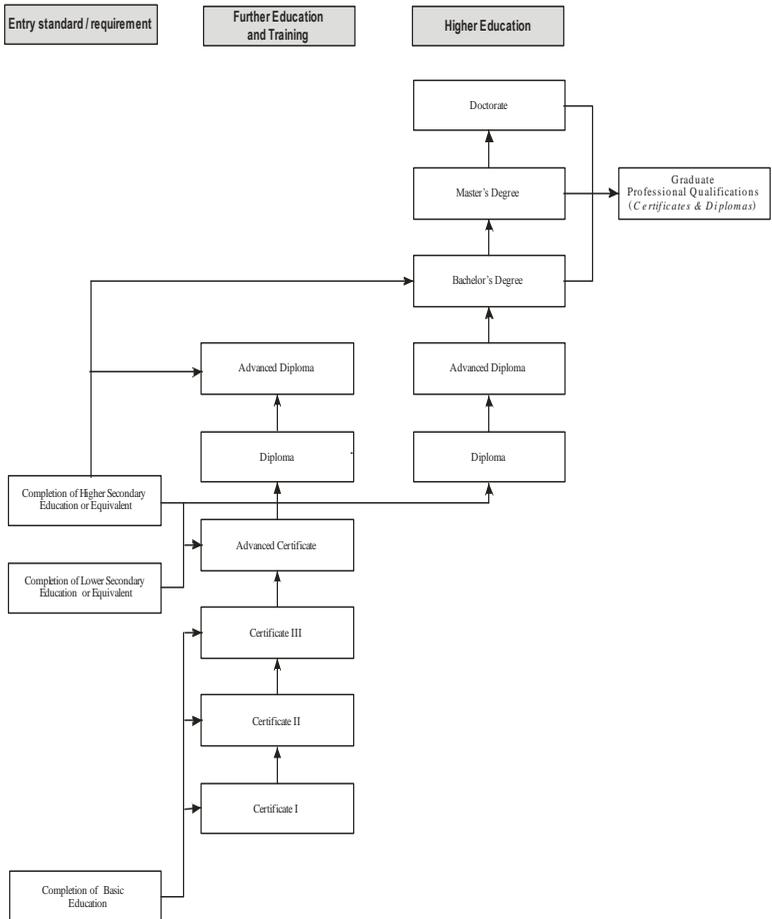
For the *employers*, the MNQF would mean:

- Assurance of the quality of qualifications.
- Education and training that are relevant for the industry.
- Increased availability of skilled and adaptable employees.

The course *providers* will benefit from MNQF by being able to:

- Validate the quality of their courses and certificates.
- Offer standards-based training with measurable outcomes.
- Provide training for nationally-recognized qualifications.
- Transfer academic credits between qualifications and institutions.
- Expand the range of programmes offered.
- Benefit from external monitoring that leads to quality improvement.

National Qualifications Framework



Credit Hour and Credit Point System

Qualification	Minimum Entry Requirement	Credit Hours	Credit Points	Duration in Weeks	Duration in Academic Years
Certificate I	Basic Education or Equivalent	42	3	2	0.06
Certificate II	Basic Education or Equivalent	336	24	8	0.25
Certificate III	Basic Education or Equivalent	630	45	15	0.5
Advanced Certificate	Lower Secondary Education or Equivalent	1260	90	30	1
Diploma	Lower Secondary Education or Equivalent	2520	180	60	2
Advanced Diploma	Higher Secondary Education or Equivalent	2520	180	60	2
Bachelor's Degree	Higher Secondary Education or Equivalent	3780	270	90	3
Graduate Certificates	Undergraduate Degree or Equivalent	630	45	15	0.5
Graduate Diploma	Undergraduate Degree or Equivalent	1260	90	30	1
Master's Degree ¹	Undergraduate Degree or Equivalent	1260	90	30	1
Doctoral Degree ²	Master's Degree or Equivalent	-	-	-	3 – 5

¹ A Master's degree normally takes one academic year to complete after an honours degree or two years after a Bachelor's degree.

² The length of a Doctoral degree may vary considerably, but typically requires 3 to 5 years of study.

Definitions of Terms

Credit Hour:

A credit hour is defined as time spent in learning activities that directly relate to the requirements to complete the respective qualification. Such activities normally include instruction time (in classroom or otherwise), laboratory time and time spent on reading, researching and writing to fulfill the requirements of the respective qualification. Supervised and recorded on-the-job training may be counted as credit hours in case of vocational and professional qualifications. It is assumed that 50% of the total credit hours in vocational qualifications (e.g. Certificates I, II & III) and one third of the total credit hours in all other qualifications would amount to “in contact” time with instruction (i.e. instruction time, laboratory time, tutorial time, or organized group activities).

Credit Point:

Fourteen (14) credit hours are considered to be equal to one (1) credit point.

Academic Year:

The duration of an academic year is considered to be 30 weeks, recommended to include two semesters of 15 weeks each.

Course:

An approved set of subjects that a student is required to fulfill to obtain a particular award.

Full-time Status:

A full-time student is expected to be engaged in studies for a maximum of 42 hours per week and a minimum of 28 hours per week (60% of the maximum credit-hour-load).

Quality Assurance

Quality assurance is provided through the following policies:

- Qualifications recognized through the MNQF must meet or exceed specified quality benchmarks.
- A course leading to a qualification in the MNQF must meet the Pre-Qualifying Criteria (PQC), which sets the minimum quality standards acceptable to the Maldives Accreditation Board.
- It is mandatory for Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees to undergo accreditation.

For further information regarding the Pre-Qualifying Criteria and the accreditation process, please contact the Maldives Accreditation Board.

For further information, please contact:

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