## Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KNQA Level</th>
<th>General and Further Education and Training Sub-Framework</th>
<th>National hours (minimum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Doctorate Degree</td>
<td>3600 after KNQA level 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2400 after KNQA level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Post-Graduate Diploma</td>
<td>1200 after KNQA level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>6000 after KNQA level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master Crafts Person - I or Management Professional or HND or CPA III</td>
<td>4800 after KNQA level 2 or 2400 after KNQA level 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>2400 after level 2 or 1200 after KNQA level 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master Crafts Person - II/Professional Diploma or CPA II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>1200 after KNQA level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master Craft Person III or CPA I</td>
<td>600 after KNQA level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>300 after level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Craft Certificate IV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Vocational Certificate-III/Artisan Certificate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Vocational Certificate-II</td>
<td>300 after KNQA level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Skills Certificate -I (GTT-I)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Vocational Certificate-I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Skills Certificate -II (GTT - II)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Vocational Certificate-I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Skills Certificate -III (GTT-III)</td>
<td>Depending on skills acquisition or Level 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic Skills/Skills for Life</td>
<td>Birth Certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recognition of Foreign Qualifications**

*Presented by Winnie Bulimo, DD – KNQA*

AQVN Webinar 24/08/2021
Introduction

KNQA was established under the KNQF Act No. 22 of 2014 to establish and maintain the KNQF.

Section 8 (1)(k),(n) and (q) of the Act, mandates KNQA to:

- Provide for the recognition of attainment or competencies skills, knowledge;
- Establish standards for harmonization and recognition of national and foreign qualifications;
- Promote the recognition of national qualifications internationally.
What KNQA Does

• It’s the Custodian of all Kenyan qualifications;
  • Register Institutions;
  • Register Qualifications;
  • Register Learners;
  • Recognition of Prior Learning;/Credit Accumulation and Transfer;
  • Recognition and Equation of Foreign Qualifications.
Related Terminologies

Defined (based on Knqf regulations 2018):

- **Equation** – comparison of qualifications to estimate similarities or dissimilarities [However, at KNQA it is the determination of the position of a qualification on the KNQF.]

- **Recognition** – acknowledgement by KNQA of the value and acceptability of a qualification

- **Verification** – authenticate an award of an academic credential
Scope of Recognition of foreign Qualifications

- Foreign qualifications awarded by Kenyan QAIs
- Foreign qualifications awarded by foreign QAIs
- Foreign QAIs
Importance of Recognition, Equation and Verification of Qualifications

- Provide access to training and employment opportunities
- Promote lifelong learning
- Registration of professional bodies
- Facilitates academic mobility and internationalization of qualifications
Importance cont.

- Provide a public trust service in protecting national education and labour markets from fake diplomas and substandard qualifications.
- Contributes and represents a trust in quality
- Promotes international understanding of higher education system
Key Actors in Recognition of Qualifications

Government:
- embassies

Regulatory agencies

Professional Bodies

QAIs
Enablers of Recognition

- **Quality assurance and authenticity** – Existing QA structures, standards and guidelines for accreditation of foreign QAIs, equation and verification of foreign QAIs and recognition of foreign qualifications for different countries;

- **Design of the Qualification/certificate**:- Acceptable and recognizable Security features:- QR codes, watermarks

- RPL policy and guidelines and CAT system
- KNREV portal
- KNLKDB
- Accreditation system
- KNQF-level descriptors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>KNQF Level</th>
<th>KNQF Name</th>
<th>Entry Requirement</th>
<th>Learning Hours</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 1</td>
<td>Primary Certificate</td>
<td>Birth certificate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 2</td>
<td>Secondary Certificate or National Vocational Certificate I or GTT III or National Skills Certificate III</td>
<td>Level 1 Qualification</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6 Years (Except for NVC, NSC &amp; GTT III)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 3</td>
<td>National Vocational Certificate II or GTT II or National Skills Certificate II</td>
<td>KCPE (level 1); or KCSE Mean Grade E (level 2)</td>
<td>300-599</td>
<td>30-59</td>
<td>3 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 4</td>
<td>Artisan Certificate or National Vocational Certificate III or GTT I or National Skills Certificate III</td>
<td>KCSE Mean Grade E or level 3 Qualification</td>
<td>600-1199</td>
<td>60-119</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 5</td>
<td>Craft Certificate or National Vocational Certificate IV or CPA I or Master Craftsman person III</td>
<td>KCSE Mean Grade D or level 4 Qualification</td>
<td>1200-2399</td>
<td>120-239</td>
<td>One Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 6</td>
<td>National Diploma or CPA II or Master Craftsman person II</td>
<td>KCSE Mean Grade C- or level 5 Qualification</td>
<td>2400-4799</td>
<td>240-479</td>
<td>Two Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 7</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or CPA III or CPS or Master craftsman person I or Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>KCSE Mean Grade B+ or level 6 Qualification</td>
<td>4800</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>Four Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 8</td>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma or Professional Master craft person or Professional Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>level 7 Qualification</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>One Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 9</td>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>level 8 Qualification</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>Two Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>KNQF Level 10</td>
<td>Doctorate Degree</td>
<td>Level 9 Qualification</td>
<td>3600</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>Three Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* MUST CARRY 240 CREDITS OR MORE

Summary of the Kenya National Qualification Framework Requirements
General Principles of Recognition

- Provide information on recognition process to applicants
  a) Do applicants know the criteria for evaluation
  b) Do applicants know where and how to apply
- Determining the purpose for recognition in fair & transparent manner
- Documentation required – transcripts, the qualification

Check authenticity of the qualifications, supporting documents and if the applicant the rightful holder
What are Key Determinants of Recognition?

- Level of qualification
- Quality assurance mechanisms of the awarding institution
- Accreditation status of the QAI and programme
- International policies and standards/agreements
Determinants of Recognition cont

- Level descriptors
  - Expected learning outcomes for each level
  - Minimum admission criteria
  - Volume of learning/amount of training measured in notional hours/duration of learning,

- Units of competence covered
  - Workload
  - Complexity in terms of depth and breadth,
Process of Evaluation during Recognition

- The process of evaluation commences with verification of academic credentials.
- An awarding body will be deemed as recognised if it is accredited in accordance with a country's laws and regulations.
- A learner must have met the minimum entry requirements for the qualification.
- Automated-KNREV Portal
Guidelines for Evaluation

- Verification of qualification is done in line with the KNQF Academic Credentials Verifications Standards 2020.

- A recognised awarding body is one that is accredited in accordance with the laws and regulations.

- The minimum admission requirements will be dictated by progression pathways available in a country's qualification framework. For undergraduate studies, the minimum admission requirement is the highest secondary school certificate or equivalent qualifications as stipulated in the country's qualification framework.
Guidelines cont

- Training providers are accredited;
- Program is accredited in the institutions training for the qualifications
- The student meets the minimum entry requirement (KNQF);
- Volume of learning is sufficient for the level (KNQA);
- Awarding institution has legal mandate to award the qualifications;
- QAI is accredited by KNQA;
- List of Graduates submitted to KNLRD-local qualification;

Foreign qualification

- Registered on home NQF;
- Training Providers are accredited to train the Qualification
- Program is accredited to the training providers
- QAI is accredited by regulators;
To ease the challenges of a manual recognition system and also as a strategy towards adherence to Covid 19 measures

The KNREV Portal aims to ensure that the system is within the conformity of the KNQA ICT Policy which aims to:

a) Protect the KNQA ICT assets and investments;

b) Safeguard the information contained within the KNQA Systems;

c) Reduce business and legal risks;

d) Protect the reputation of the Authority; and

e) Ensure the systems’ integrity, confidentiality and availability.
Welcome to Kenya National Recognition, Equation and Verification Portal

KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY accepts online applications of academic qualifications for recognition, equation and/or verification from both Kenyans and Non-Kenyans through this platform.

Apply for service now

About K.N.Q.A

You have signed out.

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) was set up in 2015 to help coordinate and harmonize education, training, assessment and quality assurance of all qualifications awarded in the country, with the view to improving quality and international comparability. The KNQF which the authority has developed and is now implementing is part of Kenya’s international commitments to develop an accurate, reliable and robust database of all qualifications in the country that will allow for comparability and information sharing in the education sector globally.
Aplication Steps

Register
Create an account to apply for recognition, equation and/or verification

Update profile
Populate all your academic qualifications and upload copies of all your certificates

Submit an application
Submit an application for recognition, verification and/or equation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications submitted for recognition</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications submitted for verification</td>
<td>1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications submitted for verifications</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total qualifications (processed)</td>
<td>2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total local applications</td>
<td>1046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total foreign applications</td>
<td>1018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications</td>
<td>2521</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partnerships: Recognition, Equation and Verification

- Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI),
- Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and
- Immigration Department
- e-citizen portal

(on how to curb the use of fraudulent certificates and monitor foreign learners seeking to move their qualifications to Kenya)
Challenges

- Disparity in admission and program requirements;
- Lack of integrated curricular/education system for different countries and levels;
- Lack of central and unified database on QAI’s & qualifications;
- Difficult to ascertain learner's analytics.

- Lack of a nationally accepted CAT’s system;
- Difficult to establish an admission criteria;
- Rampant production of fake certificates.
- Delayed responses on applicants’ certificates from the QAIs

- Mushrooming of ‘quack’ QAI’s;
- Use of provisional certificates

- Lack of qualifications data repository-refugees, displaced persons;
- Language related challenges;
- Lack of information on accredited foreign qualifications;
- Lack of central repository to verify qualifications
## EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN EAST AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Total before university</th>
<th>Minimum university</th>
<th>Total education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>Upper /advanced</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>6:4:3:4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>8:4:4 2:6:6:3</td>
<td>8 (6)</td>
<td>4 (3)</td>
<td>- (3)</td>
<td>4 (6)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>6:3:3:4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>7:4:2:3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>7:4:2:3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THANK YOU