



The purpose of this document is to explain the relationship between UCD student system level codes and National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) levels.

As a general point, curricular and student records on UCD's student system hold, and facilitate reporting on:

- o data that addresses the statutory requirements of the institution; and
- o data used for driving the administrative processes within the institution.

In particular, there are two kinds of 'level' associated with each student and curricular record.

1. Each programme of study leading to a UCD award has an associated NFQ level and award type which has been placed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

The NFQ is a system of ten levels and is used to describe the Irish qualifications system. See <http://www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/> for more information on the NFQ.

Students on UCD programmes will, on completion of that programme, receive an award at that NFQ level and of the designated award type.

2. Each programme of study has a UCD student system level assigned for administrative purposes. (The use of the description 'level' in this context arises from the internal structure of our student system).

The UCD student system level code of a given programme or student is one of the primary controls on reporting, registration planning and operations, curriculum management, academic management etc.

Operationally, UCD curricular records therefore show both the NFQ level and the UCD student system level code of a programme. Furthermore, when students register to a given programme their records inherit the UCD student system level code from that programme. As noted above, this level code is used as one of the primary operational controls on the management of student records.

Mapping of NFQ Level to UCD student system level code

A given UCD student system level code may reference programmes at one or more NFQ levels, or without NFQ level.

UCD Student System Level Code		Mapping to NFQ
CD	UG Certificates & Diplomas	CD is assigned to Certificate, Diploma and other programmes (apart from bachelor degrees) where the NFQ Level of the qualification is Level 8 or lower and admissions does not require a prior degree award. Students on programmes with the CD status are classed as 'undergraduate' students.
UG	Undergraduate	UG is assigned to bachelor degrees at NFQ Level 7 or 8.
GT	Graduate Taught	GT is assigned to non-research programmes at NFQ level 9.



UCD Student System Level Code		Mapping to NFQ
		<p>It is also assigned to NFQ level 8 programmes whose admission criteria require a previous degree.</p> <p>Students on programmes with the GT status are classed as 'graduate taught' students.</p>
GR	Graduate Research	<p>GR is assigned to postgraduate research programmes leading to NFQ Level 9 (Masters) and NFQ Level 10 (Doctoral) Qualifications.</p> <p>Students on programmes with the GR status are classed as 'graduate research' students.</p>
OC	Occasional	<p>OC is assigned to programmes, at any level, not leading to a UCD award on completion of the programme.</p> <p>There is no associated NQAI level with such programmes. Erasmus, JYA, and Master's Qualifying programmes are examples of 'OC' level.</p> <p>Students on programmes with the OC status are classed as 'occasional' students.</p>
AE	Adult Education	<p>Programmes of study leading to an award of one of the Centre for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Programmes.</p> <p>These may be Certificate or Diploma programmes at NFQ level 6 or 7</p>

Note on NFQ Level 8 / UCD GT programmes

NFQ Level 8 programmes which require a prior degree, or equivalent, as an admissions criterion are classified by UCD as graduate taught programmes for operational purposes, as noted above. In this context it is relevant to note that for the purposes of tax relief on tuition, the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 defines an 'approved course' to be:

- a) a full or part-time undergraduate course provided by an approved college, which is at least two years in duration.
- b) a postgraduate course, based on a thesis or exam, lasting between one and four years provided by an approved college, which requires the individual to have a degree before undertaking the course.

That is, the distinction between NFQ Level 8 programmes at CD or GT level is based on the admissions criteria and the eligibility for tax relief.