



Malta
Further & Higher
Education Authority

Maltese developments for micro-credentials

Malta Further and Higher Education Authority

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Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA)

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What are micro-credentials in Malta?

In Malta, the term “Micro-credentials” is considered as “Awards”

In order to distinguish between substantial courses which lead to a Qualification, and short courses, all those courses which do not fulfil the entire requirements of a Qualification in terms of minimum credits required, are to be called '**Awards**'.

Accredited Awards still need to have level-rated learning outcomes to indicate the level of the Award on the Malta Qualifications Framework. The number of credits of the Award also needs to be specified.

One credit (1 ECTS) is considered to be equivalent to **25 hours of learning** (inclusive of contact hours, supervised placement and practice hours, self-study hours and assessment hours).

- Referencing Report 2016

Requirements for courses to be considered as 'Awards'

The requirements for courses to be considered as 'Awards' are the following:

1. The learning outcomes need to reflect the level of learning indicated in the specific MQF Level descriptor;
2. The number of credits assigned to the course are either less than those specified for a Qualification at the particular MQF Level, or in the case of Vocational Education and Training (VET), do not reflect the required distribution of Key Competences, Sectoral Skills and Underpinning Knowledge.

The title of any short course

The title of any short course will thus be the following: **Award in..... (the area of study covered)**. It is essential that details are provided about Awards in terms of: course descriptions, duration etc. **The learning outcomes achieved, the MQF Level and the number of credits of the Award are to be stated to ensure total transparency.**

This transparency enables learners to know exactly what learning outcomes are to be achieved and the value assigned to them. This facilitates the understanding of the different types of certification that candidates present during the recruitment process or career advancement.

Award in English Language for Hospitality (at MQF level 4, 12 ECTS)

Issuing of Certification - template

Certificate No: _____



This is to certify that

(NAME AND SURNAME OF STUDENT)

has successfully achieved the

(NAME OF PROGRAMME)

(DURATION OF PROGRAMME IN DAYS, OR WEEKS, OR MONTHS, OR YEARS)

awarded by (NAME OF EDUCATION INSTITUTION) (LICENCE NUMBER)
(CATEGORY OF EDUCATION INSTITUTION)

(THE NAME OF THE APPOINTED HEAD OF INSTITUTION)
(NOMENCLATURE OF HEAD OF INSTITUTION e.g. CEO)

The Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) deems this certificate to be at (MQF LEVEL OF PROGRAMME) (NUMBER OF ECTS) of the Malta Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework.

Awards versus Qualifications

The term **Award** refers to programmes that have less credits than the minimum number required to be certified as a Qualification as per the different levels on the MQF. Accredited Awards still need to have level-rated learning outcomes to indicate the level of the Award on the Malta Qualifications Framework.

The term **Qualification** in Malta refers to programmes based on Learning outcomes at the corresponding MQF level, having enough workload to meet the requirements depending on the level. Different levels on the MQF have a minimum number of credits required to be certified as a Qualification.

Minimum number of credits for 'Qualifications' and parameters for 'Awards'

MQF Level	Examples of Qualifications	'Qualification' Minimum Credits Required	'Award' Credits Required
Level 8	Doctoral Degree Third Cycle Bologna Process	NA	NA
Level 7	Masters Second Cycle Bologna Process	90-120	Less than 30
	Post-Graduate Diploma	60	
	Post-Graduate Certificate	30	
Level 6	Bachelor ²³ /Bachelor (Hons.) ²⁴ First Cycle Bologna Process	180-240	Less than 180
Level 5	Short Cycle Qualification	120	Less than 60
	Undergraduate Higher Diploma	90	
	Undergraduate Diploma	60	
	Undergraduate Certificate	30	
	VET Level 5 Programme ²⁵	60-120	
Level 4	Pre-Tertiary Certificate	30	Less than 120
	VET Level 4 Programme ²⁶	120	
	MATSEC Certificate	NA	
Level 3	VET Level 3 Programme ²⁷	60	Less than 60
	General and Subject Certificate	NA	
Level 2	VET Level 2 Programme ²⁸	60	Less than 60
	General and Subject Certificate	NA	
Level 1	VET Level 1 Programme ²⁹	40	Less than 40
	General and Subject Certificate	NA	
Introductory Level A	Preparatory Programme	30	Less than 30
Introductory Level B	Pre-entry Basic Skills Course	30	Less than 30

Awards – context and approach

- The Maltese regulatory context, offers an adequate backdrop to the delivery of Awards in Malta.
- Malta provides various accredited awards
 - These have become popular within the industry who wish to upskill their employees or to provide more flexible opportunities.
 - Students, staff and the general public who want to do short courses for their own personal development or to enhance existing skills.
- New demands from industry to provide awards for employees that together lead to a larger qualification eg *Advanced Diploma in Manufacturing Technology*.

Maite developments for micro-credentials

- Explaining the value of awards in relation to qualifications.
 - Eg. In terms of scope,
- Additional challenges exist for inter-institutional collaboration and trust to stack awards issued by different institutions.
 - Transfer of credits to build up qualifications.



Advanced Search

By Title

Provider

Awarding Body

Subject Area

Qualification Type

Award

Homegrown

Self Accredited

Foreign

Qualification

Award

Results

Name	Type	Provider	Licence Status	Awarding Body	Programme Status	MQF / EQF Level	ECTS / ECVET
Award in Accounting and Finance	Award	Melita Training and Resource Management	Full	Melita Training and Resource Management	Available	Level 4	6
Award in Accounting and Financial Management Essentials	Award	Lead Training Services	Indefinite	Lead Training Services	Available	Level 5	2
Award in Accounting for Corporate Performance (Accounting and Finance)	Award	Global College Malta	Indefinite	Global College Malta	Available	Level 6	15
Award in Accounting for non-Accountants	Award	AIM Professional Academy	Withdrawn	AIM Professional Academy	Expired	Level 5	6
Award in Accounting Principles and Practice	Award	St. Martin's Institute of Higher Education	Indefinite	St. Martin's Institute of Higher Education	Available	Level 5	15
Award in Achieving Excellence in Customer Service	Award	Melita Training and Resource Management	Full	Melita Training and Resource Management	Available	Level 2	4
Award in Achieving	Award	Institute for	Full	Institute for	Available	Level 6	3

Exit Awards and Exit Points

Qualification

Title:	Award in Tourism and Hospitality Principles	Status:	Available
Language:	English	Level EQF:	Level 7
Qualification Type:	Award	Level MQF:	Level 7
Country:	Malta	Schedule Type:	Full Time
Homepage:	https://mt.ideaeducation.com/modules/tourism-and-hospitality-principles-2/		Part Time
		Volume of Learning:	150 Hours

Programme

Provision:	Blended	Accreditation Date:	04/06/2018
ECTS Points:	6		
Subject Areas:	04 - Business, administration and law		
Comments:	This is offered as an exit point related to the programme entitled Master of Science in Hospitality Management; M.Sc. International Hospitality Management		

Awarding Body

Exit Awards - example

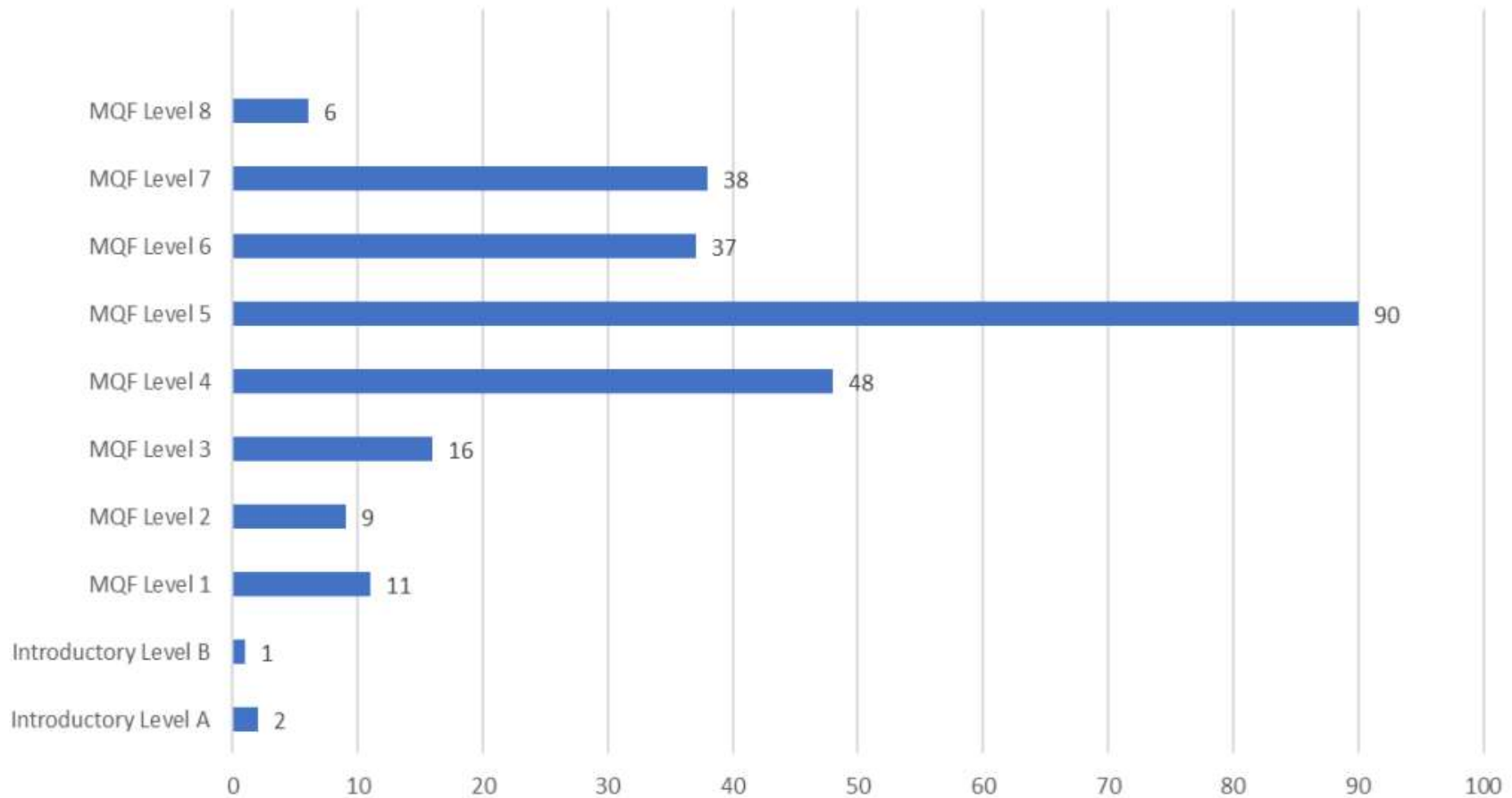
The Qualification “Pre-Tertiary Certificate in Facilities Management”

(MQF 4, 60 ECTS) has the following Exit Awards:

- Award In Basics of Facilities Management (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Introducing Sustainability and Sustainable Practices in Facilities Management (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Understanding Health and Safety Practices in Facilities Management (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Procurement Services in Facilities Management (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Principles of Building Maintenance (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Space Planning and Allocation in Facilities Management (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Facilities Management Within Organisations (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Introducing Project Management in Facilities Management (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Facilities Management in Different Sectors (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)
- Award In Information and Technology in Facilities Management (MQF 4, 6 ECTS)

In 2021, the MFHEA received a total of 258 applications for programme accreditation. The graph below shows the distribution of the applications for programme accreditation received according to MQF level.

Number of Programme Applications received during 2021 per MQF Level



The table below provides a breakdown by MQF level and number of ECTS of all the programmes accredited by MFHEA up till the end of 2021.

All accredited courses by MQF Level and ECTS by end of 2021									
	1-10 ECTS	11-29 ECTS	30-59 ECTS	60-89 ECTS	90 - 119 ECTS	120 - 179 ECTS	180 - 239 ECTS	240+	Total
Introductory Level A	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Introductory Level B	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MQF Level 1	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
MQF Level 2	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
MQF Level 3	7	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	10
MQF Level 4	28	6	2	4	0	1	0	0	41
MQF Level 5	54	4	6	10	0	6	0	0	80
MQF Level 6	7	6	0	1	0	2	10	4	30
MQF Level 7	3	9	2	1	17	0	2	0	34
MQF Level 8	4								4
Total	116	32	12	17	17	9	12	4	223

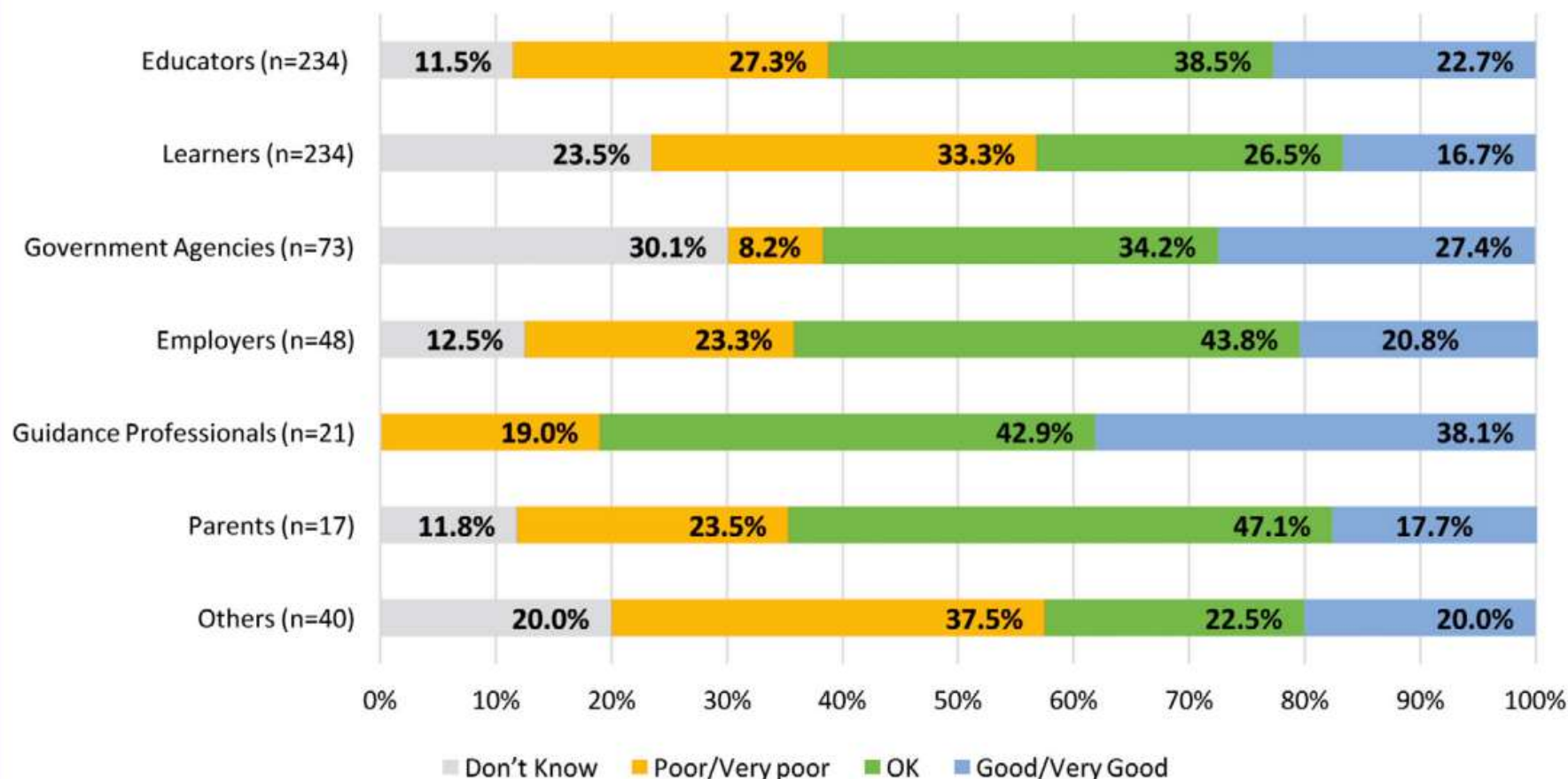
Inclusion of all programmes from all types of learning pathways

The Malta Qualification Framework aims to be a comprehensive framework, (i.e. one which covers all types and levels of programmes of study resulting from education and training). This learning may take place in a variety of settings and the programmes may be of varying sizes and formats.

What has already been done in this area?

The Maltese Referencing Report highlights the inclusion in the MQF of 'awards' as well as qualifications. 'Awards' are essentially short courses (as low as 1 ECTS) which providers can make use of. There has been growing activity in this area as micro-credentials (i.e. small programmes designed to support the development of specific skills) are becoming more widely used by employers to upskill their workforce.

How well promoted is the MQF? (n=667)



Awareness and visibility – Why is this area important?

The Malta Qualification Framework is intended as a comprehensive framework, incorporating a wide range of different types of programmes of study. It is also designed to be used for a number of different purposes beyond the accreditation of Maltese programmes of study (e.g. to support the recognition of prior learning). It therefore needs to reach a wide range of different stakeholders and information needs to be made available in a way that engages stakeholders and helps them to become aware of the relevance and the usefulness of the Framework to their own needs and context.



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Thank you

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