

Don't get caught out in the Qualifications 'Trap'

How to make sure that your course and qualification is nationally recognised

Potential reflexology students face a myriad of courses with many titles which often presents confusion and on occasions leads to choosing and obtaining a qualification that they later discover isn't nationally recognised. So how can this be avoided?

A qualification is intended to show employers, clients, educational establishments, insurers and the Public what someone has learnt and can do as a result of that achievement. In our particular Sector current and future Regulators will also require a nationally recognised qualification. This section explains the key facts about recognised qualifications to help guide you

Training providers can and do deliver their own training and award their *own personal* 'qualification' and it is important for a potential student to understand the difference between a qualification that a training provider awards themselves and one that is delivered by an accredited training provider.

Basically there are two types of qualifications.

1. A personal qualification e.g. a provider who does not deliver an awarding body qualification.
2. A qualification that has been delivered by a provider who is accredited by an awarding body and whose qualification is nationally recognised.

So what is the difference?

Number one above means that while the training may be excellent and recognised by the provider if it is NOT on the National Educational Framework then it may not be recognised by the list of people as per paragraph two.

A qualification as number two describes is definitely recognised and in some cases recognised in Europe and often in other Countries Worldwide.

If your provider's qualification is NOT on the National Educational Framework it will not be nationally recognised.

Awarding Body, Nationally recognised qualifications – what does this mean?

An awarding body is a 'Body' that has complied with a criteria laid down by Government to deliver qualifications. The 'Body' develops a qualification that goes through a process and if successful is placed on the Educational Framework. This means that a student who enrolls on such as course can be confident that their qualification will be recognised.

How can you make sure that you access a nationally recognised qualification?

Very simply – you undertake research and ask questions of the potential training provider and follow the steps below:

1. If you wish to undertake a particular course go to www.ofqual.gov.uk. You will be able to undertake a search on the subject you wish to study.
2. If you have seen a course advertised check to see:
 - The full title of the course
 - The name of the awarding body e.g. ABC Awards, City and Guilds etc
 - Check that the provider is a current provider with Ofqual.
3. If after looking at the information you are still unclear, contact the provider and ask for clarification!

What else should you consider?

Most professionals particularly those who wish to sell their services benefit from having a professional qualification (membership of a professional body) such as the AoR. If this important to you choose a provider that is accredited with us.

Our website lists all of our accredited centres who welcome enquiries from potential students.

Happy hunting!