



**FETAC**

Further Education and  
Training Awards Council  
Comhairle na nDámhochtáiní  
Breisoidreachais agus Ollúna

# New FETAC Systems

- Common Awards System
- Programme Validation



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Conselho de Acreditação  
Formação e Treino

# Common Award System



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Body under the 1992  
Education Act

# Common Award System (CAS)

- Single coherent way of developing awards
- Single credit accumulation and transfer system
- Common Format
- Widens participation
- New pathways



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Conseil des Awardeurs  
de l'Enseignement Supérieur et  
de l'Enseignement Technologique

# Common format of all CAS awards

## Presented in award specifications

- Major award – Certificate Specification
- Special Purpose award – Specific Purpose Specification
- Supplemental Award – Supplemental Specification
- Minor award – Component specification



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Certificats de l'Éducation  
Supplémentaire

# CAS – for providers

- Advantages
  - More awards available - opportunity
  - Open access
  - Programme validation
- Need to get used to
  - Looking at certificate specs and component specs
  - Checking for validation requirements
  - Checking for supporting documentation requirements
  - Submitting programme(s) for validation

# CAS – for learners

- Advantages

- Wider range of awards they can access
- Accumulate minors – building blocks
- Major/sp p/supp will be graded (Level 4-6)
- Progression opportunities e.g. scoring system for CAO clarified

- Need to get used to

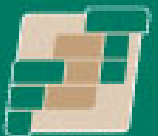
- Credit system
- Looking at certificate specs and component specs
- Checking if provider has validated programme

# Publication and Deactivation

Level	Type	Publication dates	Deactivation date (last date for certification)
3	Major (4) and associated minors	October 2010 (all)	5 December 2011
4	Majors (9+) and associated minors	February 2011 – set 1 October 2011 – set 2	5 December 2012
5	Majors (100+)	February 2011 – set 1 October 2011 – set 2  February 2012 – set 3 October 2012 – set 4	5 December 2012   5 December 2013
6	Majors (100+)	February 2011 – set 1 October 2011- set 2  February 2012 – set 3 October 2012 – set 4	5 December 2012   5 December 2013
5	Minors	February 2011- October 2012	Date of the major award of which they are a part or December 2012 or 2013. Check website.*
6	Minors	February 2011- October 2012	Date of the major award of which they are a part or December 2012 or 2013. Check website.*

**\*Vocationally specific minor awards will be de-activated at the same time as the major award of which they are part. The final major award to be deactivated will determine the deactivation date of any recurring vocational minors.**

# Programme Validation



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Act 1996

# Validation is for.....

Validation only applies to programmes leading to Common Awards

Validation applications can **only** be made by registered **providers**

Validation applies even if you already offer a programme leading to an existing award when it is migrated



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# Validation ensures that....

- QA policies and procedures are implemented
- Award standards can be achieved
- Learners can achieve certification



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Ffurderol yn eiddo Ffôn

# Programmes

- The learning package designed, developed and delivered by the provider
- Describes how the award standard will be reached
- Provides insight into the learning experiences on offer



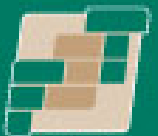
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Ffurberiaeth a Trening

# Programme v award

- Award standard states what the learner will be able to know and/or do on achievement of the award i.e. it is the knowledge, skill and competence associated with the award
- Programme is about the learning experience the learner will participate in, in order to gain that knowledge, skill and competence

In very simple terms the award is the **destination** while the programme is the **journey**.

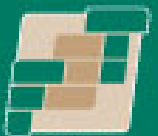


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# Programme Descriptor Concept

- Houses all information for a programme in a single document
- Covers all information required for validation application
- Owned and maintained by provider
- Provider can add to it



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# Descriptor Elements

- Title
- Awards
- Profile
- **Learner profile**
- Objectives
- Entry criteria
- **Duration**



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Ealaíon agus Teicníc

# Descriptor Elements Contd.

- Delivery mode
- Delivery methodologies
- **Programme structure**
- **Assessment plan**
- Review schedule
- Transfer and progression
- Learner supports
- **Specific validation requirements**



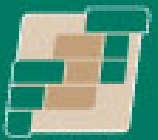
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www.fetac.ie

# Programme Modules

For each module:

- Title
- Awards
- **Duration**
- Aims and objectives
- **Content and outcomes**
- **Assessment**
  - **Format**
  - **Assessment criteria guide**
  - **Marking scheme guide**

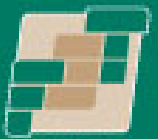


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# The validation process

- Briefing
- Programme development
- Application
- Submission and screening
- Evaluation
- Decision
- Appeal
- Review



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Bafundiswano eNingizimu Afrika

# Programme Application Types

Major Programme application

Express Programme application

Shared Programme application

Joint programme application



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# Validate a Joint Programme

- Step 1 – Providers A, B and C group together to develop a programme jointly
- Step 2 – Providers agree lead provider to evaluate, approve and submit programme to FETAC
- Step 3 – Lead provider sends programme to FETAC with list and consent of providers who are part of the joint application
- Step 4 – FETAC evaluate and **validate** programme for all providers listed



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Act 1998

# Shared Programme Validation

- Step 1 – Programme developed by Provider A
- Step 2 – Provider A sends programme validation application to FETAC with full programme descriptor and list of providers who can share (including Provider B)
- Step 3 - Programme evaluated and **validated for Provider A only** and **approved for sharing** with other providers (list) by FETAC



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Cymhwysdwyddiaeth

For information see page 13/14

# Shared Programmes Validation cont.

- Step 4 – FETAC develops a ‘Use a Shared Programme Form’
- Step 5 – Provider B applies to FETAC for the ‘Use a Shared Programme Form’ – FETAC gives them the form and programme descriptor
- Step 6 – Provider B completes the ‘Use a Shared Programme Form and returns to FETAC
- Step 7 – Provider B validated to use the programme (ownership transfers to provider B)

# Criteria

**Consistency:** Award Programme QA

**Coherence:** Objectives Learner Profile Structure  
Delivery Assessment

**Capacity:** Awareness Ability Facilities

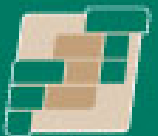
**Compliance:** Awards QA Duration ATP Assessment

The programme's potential to **enable** the learner to meet the standards of knowledge, skill and competence for the awards based on the specified learner profile and the standards for the award.

# Managing the changeover

Providers need to allow time for:

- Programme development
- Programme validation
- Completion of existing programmes



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Consielwedd y Cymorth  
Ffurfiadwyddiaeth a Menter

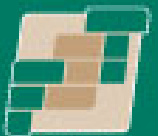
# Programme Validation

Approx. 12 weeks

Delays caused by:

- Incomplete application forms
- Incorrect or inappropriate information

Delays can be avoided if the programme developer is familiar with the **Guidelines** and ensures that the **Programme Descriptor** is fully completed with the correct information



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Any questions?



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