

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

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KNQF Level	General and Further Education and Training Sub-Framework			Notional hours (minimum)	
10	Doctorate Degree			3600 after KNQA level 9	
9	Master's degree			2400 after KNQA level 7	
8	Post-Graduate Diploma	Professional Bachelor's Degree	Professional Master Craft Person	1200 after KNQA level 7 or 6000 after KNQA level 2	
7	Bachelor's Degree		Master Crafts Person –I or Management Professional or HND or CPA III	4800 after KNQA 2 or 2400 after KNQA level 6	
6			National Diploma	Master Crafts Person –II/ Professional Diploma or CPA II	2400 after level 2 or 1200 after KNQA level 5
5			National Craft Certificate National Vocational Certificate-IV	Master Craft Person III or CPA I	1200 after KNQA level 2 or 600 after level 4
4			National Vocational Certificate- III/Artisan Certificate	National Skills Certificate –I GTT-I	600 after KNQA level 2 or 300 after level 3
3			National Vocational Certificate-II	National Skills Certificate -II //(GTT –II)	300 after KNQA level 2
2	Secondary Certificate	National Vocational Certificate- I	National Skills Certificate -III /Government Trade Test (GTT-III)	Depending to skills acquisition or Level 1	
1	Primary Certificate		Basic Skills/Skills for Life	Birth Certificate	



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

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- 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

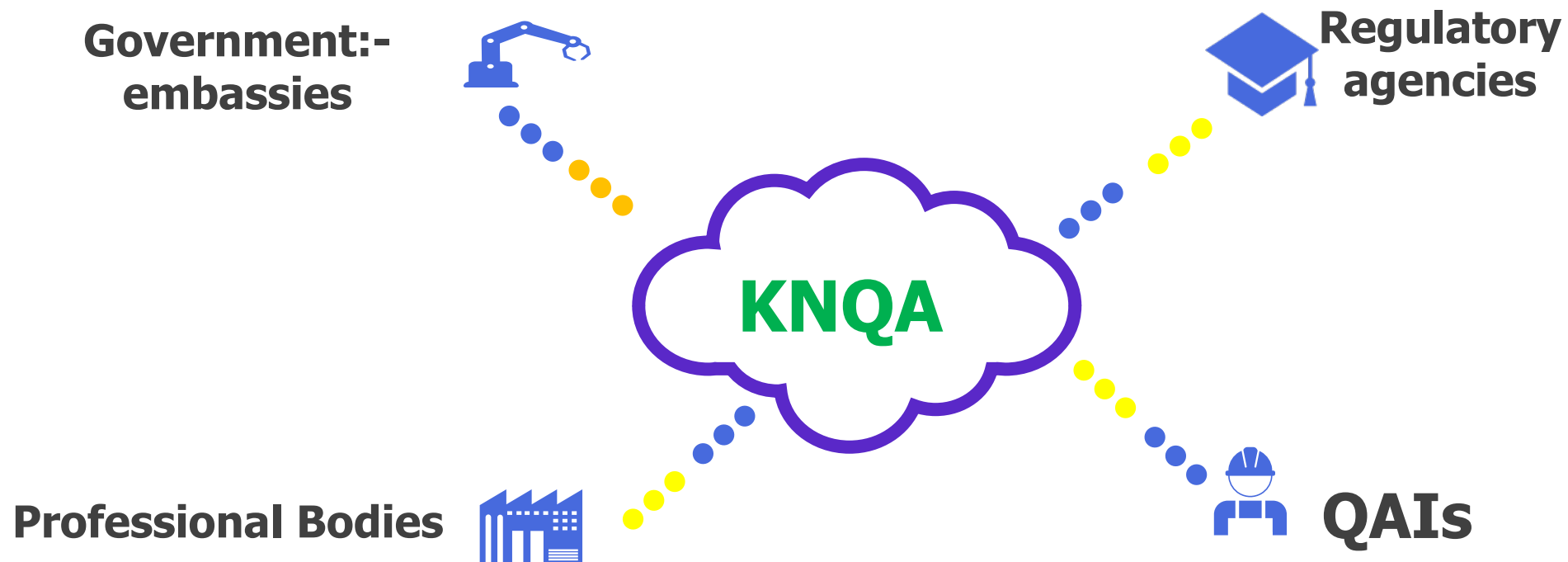
Importance of Recognition, Equation and Verification of Qualifications

- 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



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
- KNLRDB
- Accreditation system
- KNQF-level descriptors



KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

No.	KNQF Level	KNQF NAME	ENTRY REQUIREMENT	LEARNING HOURS	CREDITS	DURATION
1.	KNQF Level 1	Primary Certificate	Birth certificate	-	-	6 Years
2.	KNQF Level 2	Secondary Certificate or National Vocational Certificate I or GTT III or National Skills Certificate III	Level 1 Qualification	-	-	6 Years (Except for NVC, NSC & GTT III)
3.	KNQF Level 3	National Vocational Certificate II or GTT II or National Skills Certificate II	KCPE (level 1); or KCSE Mean Grade E (level 2)	300-599	30-59	3 Months
4.	KNQF Level 4	Artisan Certificate or National Vocational Certificate III or GTT I or National Skills Certificate I	KCSE Mean Grade E or level 3 Qualification	600-1199	60-119	6 Months
5.	KNQF Level 5	Craft Certificate or National Vocational Certificate IV or CPA I or Master Crafts person III	KCSE Mean Grade D or level 4 Qualification	1200-2399	120-239	One Year
6.	KNQF Level 6	National Diploma or CPA II or Master Craft person II	KCSE Mean Grade C- or level 5 Qualification	2400-4799	240-479	Two Years
7.	KNQF Level 7	Bachelor's degree or CPA III or CPS or Master crafts person I or Higher National Diploma (HND)*	KCSE Mean Grade C+ or level 6 Qualification	4800	480	Four Years
8.	KNQF Level 8	Post Graduate Diploma or Professional Master craft person or Professional Bachelor's Degree	level 7 Qualification	1200	120 600	One Year
9.	KNQF Level 9	Master's Degree	level 8 Qualification	2400	240	Two Years
10.	KNQF Level 10	Doctorate Degree	Level 9 Qualification	3600	360	Three Years

* 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;

KNQA -KNREV Portal

- 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.

Application 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

Applications Summary Reports



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.



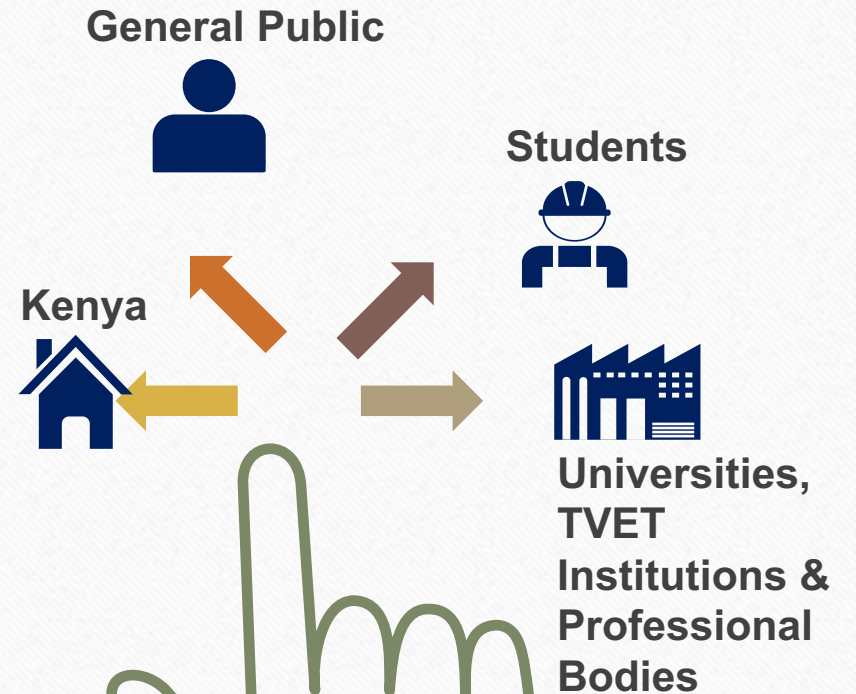
- Lack of a nationally accepted CAT's system;
- Difficult to establish an admission criteria;
- Rampant production of fake certificates.
- Delayed responses on applicants' certificates from the QAIs



- 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

Country	Structure	Primary	Secondary			Total before university	Minimum university	Total education
			Lower	Upper /advanced	Total			
Burundi	6:4:3:4	6	4	3	7	13	4	17
Kenya	8:4:4 2:6:6:3	8 (6)	4 (3)	- (3)	4 (6)	12 12	4 (3)	16 (15)
Rwanda	6:3:3:4	6	3	3	6	12	4	16
Tanzania	7:4:2:3	7	4	2	6	13	3	16
Uganda	7:4:2:3	7	4	2	6	13	3	16

THANK YOU