



Agency for Strategic Reforms under the
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI
OLIY TA'LIM, FAN VA INNOVATSIYALAR
VAZIRLIGI

Ministry of Higher Education,
Science and Innovation of the Republic of
Uzbekistan

Approved:



Approved:



International Qualifications and Assessment Centre (IQAC),
the Agency for Strategic Reforms under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Approved:

Regulations

on the implementation of integrated vocational and higher education
programmes in line with the United Kingdom's Regulated Qualifications
Framework (RQF)

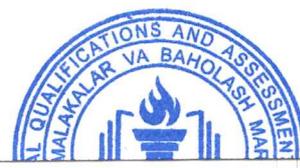
I. General Provisions

1. These Regulations establish the rules for the development and implementation of integrated vocational and higher education programmes (RQF Levels 3 to 8) in the fields of Construction and Engineering, Architecture, Information Technology, Transport and Logistics, Tourism and Hospitality, and Business within the Republic of Uzbekistan, in alignment with the United Kingdom’s Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

2. The rules set out in these Regulations shall be implemented by the International Qualifications and Assessment Centre (IQAC) within the Agency for Strategic Reforms under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as “the Centre”). The Centre shall carry out its activities in accordance with the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Centre’s Charter, and the Action Plan approved by the Agency for Strategic Reforms under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

3. The following terms, concepts, and abbreviations are used in these Regulations:

- **RQF (Regulated Qualifications Framework)** – the official framework for defining qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland;
- **Partner education institutions** – further and higher education institutions accredited by the Centre and acting as base institutions within the scope of tasks defined by the Centre;
- **RQF qualification levels** – the levels of qualification within the framework of the UK’s RQF standards;
- **DTS** – the State Educational Standards of the Republic of Uzbekistan for higher and vocational education;
- **Foreign partner organisations** – UK-based (but not limited to) organisations that award qualifications under the RQF framework (for example, the Chartered Management Institute and others);
- **“Top-up” programme** – a pathway allowing holders of a prior diploma (typically an RQF Level 5 vocational qualification) to enter directly into the final (third-year) stage of a bachelor’s programme and complete the full bachelor’s degree (Level 6) within one year;
- **“Progression route”** – the step-by-step progression through RQF courses from lower to higher levels of education, enabling students to progress towards undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.





II. Alignment of the RQF and Uzbek Standards: Qualification Levels, Programme Stages, Volume, and Duration

4. Within the RQF, qualification levels and corresponding qualification levels of the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan, along with the associated competency and skill requirements, are aligned as shown in Table 1.

Table #1

Alignment of Qualification Levels between the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan

#	Qualification levels within the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)	Sectors and job roles available under the United Kingdom’s qualification frameworks in the following majors: Business Management, IT, Architecture, Transport and Logistics, and Tourism and Hospitality	Description of qualification levels and competencies (skills) in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan*
a.	<p>Level 3 – University foundation, and A Levels.</p> <p>Equivalent to IQAC Level 3 programmes, technical college programmes, and the first year of a four-year undergraduate programme under Uzbek standards.</p>	<p>-Junior Specialist (IT, Tourism, Business, Architecture, Logistics)</p> <p>-Junior Graphic Designer; Marketing Assistant</p> <p>-Teaching Assistant at Schools</p> <p>-Customer Relations Agent</p>	<p>Level 3: Practical and cognitive skills required to select and use the basic methods, tools, materials, and information needed to perform assigned tasks and solve problems.</p>
b.	<p>Level 4 – Equivalent to IQAC Level 4 and the second year of a four-year undergraduate</p>	<p>-Junior Manager; Assistant to the Department Head</p>	<p>Level 4: Practical and cognitive skills required to solve problems that demand the evaluation of</p>





degree (the first year of a three-year undergraduate degree) under Uzbek standards.

-IT Technical Specialist (Support Technician)

work contexts and their foreseeable changes.

-Project Coordinator

-Bank Operator; Audit Assistant

-School/Institute Department Officer

c. **Level 5** – Equivalent to IQAC Level 5 and the third year of a four-year undergraduate degree (the second year of a three-year undergraduate degree) under Uzbek standards.

-Project Manager

Level 5: A broad range of practical and cognitive skills required to develop creative solutions to problems.

-Analyst (Business, Finance, IT)

-Specialist roles in Tourism, Hospitality, Marketing, Architecture and Logistics

-Curriculum Coordinator in the Education Sector

d. **Level 6** – Equivalent to IQAC Level 6 Vocational and Professional Diploma (a level 6 degree programmes delivered in collaboration with degree-awarding partner universities), Year 4, and Bachelor’s Degree under Uzbek standards.

-Head of an enterprise, organization, or school

Level 6: Skills necessary to develop new solutions and to evaluate activities, methods, and their outcomes, taking into account diverse standards and frequently changing requirements.

-Senior Analyst (Data Analyst, Business Analyst)

-HR Manager; Financial Manager; different roles in architecture and logistics as well as IT

-Developer; Systems Engineer

-Consultant (Education, Finance, IT)

-Teacher in educational institutions (schools, colleges, etc.)



e. **Level 7** – Equivalent to IQAC 120 credit Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma (Master’s degree programme delivered in collaboration with degree awarding partner universities), and Master’s degree under Uzbek standards.

- Senior Manager (Head of Department)
- Strategic Planning Consultant in the mentioned majors
- HR Director; Marketing Director
- Head of Product or Service Management
- Finance and Investment Expert
- Project Manager in International Organizations

Level 7: Specialized professional skills required to address problems in research and/or innovation aimed at developing new knowledge and technologies and integrating knowledge from various fields, including strategic challenges.

f. **Level 8** – Equivalent to a three-year IQAC Level 8 Professional Diploma (the third year of a full three-year doctoral study programme delivered in collaboration with DBA- and PhD- awarding partner universities).

Doctorate / Professional Doctorate under Uzbek standards.

- Senior Research Staff at Scientific Research Institutes in the mentioned majors
- Strategic Advisor (Government, Private Sector)
- Head of Innovation and Research Departments
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO); University Rector; Research Centre Director

Level 8: The most advanced and specialized skills required to research, develop, and implement projects that lead to new knowledge and solutions; to forecast the outcomes of scientific and innovative activities; to effect wide-ranging change in professional and social contexts; to manage complex industrial and scientific processes; and to identify and solve new problems in specialized research, development, and innovation.

* The qualification levels of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been incorporated into the National Qualifications Framework approved by Presidential Decree No. PQ-345 dated September 30, 2024.

5. The stages, scope, and duration of integrated educational programmes based on the RQF shall be determined in accordance with Tables 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4.

Table 2.1

The stages, scope, and duration of integrated educational programmes based on the RQF

#	Stages of the integrated educational programs			The volume of the integrated educational programs, in hours/credits		Duration of the integrated educational programs, in weeks	Number and volume of academic semesters; semester sequence number / number of instructional weeks
	RQF stages	IQAC stages	Aligned DTS stages	Volume according to the RQF (CATS)	Volume according to the aligned DTS (ECTS)		
1.	Level 3	Level 3	Year 1 Technical college programmes; the first year of a four-year undergraduate degree under DTS.	1200/120	1800/60	52	1-2/15+15
2.	Level 4	Level 4	Year 2 Technical college programmes; second year of a four-year undergraduate degree (or the first year of a three-year undergraduate degree) under DTS.	1200/120	1800/60	52	3-4/15+15
3.	Level 5	Level 5	Year 3	1200/120	1800/60	52	5-6/15+15



		Level 5 IQAC qualifications providing access to a final year “top-up” with partner universities.	Technical college programmes; third year of a four-year undergraduate degree (or the second year of a three-year undergraduate degree) under DTS.				
4.	Level 6	Level 6 Level 6 IQAC Professional and Vocational Diploma. Final year of the degree programmes delivered in collaboration with partner universities.	Year 4 The final year of a four-year (or the third and final year of a three-year undergraduate degree) undergraduate degree under DTS.	1200/120	1800/60	52	7-8/15+15
5.	Level 7	Level 7 120 credit IQAC Postgraduate Diploma leading to Master’s degree top-up delivered in collaboration with partner universities.	Master’s level	1800/180	2700/90	78	9-10-11/ 15+15+15
6.	Level 8	Level 8 Three-year Professional	Doctorate	1800/180	1800/60	156	6 semesters





		Diploma leading to full doctoral study programme, with the third and final year delivered in collaboration with partner universities.					
--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

Table 2.2

The stages, scope, and duration of integrated educational programmes based on the RQF in Tourism and Hospitality

#	Stages of the integrated educational programs			The volume of the integrated educational programs, in hours/credits		Duration of the integrated educational programs, in weeks	Number and volume of academic semesters; semester sequence number / number of instructional weeks
	RQF stages	IQAC stages	Aligned DTS stages	Volume according to the RQF (CATS)	Volume according to the aligned DTS (ECTS)		
1.	Level 4	Level 4	Year 1 Year one of a three-year undergraduate degree.	1200/120	1800/60	52	1-2/15+15
2.	Level 5	Level 5	Year 2 Year two of a three-year undergraduate degree.	1200/120	1800/60	52	3-4/15+15



3.	Level 6	<p>Level 6</p> <p>Level 6 IQAC Professional and Vocational Diploma. Final year of the degree programmes delivered in collaboration with partner universities.</p>	<p>Year 3</p> <p>Year three of a three-year undergraduate degree.</p>	1200/120	1800/60	52	5-6/15+15
4.	Level 7	<p>Level 7</p> <p>120 credit IQAC Postgraduate Diploma leading to Master's degree top-up delivered in collaboration with partner universities</p>	Master's level	1800/180	2700/90	78	9-10-11/ 15+15+15

Table 2.3

The stages, scope, and duration of integrated educational programmes based on the RQF at professional colleges (technicum) in Uzbekistan

#	Stages of the integrated educational programs	The volume of the integrated educational programs, in hours/credits	Duration of the integrated educational	Number and volume of academic semesters; semester
---	---	---	--	---

	RQF stages	IQAC stages	Aligned DTS stages	Volume according to the RQF (CATS)	Volume according to the aligned DTS (ECTS)	programs, in weeks	sequence number / number of instructional weeks
1.	Level 3	Level 3 Equivalent to A levels or a university foundation year in the UK; equivalent to the first year of a four-year bachelor's degree in Uzbekistan.	Level 3 Technical colleges with the delivery of IQAC accredited Level 3 programmes.	1200/12	-	52	1-2/20+20
2.	Level 4	Level 4 Equivalent to a UK university year one, and the second year of a four-year undergraduate (or first year of a three-year undergraduate) degree under DTS.	Level 4 Technical college level that lasts maximum two years under DTS. Technical colleges with the delivery of IQAC accredited Level 4 programmes.	1200/120	-	52	3-4/20+20
3.	Level 5	Level 5 Equivalent to the second year of a UK university degree and the third year of a four-year undergraduate	Level 5 *Year 2 of a four-year undergraduate degree under DTS. Technical colleges with the delivery of IQAC	1200/120	1800/60	52	5-6/20+20



		degree under DTS.	accredited Level 5 programme.				
--	--	-------------------	-------------------------------	--	--	--	--

*Those who possess a Level 5 qualification (non-IQAC) from professional colleges (technical colleges) in Uzbekistan are eligible to enter only the second year of undergraduate study under DTS.

Table 2.4

The stages, scope, and duration of integrated educational programmes based on the RQF at lyceums/schools in Uzbekistan

#	Stages of the integrated educational programs			The volume of the integrated educational programs, in hours/credits		Duration of the integrated educational programs, in weeks	Number and volume of academic semester/quarters; semester/quarter sequence number / number of instructional weeks
	RQF stages	IQAC stages	Aligned DTS stages	Volume according to the RQF (CATS)	Volume according to the aligned DTS (ECTS)		
1.	Level 3	Level 3	School and lyceums with the delivery of IQAC accredited Level 3 programmes.	1200/12	-	36	1-2/18+18 for one grade

III. Procedure for Admission of Students to Higher and Vocational Education Institutions Delivering Integrated Programmes

6. Integrated educational programmes developed under the RQF standards are implemented at the Centre’s partner education institutions.

7. Admission to study on the basis of integrated educational programmes is carried out in accordance with the following principles:

- The admission process – including announcement of openings, receipt of applicants’ documents, and organisation of the admission procedure – is conducted in the prescribed manner;



- Selection of applicants is conducted by interview in accordance with Table 3.

Table 3

#	Key competencies to be assessed during the interview process	Maximu score (100)
a.	<p>English Language Proficiency (ELP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be able to communicate fluently in English (at least at CEFR B2 level). • If the applicant presents an internationally recognized ELP at the B2 level, they will be exempt from this ELP interview. 	60 scores
b.	<p>General Intellectual Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant’s analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and ability to draw independent conclusions are assessed. • Format: problem-based questions, logical exercises, and case studies. 	20 scores
c.	<p>Aspiration and Motivation for Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant’s readiness to acquire new knowledge, ability to study independently, and motivation for their studies are assessed. • Format: interview focused on learning objectives. 	20 scores

- An Admissions Committee shall be formed to conduct the interviews;
- The results of the interview process shall be announced to applicants within three days following the interview;

- The decision to admit applicants to the programme shall be confirmed by an order of the Rector (Director) of the Centre's partner educational institution;
- Admission to RQF educational programmes shall be on a fee-paying (contract) basis.

8. Admission to higher and vocational education institutions/lyceums under the integrated RQF programmes shall be carried out in accordance with procedures agreed upon by the Centre, its partner institutions, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

IV. Organisation of the Educational Process under Integrated Programmes at Higher and Vocational Education Institutions

9. At higher and vocational education institutions as well as lyceums, the delivery of the integrated programmes shall be carried out in accordance with the curricula jointly developed by the Centre, its partner domestic institutions, and its partner foreign organisations, and approved in the prescribed manner.

10. The calculation of credits for the integrated programmes at higher and vocational education institutions shall be carried out as follows:

10.1. Republic of Uzbekistan (ECTS):

- 1 academic credit = 30 hours of total student workload.
- 1 academic year = 60 credits; by comparison, in the United Kingdom this corresponds to 120 credits.
- Adapted to the ECTS system to ensure both internal and external academic mobility.
- The calculation of GPA (Grade Point Average) shall be performed in accordance with the Regulations approved by Resolution No. 824 of 31 December 2020 "On Measures to Improve the System of Organizing the Educational Process in Higher Education Institutions."

10.2. United Kingdom (CATS):

- 1 CATS credit = 10 hours of student workload.
- 120 CATS credits = one full academic year.
- Bachelor's degree (with honours) = 360 CATS; Master's degree = 180 CATS.

10.3. Conversion between credit systems:

Procedures for converting between ECTS and CATS credits shall be established and applied to ensure mutual recognition of workload and achievement across the two systems.

<i>Different systems</i>	<i>1 credit hours</i>	<i>Conversion formula</i>
Uzbekistan	30 hours	1 credit
CATS (UK)	10 hours	1 Uzbekistan's credit = 3 CATS
ECTS	25–30 hours	1 ECTS ≈ 2 CATS

11. Students enrolled in integrated programmes at higher and vocational education institutions/lyceums are required to comply with the academic discipline, internal regulations, and codes of conduct of the partner institutions.

12. Vocational and higher education institutions delivering integrated programmes must have qualified faculty capable of organizing the RQF-aligned curriculum to the required standard, as well as the necessary buildings and facilities, equipment and material resources, and local and foreign (English-language) textbooks and literature.

13. Compliance with the requirements for organizing RQF-aligned teaching to the required standard shall be monitored by the Centre during the accreditation process (as well as during the delivery of such teaching) of further and higher education institutions.

14. Existing differences between the RQF and DTS assessment systems have been harmonized in Table 4.

Table 4

T/r	RQF	DTS*
1.	90-100 (Outstanding)	90-100 / 5 (excellent)
2.	A: 80-89 (Excellent)	
3.	B: 70-79 (Good)	71-90 / 4 (good)
4.	C: 60-69 (Satisfactory)	60-70 / 3 (satisfactory)
5.	D: 50-59 (Pass)	Failed
6.	E: 40-49 (Marginal Pass)	Failed
7.	F: 0-39 (Fail)	Failed

* In the “Management of Higher Education Processes — HEMIS”/ “Management of Professional Education Processes — EMIS” information system, grade scores shall be entered in accordance with the DTS.

15. When organizing the educational process under the integrated programmes, the monitoring and management of students’ academic activities, assessment of knowledge, and tracking of rankings shall be carried out using the “Management of Higher Education Processes – HEMIS”/ “Management of Professional Education Processes — EMIS” information system.



16. In organizing the educational process under the integrated programmes, the procedures for advancing students from course to course, transferring studies, suspending studies, and reinstating students shall be carried out in accordance with:

- Resolution No. 393 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 20, 2017, “On Approval of Regulations for Admission to Higher Education Institutions, Transfer and Reinstatement of Students, and Suspension of Studies”;
- Resolution No. 824 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 31, 2020, “On Measures to Improve the System of Organizing the Educational Process in Higher Education Institutions”;
- Resolution No. 648 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 07, 2023, “On Measures to Implement the Credit-Modular System in Vocational Education”;
- Resolution No. 320 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 05, 2024, “On Measures to Improve the Procedure for Admitting Students to Academic Lyceums, Transferring, Reinstating and Expelling Them from Their Studies”.

17. The integrated programmes (academic plans) approved by the Agency for Strategic Reforms under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the International Qualifications and Assessment Centre shall be delivered at: (a) higher education institutions (Levels 3–8); and (b) vocational colleges (technicum), lyceums, and other state and non-state education providers (Levels 3–5). Under these programmes, learners/students may begin their studies at Levels 3–5 in vocational technical colleges, lyceums, or other state and non-state institutions (e.g., private schools), and may later progress via “top-up” programmes or defined progression routes to higher education institutions to continue their studies at Levels 4–6. When learners/students—who began or completed their studies at Levels 3–5 in vocational colleges (technical colleges), lyceums, or other institutions—transfer to higher education institutions to pursue Levels 4–6, they shall be registered in the Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) or the Vocational Education Management Information System (EMIS).

18. Graduates shall be awarded diplomas approved by the Centre, its foreign partner organisations, and its partner higher education institutions within Uzbekistan. If a graduate completes the final stage of study under a “top-up” programme at one of the Centre’s foreign partner universities, the graduate shall be awarded a diploma of that foreign university.