

European Vocational Education and Training Initiatives in the UK

The European Union has created tools to help people work or study in different countries and to help people understand the qualifications in different countries.

What are they and how do they interact?



Countries in Europe have agreed to work together to make sure individuals can move around more easily to take up employment and studies wherever they are. A number of tools have been created to encourage and facilitate mobility across Europe, but it can be quite confusing to understand what these tools are and how they can help you. This short guide is here to give you a hand so you can explore the endless opportunities Europe has to offer. Do check the individual websites if you would like to find out more.

Tool	What it can do for you
European Qualifications Framework (EQF) www.ofqual.gov.uk www.ccea.org.uk www.scqf.org.uk www.cqfw.net	<p>The EQF makes it easier for you to compare the level of your qualifications with those in other countries. Employers and college recruiters in Europe will be able to understand your UK qualification level and what it means in their country.</p> <p>There is also a handy comparison tool available on the EQF website:</p> <p>http://eqf.intrasoft-intl.com/eqf/compare_en.htm</p>
Europass (www.uknec.org.uk/)	<p>This set of templates (including one for a European CV) will help you if you want to move jobs in the UK or abroad or if you want to study in a different country. The templates make it clear to others what you have learned, including your qualifications and personal achievements. It also helps UK employers appreciate what a non UK applicant has achieved.</p>
European Credit transfer system for VET (ECVET) www.ecvetexperts.org.uk/	<p>If you study or work for a short time in another country this tool will allow you to bring back credit towards your study for a UK qualification. It will also let you take credit for what you have learned here in the UK when you study in another country.</p>
European Quality Assurance system for VET (EQAVET) www.eqavet.eu/gns/about-eqavet/network-members/national-reference-points/uk.aspx	<p>This initiative works in the background to make sure the quality of education and training programmes (in the UK and abroad) can be trusted so you can feel more confident that you will benefit from your training and qualifications.</p>
European skills, competences and occupations (ESCO) http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=5653&langId=en	<p>This new initiative will help you find jobs in the UK and other countries. It will allow you to see what employers from the UK and other countries want in terms of skills and qualifications and it will help you appreciate what skills and qualifications you have or might need for certain jobs.</p>

Individual learners and employers can benefit from the work in the UK with the European initiatives. The initiatives interact and reinforce each other to help with:

- presenting knowledge, skills and wider competences in a transparent way so that access to learning and work is improved at home and abroad.
- gaining an overview of learning opportunities.
- having a career that develops over time and allows competence to be built through learning in formal settings and in work.
- reducing barriers to learning - the initiatives can improve job and career prospects.

Help for people on the move

The European tools help people who are moving for work or study; they help to make your learning visible even if it is not yet part of a full qualification.

My friend, who lives in France, invited me to come over and spend a year doing some work experience linked to my degree course. I found out that my qualifications from the UK can be compared to qualifications in France by using something called the European Qualifications Framework and that it will be possible to get some credit for my work experience to bring back to my degree course when I come back. All I need to do is make sure that my course tutor and the French employer know about ECVET. I started off by filling in a European style CV; this was easy using a Europass CV form which is on the web. Apparently millions of people have filled in a European CV across Europe. Now I need to send mine to some French employers. I am checking out some of the main firms in Nantes where my friend lives...



Across all of Europe there is agreement on how the quality of the vocational training system in Europe can be measured and improved, for example, by making sure programmes are tailored to what employers want. This means that you can feel safer in choosing vocational courses abroad.

Helping employers understand foreign qualifications and vocational education

I read that German graduates are really good in the creative industries; I have no idea if this is true but I had no choice but to broaden my recruitment to outside of the UK so that I can make sure my colleagues are the best people. The trouble is that I don't know anything about education in Germany or what their qualifications mean. I am now gradually picking it up using the EQF and by comparing applicants with their Europass CVs and the supplements that tell me more about their qualifications...

The tools work together to help with recognition of learning throughout life.

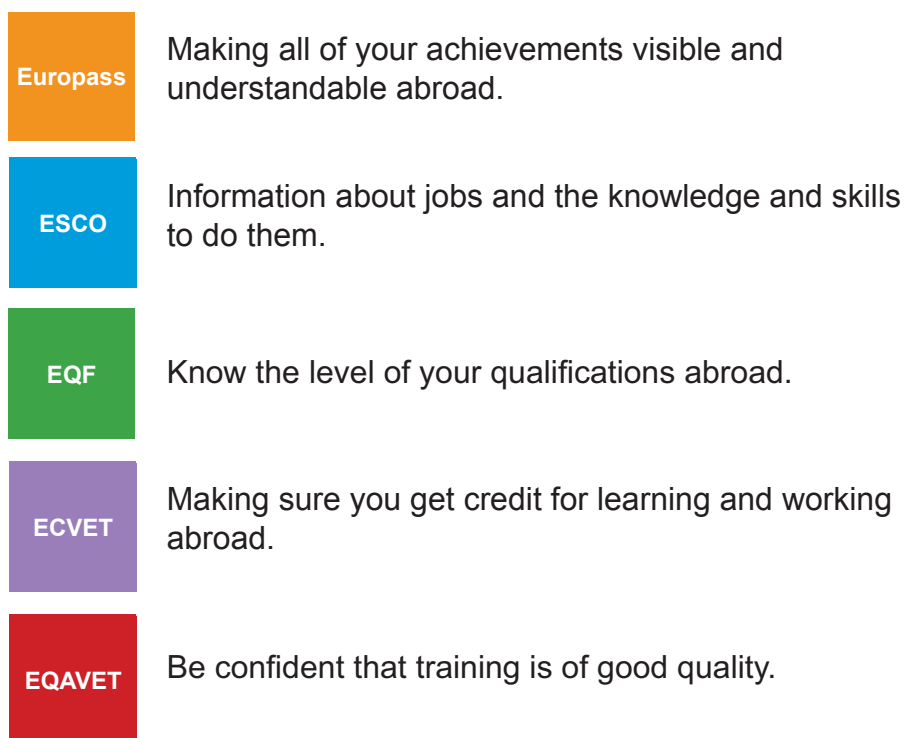


How the European tools can help you

You can use



Together with the European tools



To help achieve a



The tools working together

Working together, the tools encourage greater transparency of the content of training programmes and qualifications so they can deliver the learning outcomes needed by employers.

Whilst the EQF is a guide to qualification levels, ECVET makes it possible for credit gained in training, or through learning done outside training, to be credited towards a qualification. Through Europass your credit can then be recorded in a Europass CV, mobility document or language passport. ESCO can make clear what is valued in the labour markets from requirements of real vacancies. EQAVET underpins the quality assurance of the vocational education and training (VET) system and should give you greater confidence in the quality of learning gained abroad.





Find out more

Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales Welsh Government

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