

## Administrative Fees

In line with Subsidiary Legislation 327.433, the NCFHE may charge fees to providers seeking any type of accreditation under these same regulations to cover related costs. Updated information about Administrative Fees is available from [www.ncfhe.gov.mt](http://www.ncfhe.gov.mt).

## Other Sources of Information

Further and Higher education providers interested in provider and programme accreditation may refer to Subsidiary Legislation 327.433 - Further and Higher Education (Licensing, Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations, which stipulates the parameters adhered to by the NCFHE.

The NCFHE also makes publicly available its communications, guidelines and regulations on accreditation for the attention of providers, as well as the list of licensed providers and accredited courses in Malta. This information may be accessed from [www.ncfhe.gov.mt](http://www.ncfhe.gov.mt).

In order to apply for provider or programme accreditation, interested providers may access the application forms from the same website.



MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



# Accreditation of Educational Institutions, Programmes and Courses



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## What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a process of evaluation of educational institutions and programmes according to the standards set by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE).

As a result, a formal approval is granted by the NCFHE for further or higher education providers to operate in Malta; and a formal approval for further or higher education programmes and courses, in line with the Malta Qualifications Framework.

## Provider Accreditation

According to the Subsidiary Legislation 327.433 on Licensing, Accreditation and Quality Assurance, all education providers offering further or higher education in or from Malta require a license issued by the NCFHE to operate. This means that the provider has met the stipulated standards and guidelines as established by law.

Different categories of licences:

- University,
- Higher Education Institution,
- Further Education Institution,
- Further Education Centre, and
- Tuition Centre.

To be eligible for provider accreditation, a provider needs:

1. an accredited programme on the Malta Qualifications Framework/European Qualification Framework<sup>1</sup>;
2. due diligence tests carried out on the Head of Institution and academic staff;
3. an Internal Quality Assurance policy;
4. compliance with venue regulations (as per NCFHE Communications published on [www.ncfhe.gov.mt](http://www.ncfhe.gov.mt)).

It is important to note that for every license category, apart from the above criteria, other different requirements apply.

<sup>1</sup> Providers applying under the category of a tuition centre are exempted from this criterion.

## Programme Accreditation

Programme accreditation is the process of assessing programmes and courses and pegging them to the Malta Qualifications Framework. This accreditation process is based on a number of principles, as set in the Referencing Report for Malta. It should adhere to the parameters set in the same Report, with respect to the level descriptors and the number of credits assigned for the learning outcomes stated.

It is important that providers consult with the Referencing Report to determine the Level on the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF) for a prospective programme or course. Programmes and courses at MQF Levels 1 – 4 are classified as leading to *Further Education Programmes*; those at MQF Levels 5 – 8 lead to *Higher Education Programmes*. Whatever the MQF Level, whether a programme leads to a full qualification or an award, is determined by the credit weighting of the programme. Credits may be either ECTS<sup>2</sup> or ECVET<sup>3</sup>, depending on the nature of the programme. The NCFHE also issues specific programme accreditable parameters according to Level Descriptors.

All further and higher education providers need to apply with the NCFHE for programme accreditation. However, self-accrediting institutions in Malta, namely the University of Malta; the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology; and the Institute for Tourism Studies, have the necessary internal structures to accredit their own programmes.

Further information is available from the Referencing Report for Malta, accessible on [www.ncfhe.gov.mt](http://www.ncfhe.gov.mt).

<sup>2</sup> European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

<sup>3</sup> European Credit System for Vocational Education & Training