

**MALTA GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS
Undergraduate Scheme**

AWARDS 2009

Regulations

Introduction

Over the last decade, Malta has witnessed significant overall expansion in the higher education sector. In a knowledge-based economy, it is imperative to have a strong participation rate in higher education, which leads towards intellectual and economic growth to society.

High quality undergraduate education is of central importance to a number of objectives: an ever more highly skilled workforce and the development of new fields of study and specialisation. It is a key to Malta's economic and social progress, and is essential to many people's continuing professional development.

Government believes that students may find valid learning pathways in degree courses which are provided, either through foreign higher education institutions or through recognised private higher education institutions in Malta.

The Malta Government Scholarship Scheme (Undergraduate Course) for 2009 aims at providing more opportunities to promote further choice of undergraduate degrees up to and including Bachelor and Honours Degrees (excluding Master's Degree programmes) classified as National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 6 or equivalent¹.

Through this scheme Government is extending the support available to undergraduate students at the University of Malta, to those Maltese students undertaking equivalent studies leading to reputable and qualitative local and foreign degrees.

1. Aims and Objectives

The key objectives of this Scholarship scheme are:

- To encourage more student participation at an undergraduate level in Malta and abroad;
- To promote academic excellence in the private tuition sector;
- To increase student choice of degrees and institutions.

2. Eligibility

Students eligible for the scheme are students who have been accepted as regular students in a day course of studies and registered as full time students in one of the following:

1. a licensed private higher education institution or licensed tuition centre in Malta offering tuition which leads towards a recognised degree;
2. a foreign higher education institution offering recognised undergraduate degree courses.

For the purpose of this scheme, recognised degrees include only such degrees as verified by Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MaltaQRIC) within the Ministry of Education, and Culture, to be comparable to undergraduate degrees classified as equivalent to MQF level 6. Those degree courses provided locally and leading to a recognised foreign qualification are listed on the official site of the undergraduate scheme and these courses shall be exempt from MaltaQRIC verification by the applicant². Additionally, in those cases where such degrees lead to

¹ For further information about the National Qualification Framework, contact the Malta Qualification Council on +356 21801411 or see the link: www.mqc.gov.mt/pdfs/mqc%203gateA4%20english.pdf. For comparative purposes, NQF Level 6 would be equivalent to ISCED Level 5. For more information on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 1997), see extracts included under Schedule II and see the link: www.unesco.org/education/information/nfsunesco/doc/isced_1997.htm

² Official schedule of recognised degrees through local institutions shall be listed on http://www.education.gov.mt/mgss_ug.htm

professional careers, the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board (MGSSB) may request a report from the designated authority responsible for warrants. Without prejudice to these criteria, the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board may reserve the right to withdraw eligibility of certain courses leading to specific degrees, from the scheme.

Additionally, in order to apply for the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme, candidates should meet the following eligibility criteria:

(a) meet one of the following criteria:

- Be a Maltese citizen who has been residing in Malta for the past five (5) years. Provided that for the purposes of calculating this 5 year requirement, consideration shall not be given to such period of time during which such Maltese citizen has been residing outside Malta for study, health or work purposes or any other purpose which the Board may consider, or
- Be a Maltese Citizen who is a worker or self-employed person in Malta, or
- Be a national of an EU/EEA state or a family member of such EU/EEA national (as defined in LN 191 of 2007 and in LN 205 of 2004 respectively for EU and EEA nationals), provided that such person has obtained permanent residence in Malta in accordance with LN 191 of 2007 and in LN 205 of 2004 respectively for EU and EEA nationals, or
- Be a national of an EU/EEA state who is in Malta exercising his/her Treaty rights as a worker, self-employed person or person retaining such status in accordance with LN 191 of 2007; or
- Be a third country national who has been granted long-term residence status under LN 278 of 2006.

(b) have completed their term of compulsory education;

(c) intend to attend the course regularly and make satisfactory progress;

(d) in possession, by application deadline, of the necessary minimum entry requirements for the course applied for, as required by the degree awarding institution;

(e) in possession by application deadline, of certified copies of the qualification certificates and the classification thereof. It is the responsibility of applicants, in possession of qualifications awarded by foreign post-secondary or tertiary education institutions, to produce an evaluation report on comparability of qualifications issued by the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MaltaQRIC) within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. A copy of the said report issued by the MaltaQRIC, or the designated authority in case of warrants, should be attached to the application. The MaltaQRIC original report is to be kept by the applicant and presented only for verification purposes at the Customer Care Office, Human Resource Development Department, Directorate for Educational Services, Great Siege Road, Floriana. Candidates not in possession of this report may still apply, provided that they submit a copy of the report to the receiving department as soon as it becomes available and in any case by not later than one month from the closing date of the call for applications;

(f) students who have already started their undergraduate course and are not in receipt of a scholarship may apply under this scheme;

(g) not be in possession of a degree at the same MQF level or higher of that degree for which they are applying for;

- (h) not have been awarded a scholarship in prior years;
- (i) be available, by 1st October of the same year of deadline, to commence their academic studies and for the entire duration of the intended course, provided that the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board may accept courses commencing not later than 5 months after this date.

3. Appeal

A candidate can lodge an appeal with the Scholarships Appeals Board if he feels aggrieved with the MGSS Scholarship Board's decision on his/her eligibility.

4. Value of Awards

The Malta Government Scholarships Undergraduate Scheme will support students following full-time undergraduate studies leading to general degree courses throughout the duration of the course. Joint degrees, split-site programmes and distance learning programmes shall not be considered. The awards are classified as follows:

1. **General award:** students following courses leading to a general degree shall be entitled to an award as indicated in Section A of Schedule I hereunder, for the entire duration of the course.
2. **Prescribed courses:** Students following courses equivalent to the prescribed degree courses listed in Section B of Schedule I hereunder, shall be entitled to an award as indicated in the same schedule, for the entire duration of the course. The equivalence of such courses will be determined by the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board.

Undergraduate students from Gozo studying in recognised private institutions in Malta and eligible for an award under this scheme will be automatically eligible for an additional subsidy from the Ministry of Gozo, equivalent to that entitled to by students attending the University of Malta, for the duration of the course.

5. Selection Criteria

The scheme shall award all students that meet the eligibility criteria as verified by the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board.

6. Selection Process

The role of the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board is to verify information submitted, process the applications, determine the eligibility of applicants in accordance with pre-established criteria and administer the awards. Awards made by the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board are subject to the final approval of the Minister responsible for education. Each application is considered as follows:

- a. where necessary the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board shall appoint an expert with expertise in the subject area concerned to evaluate the application;
- b. the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board itself shall consider the application and any advice submitted by appointed experts;
- c. the Minister may be consulted and may give instructions in writing, to interpret or give additional rulings for unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

7. Tenure and Placement

Awards are tenable at any recognised foreign higher education institution or private licensed higher education institution/licensed tuition centre in Malta which provide courses leading to an undergraduate degree. Only those institutions recognised by the Maltese authorities shall be taken into consideration by the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board.

Institutions and respective courses listed on the official website http://www.education.gov.mt/mgss_ug.htm will not require MaltaQRIC verification as this would have been verified in advance with the respective institutions, and are eligible to the scheme. Should the courses not be included in the scheme, it shall be the responsibility of applicants applying for courses leading to degrees awarded by foreign universities/higher education institutions through local tuition centres, to produce an evaluation report on comparability of qualifications issued by the MaltaQRIC within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. A copy of the said report issued by the MaltaQRIC should be attached to the application. The MaltaQRIC original report is to be kept by the applicant and presented only for verification purposes at the Customer Care Office, Human Resources Department, Directorate for Educational Services, Great Siege Road, Floriana. Candidates not in possession of this report may still apply, provided that they submit a copy of the report to the receiving department as soon as it becomes available and in any case by not later than one month from the closing date of the call for applications.

Applications for foreign degrees shall not be processed prior to the receipt of the MaltaQRIC report.

8. Choice of Institution

Many courses have strict admission deadlines and applicants must take the necessary steps to secure admission to their preferred institutions in advance of any scholarship application to the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Board. Applicants should check admission requirements carefully at the time of application.

9. Administration of the Malta Government Scholarships Undergraduate Scheme

The Malta Government Scholarships Undergraduate Scheme shall be administered by the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Administrative Office within the Ministry of Education, Culture Youth and Sport.

The Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board, set up by the Minister responsible for education, shall operate the process of selection. The Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board shall be responsible for all matters concerning the selection of awardees. It shall also oversee that the awardees and the institutions comply with the scheme regulations.

10. Attendance records

The Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board may request attendance records from scholars, to be obtained from the institution attended, for compliance purposes.

11. Application Process

Applications and supporting documents for scholarships are required to arrive at the:

Customer Care Office
Human Resources Development Department
Directorate for Educational Services
Great Siege Road
Floriana. FRN 1810.

Tel: + 356 2598 2563
+ 356 2598 2461
+ 356 2598 2460
Fax: + 356 21 225630

The application deadline is the Tuesday 18th September, 2008 at noon.

12. Application Forms

Interested candidates are invited to apply using the appropriate application forms which are available either from the Customer Care Office, Human Resources Development Department, Directorate for Educational Services, Great Siege Road, Floriana. FRN 1810 or on-line from the link www.education.gov.mt/mgss_ug.htm.

Other documents to be submitted by post together with a signed copy of the application form include:

- i) 1 copy of the letter of acceptance from the University or Higher Education Institution applied for and 1 copy of the letter of acceptance from the local tuition centre (where applicable);
- ii) 1 copy of MaltaQRIC verification report;
- iii) 1 copy of your birth certificate or identity card.

All documents are required to arrive at Customer Care Office, Human Resources Development Department, Directorate for Educational Services, Great Siege Road, Floriana, FRN 1810 in an envelope addressed as follows:

The Secretary
Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board
Directorate for Educational Services
Great Siege Road
Floriana. FRN 1810.

13. General Conditions of Award

- (a) Students following courses which lead to a degree conditional to obtaining intermediary qualifications classified at a level lower than MQF Level 6, shall only be entitled to grants for that portion of the course that is classified at MQF Level 6 as determined by the Malta Government Scholarships Schemes Board.
- (b) Students who are required to repeat a year of their chosen course of studies shall not be entitled to the award during the year that they repeat.

- (c) Students whose progress, as assessed through periodical assessment procedures, is deemed to be unsatisfactory, or who are not attending their course regularly, shall forfeit the right to receive the award or part thereof until such time as the Head of the educational institution, Institute, or Faculty of the University concerned certifies that such students have resumed satisfactory progress or that they are attending regularly.
- (d) The fixed four-weekly part of the award is paid during the academic year, including the Christmas and Easter recesses, but excluding the summer recess.
- (e) Where the structure of particular courses so warrants, the Minister may approve the payment of an award during the summer recess.
- (f) Students pursuing a second or subsequent course after having completed or partially followed another course at the same level shall not be entitled to receive awards for that period of time that is equivalent to the period spent in the previous course if for that previous course they were in receipt of any award under the same scheme. Such students shall only be entitled to an award for the remaining period of time after termination of the first period without an award.
- (g) Students progressing from a diploma to a general degree level, or from a general degree to an honours level, or from a degree to a doctorate in Laws or in Medicine and Surgery, shall not be deemed to be following a second course for the purposes of this regulation. For students already benefiting from this scheme, they do not need to re-apply and will continue to benefit from the scholarship as long as the total duration of both courses does not exceed the maximum period of four years.
- (h) The awards shall be administered by the SMG Board as established by Part IV (Student Maintenance Grant Board) of Legal Notice 372 of 2005.
- (i) The Student Maintenance Grant Board shall also administer a contingency fund made available by the Minister responsible for finance for the consideration of applications for assistance by students facing extraordinary circumstances.
- (j) Scholars must inform the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board, in writing, beforehand of any commitment of employment that may interfere with their course requirements during the duration of their award.
- (k) Scholars whose studies commence later than the 1st October shall inform, in writing, the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board of the respective start date of the course and shall not be entitled to any grants prior to the commencement date of the course.
- (l) Scholars who apply before the applications deadline, but receive the MaltaQRIC verification report after the official start date of their course, shall be entitled to all the grants applicable from the official start date of their course.
- (m) Students who are in receipt of a scholarship award whilst they are on paid leave by their employer for the purposes of a course of studies, or who accept an offer to enter into a contract with an employer whereby they bind themselves to work for that employer following the completion of their course, and who would therefore benefit from that pay or the agreed remuneration, will be entitled to that pay or remuneration in lieu of the award as provided for in the Schedule I.
- (n) Scholars retaining full-time or more than 19 hours of employment contemporarily to their studies, shall be deemed to be in breach of their obligation towards full-time studies resulting in a cancellation of award and refund of any awards granted by then, unless they have approved unpaid leave. Applicants and scholars are responsible for informing the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board of any such situations in advance.
- (o) Scholars who are public service/sector employees on full-time employment contracts and receiving paid leave of absence shall not be eligible to the scheme.

- (p) Similar awards or grants to the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme for the same course/programme of studies must be declared before formally accepting the award;
- (q) The Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board reserves the right to publish the names of applicants selected for awards on the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme website. In applying for an award, the candidate gives consent for such publication in the event that her or his application is successful.

14. Additional Requirements

- (a) Scholars who are awarded a scholarship shall receive a letter of confirmation from the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board.
- (b) Scholars who do not start their studies by the commencement date of the course shall immediately inform, in writing, the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board. and they will forfeit their rights to the scholarship award. Scholars who abandon their studies after the commencement of the course will be requested to communicate, in writing, to the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board their resignation and the reason/s behind such resignation. If the Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board deems that such resignation has no valid justification, scholars will be requested by Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Board to refund all payments of the scholarship grant received. Scholars who abandon their studies due to a valid justification shall be required to refund the scholarship grant received on a pro-rata basis from the date of resignation.
- (c) Scholars receiving awards for courses with duration of more than one year shall ask their faculty supervisor to submit a short statement confirming progress and attendance of the scholar. Failure to receive this by the Student Maintenance Grants Office within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport could lead to a halt in further instalments of the award.
- (d) Awards are to obtain one degree and funding will not be extended to enable candidates to complete an additional or higher qualification than that for which the selection was made.

15. Queries

For further queries, please contact:

Ms. Pauline Catania
Malta Government Scholarships Scheme Administrative Office
Directorate for Educational Services
Great Siege Road
Floriana, FRN 1810

Telephone: +356 2598 2230
+ 356 2598 2250

Fax: +356 2598 2120

Email: ugscholarships.medc@gov.mt
Website: www.education.gov.mt/mgss.htm

Schedule I

A General Degree Courses

Students who, under the terms established in these regulations, are granted a scholarship and are following a full-time day undergraduate, degree, Doctor or Laws or Doctor of Medicine course qualify for the following award for the duration of the course of their studies:

1. Except for students following prescribed courses listed hereunder, a fixed rate of Eur 83.86 every four weeks payable between the 1st October and the 30th of June;
2. A sum of Eur 465.87 per academic year to partly cover expenses related to educational material and equipment;
3. A one-time grant of Eur 465.87 payable in the first year.

B Prescribed Degree Courses

Students who, under the terms established in these regulations are granted a scholarship and are following a full-time day undergraduate degree course as prescribed, qualify for the following award for the duration of the course of their studies:

1. A fixed rate of Eur 146.75 every four weeks payable between the 1st October and the 30th of June;
2. A sum of Eur 698.81 per academic year to partly cover expenses related to educational material and equipment;
3. A one-time grant of Eur 698.81 payable in the first year.

The prescribed courses are:

- a. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Biology
- b. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Chemistry
- c. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Mathematics
- d. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Physics
- e. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Statistics & Operations Research
- f. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Computer Science
- g. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Informatics
- h. Bachelor of Science - Engineering
- i. Bachelor of Science - Information Technology
- j. Bachelor of Science - Business and Computing
- k. Bachelor of Education - Biology
- l. Bachelor of Education - Chemistry
- m. Bachelor of Education - Mathematics
- n. Bachelor of Education - Physics
- o. Bachelor of Education - Computer Studies.

Schedule II

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) was designed by UNESCO in the early 1970's to serve 'as an instrument suitable for assembling, compiling and presenting statistics of education both within individual countries and internationally'. It was approved by the International Conference on Education (Geneva, 1975), and was subsequently endorsed by UNESCO's General Conference when it adopted the Revised Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics at its twentieth session (Paris, 1978).

Experience over the years with the application of ISCED by national authorities and international organizations has shown the need for its updating and revision. This would further facilitate the international compilation and comparison of education statistics and take into account new developments and changes in education and anticipate future trends in the various regions of the world, such as

- the multiplication and growth of different forms of vocational education and training,
- the increasing diversity of education providers, and
- the increasing recourse to distance education and other modalities based on new technologies.

The present classification, now known as ISCED 1997, was approved by the UNESCO General Conference at its 29th session in November 1997. It was prepared by a Task Force established by the Director-General to that effect and is the result of extensive consultations of worldwide representation. ISCED 1997 covers primarily two cross-classification variables: levels and fields of education.

UNESCO's data-collection programme will be adjusted to these new standards and Member States are invited to apply them in the reporting of education statistics so as to increase their international comparability. To this end, an operational manual, aimed at giving guidance on the interpretation and practical application of ISCED 1997, will be prepared in close collaboration with national experts.

During the 1998/99 biennium work on additional aspects such as types of education and education providers will be undertaken and incorporated in the present classification.

LEVEL 5 - FIRST STAGE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

(NOT LEADING DIRECTLY TO AN ADVANCED RESEARCH QUALIFICATION)

Principal characteristics

80. This level consists of tertiary programmes having an educational content more advanced than those offered at levels 3 and 4. Entry to these programmes normally requires the successful completion of ISCED level 3A or 3B or a similar qualification at ISCED level 4A.

81. All degrees and qualifications are cross-classified by type of programmes, position in national degree or qualification structures (see below) and cumulative duration at tertiary.

Classification criteria

82. For the definition of this level, the following criteria are relevant:

- normally the minimum entrance requirement to this level is the successful completion of ISCED level 3A or 3B or ISCED level 4A;
- level 5 programmes do not lead directly to the award of an advanced research qualification (level 6); and
- these programmes must have a cumulative theoretical duration of at least 2 years from the beginning of level 5.

Complementary dimensions

83. Three complementary dimensions are needed to subdivide this level:

- the type of programmes dividing programmes into theoretically based/research preparatory/giving access to professions with high skills requirements programmes on the one hand, practical/technical/occupationally specific programmes on the other hand;
- the cumulative theoretical duration in full time equivalence; and
- the position in the national degree or qualification structure (first, second or further degree, research).

Combining these three independent dimensions is the only way to capture the broad variety in the provision of tertiary education. The choice of the combination depends on the problems to analyse.

Type of programmes

84. The first dimension to be considered is the distinction between the programmes which are theoretically based/research preparatory (history, philosophy, mathematics, etc.) or giving access to professions with high skills requirements (e.g. medicine, dentistry, architecture, etc.), and those programmes which are practical/technical/occupationally specific. To facilitate the presentation, the first type will be called 5A, the second, 5B.

85. With the increasing demand for tertiary education in many countries, the distinction between long streams and short streams is very important. The long stream programmes are more theoretical and can lead to advanced research programmes or a profession with high skills requirements. The short streams are more practically oriented.

86. As the organizational structure of tertiary education programmes varies greatly across countries, no single criterion can be used to define boundaries between ISCED 5A and ISCED 5B. The following criteria are the minimum requirements for classifying a programme as ISCED 5A, although programmes not satisfying a single criterion should not be automatically excluded. If a programme is similar in content to other programmes meeting each of these criteria, it should be classified at level 5A.

87. ISCED level 5A programmes are tertiary programmes that are largely theoretically based and are intended to provide sufficient qualifications for gaining entry into advanced research programmes and profession with high skills requirements. They must satisfy a sufficient number of the following criteria:

- they have a minimum cumulative theoretical duration (at tertiary) of three years' full-time equivalent, although typically they are of 4 or more years. If a degree has 3 years' full-time equivalent duration, it is usually preceded by at least 13 years of previous schooling (see paragraph 35). For systems in which degrees are awarded by credit accumulation, a comparable amount of time and intensity would be required;
- they typically require that the faculty have advanced research credentials;
- they may involve completion of a research project or thesis;
- they provide the level of education required for entry into a profession with high skills requirements (see paragraph 84) or an advanced research programme.

88. Qualifications in category 5B are typically shorter than those in 5A and focus on occupationally specific skills geared for entry into the labour market, although some theoretical foundations may be covered in the respective programme.

89. The content of ISCED level 5B programmes is practically oriented/occupationally specific and is mainly designed for participants to acquire the practical skills, and know-how needed for employment in a particular occupation or trade or class of occupations or trades - the successful completion of which usually provides the participants with a labour-market relevant qualification.

90. A programme should be considered as belonging to level 5B if it meets the following criteria:

- it is more practically oriented and occupationally specific than programmes at ISCED 5A, and does not provide direct access to advanced research programmes;
- it has a minimum of two years' full-time equivalent duration but generally is of 2 or 3 years. For systems in which qualifications are awarded by credit accumulation, a comparable amount of time and intensity would be required;

- the entry requirement may require the mastery of specific subject areas at ISCED 3B or 4A; and
- it provides access to an occupation.

Cumulative theoretical duration

91. For initial programmes at tertiary, the cumulative theoretical duration is simply the theoretical full-time equivalent duration of those programmes from the beginning of level 5.

92. For programmes that require completion of other tertiary programmes prior to admission (see national degree and qualification structure below), cumulative duration is calculated by adding the minimum entrance requirements of the programme (i.e. full-time equivalent years of tertiary education prerequisites) to the full-time equivalent duration of the programme. For degrees or qualifications where the full-time equivalent years of schooling is unknown (i.e. courses of study designed explicitly for flexible or part-time study), cumulative duration is calculated based on the duration of more traditional degree or qualification programmes with a similar level of educational content.

93. The categories to be considered would be:

- and less than 3 years (particularly for ISCED level 5B);
- and less than 4 years;
- and less than 5 years;
- and less than 6 years;
- years and more.

National degree and qualification structure

94. This dimension cross-classifies both ISCED 5A and 5B qualifications by their position in the national qualification structure for tertiary education within an individual country.

95. The main reason the national degree and qualification structure is included as a separate dimension is that the timing of these awards mark important educational and labour market transition points within countries. For example, in country A a student who completes a three year Bachelor's degree programme will have access to a wide range of occupations and opportunities for further education, whereas the same student studying in country B (which does not distinguish between a first and second university degree) will only obtain a labour market relevant qualification after the completion of a full four or five year degree programme, even though the content may be similar to that of a second (Master's) degree programme in country A.

96. The 'position' of a degree or qualification structure is assigned (first, second or further, research) based on the internal hierarchy of awards within national education systems. For example, a first theoretically based degree or qualification (cross-classifying 'theoretically based' type of programme 5A with 'first' in the national degree and qualifications structure) would necessarily meet all of the criteria listed above for a theoretically based programme and lead to the first important educational or labour market qualification within this type of programme. The research degree is intended for the countries which have a non-doctoral research degree such as the Master of Philosophy in some countries and want to have it clearly distinguished in international statistics.

97. When 'theoretically based' programmes are organized and provide sequential qualifications, usually only the last qualification gives direct access to level 6, but all these programmes are allocated to level 5A.

98. Bachelor's degrees in many English-speaking countries, the 'Diploma' in many German-speaking countries, and the Licence in many French-speaking countries meet the content criteria for the first theoretically based programmes. Second and higher theoretically based programmes (e.g. Master's degree in English-speaking countries and Maîtrise in French-speaking countries) would be classified separately from advanced research qualifications, which would have their own position in ISCED 6 (see below).

99. Degrees or qualifications with a different numerical ranking in two countries may be equivalent in educational content. For instance, programmes leading to a 'graduate' or second degree in many English-speaking countries have to be classified at level 5 as is the case for long first degrees in many German-speaking countries. It is only by combining

national degree structure with other tertiary dimensions, such as cumulative theoretical duration and programme orientation, that enough information is available to group degrees and qualifications of similar education content.

How the three complementary dimensions work at level 5					
Theoretical	LEVEL 5				
cumulative	5A Programmes			5B Programmes	
duration at					
tertiary level	First degree	Sec. and further degree	Research	First qualificat.	Second qualification
2 and < 3 years					
3 and < 4 years					
4 and < 5 years					
5 and < 6 years					
6 years and +					

Includes also:

100. This level includes all the research programmes which are not part of a doctorate, such as any type of Master’s degree.

101. In some countries, students beginning tertiary education enrol directly for an advanced research qualification. In this case, the part of the programme concentrating on advanced research should be classified as level 6 and the initial years as level 5.

102. Adult education programmes equivalent in content with some ISCED 5 programmes could be included at this level.