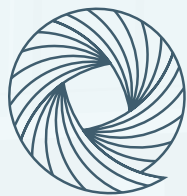


Understanding the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann



**National Framework
of Qualifications**



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

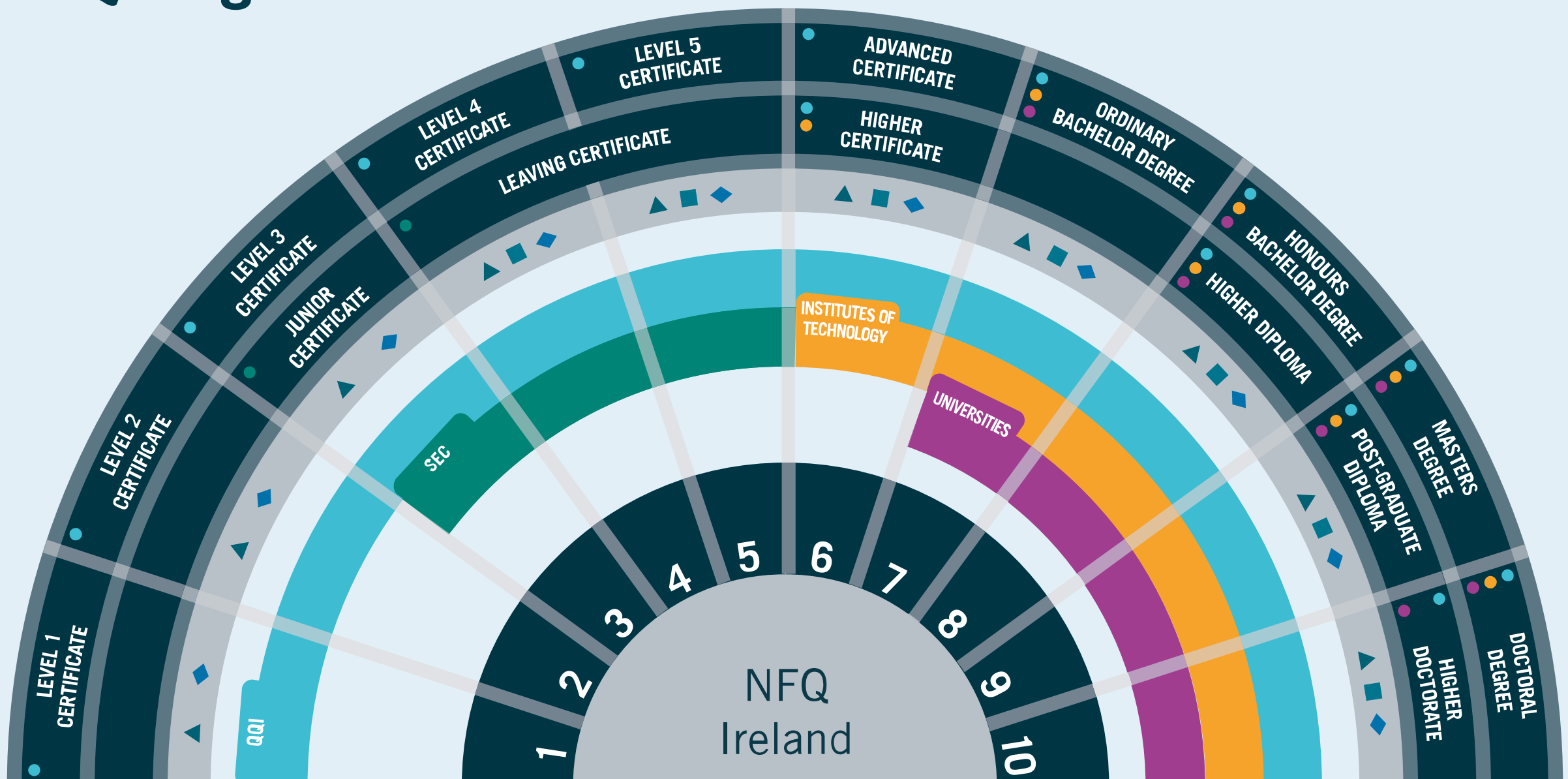


National Framework of Qualifications





NFQ Diagram





What is the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)?

- » A framework for the development, recognition and award of qualifications in Ireland
- » One framework to encompass all awards for all aspects of education and training
- » A simple, transparent frame of reference

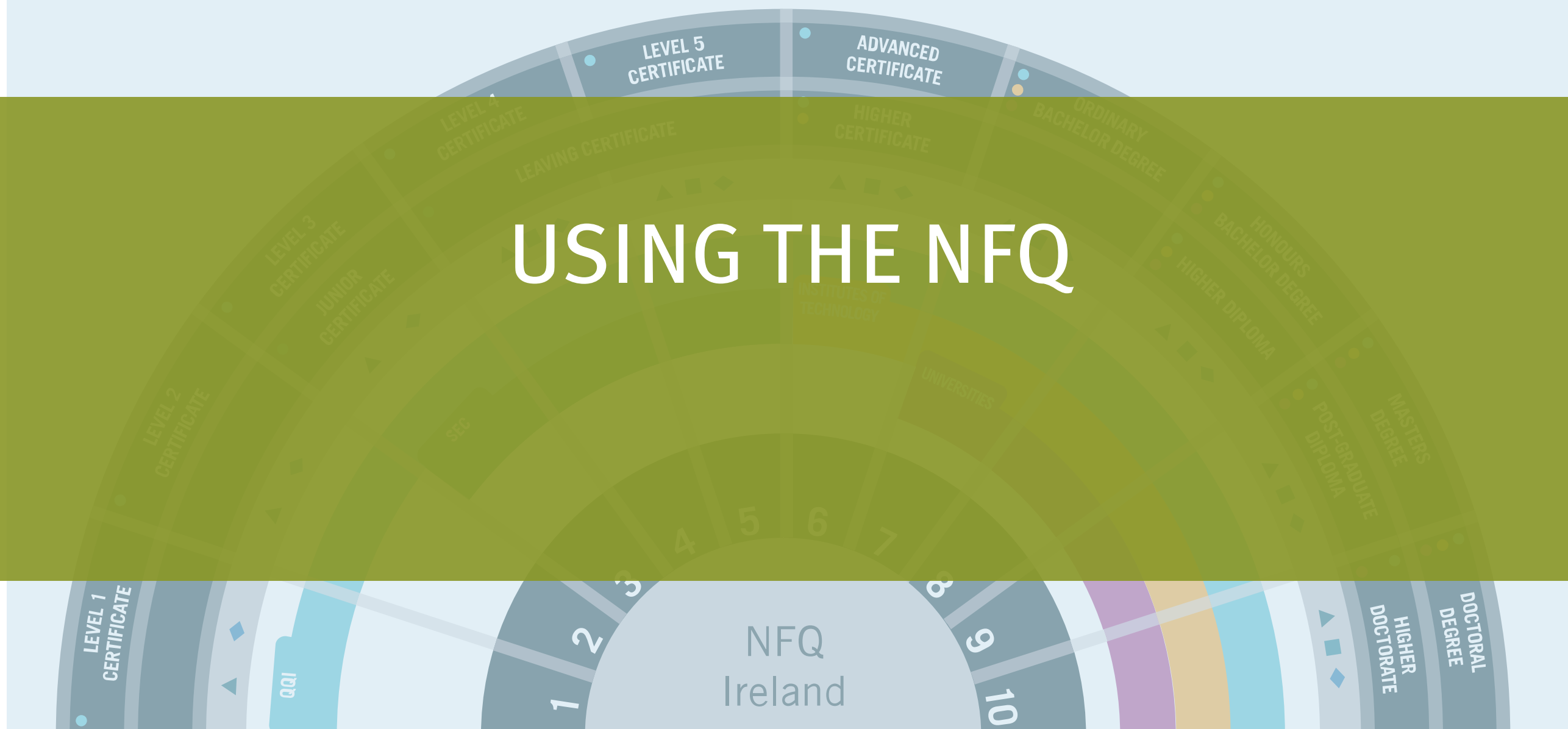


Development of the NFQ

- » Promote the transparency of Ireland's qualifications system
- » Need for a more flexible system of qualifications
- » Need for portability of qualifications – into and out of country
- » European policy trends and agreements – Lisbon, Copenhagen and Bologna, European Qualifications Framework (EQF)



USING THE NFQ





LEARNERS

- » Help plan education and training and career progression
- » Make informed choices, know progression routes available
- » Qualifications in the NFQ are recognised nationally and internationally



ADVISORS

- » Support learners to make their existing level knowledge, skill or competence visible and valuable
- » Use the NFQ to explain Ireland's system of national qualifications
- » Assist learners to identify pathways toward the qualifications that they are interested in achieving



EMPLOYERS AND RECRUITERS

- » Understand Ireland's system of qualifications and how qualifications can be compared
- » Use the NFQ to indicate qualifications requirements associated with work performance
- » Provide fair recognition of qualifications and so improve the quality of recruitment processes



PROVIDERS

- » Providers can use the NFQ to develop courses and qualifications that are nationally and internationally recognised
- » Providers can use the NFQ to signal confidence in the quality of their courses and qualifications
- » Providers can use the NFQ as a reference point for validating prior learning and achievement

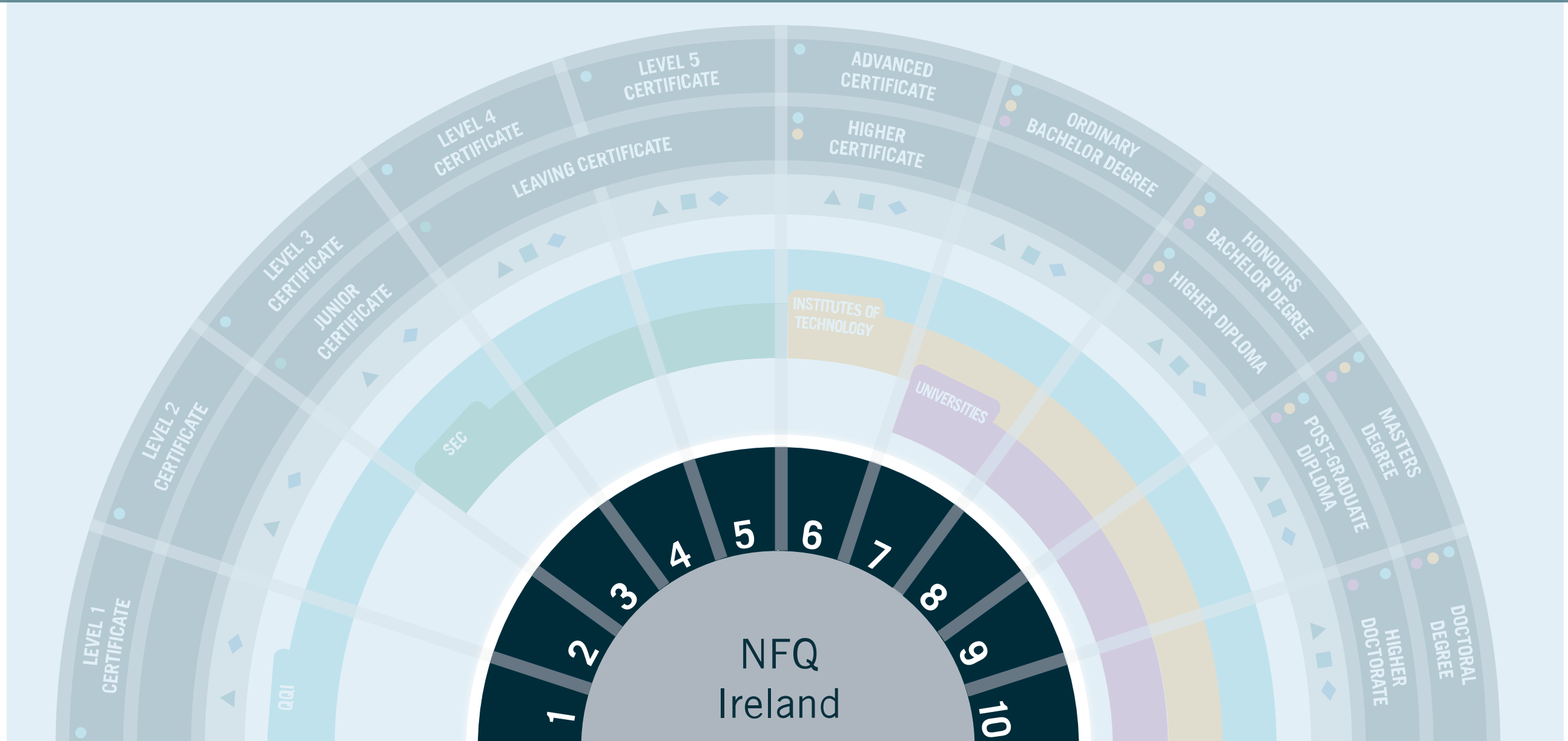


UNDERSTANDING THE NFQ



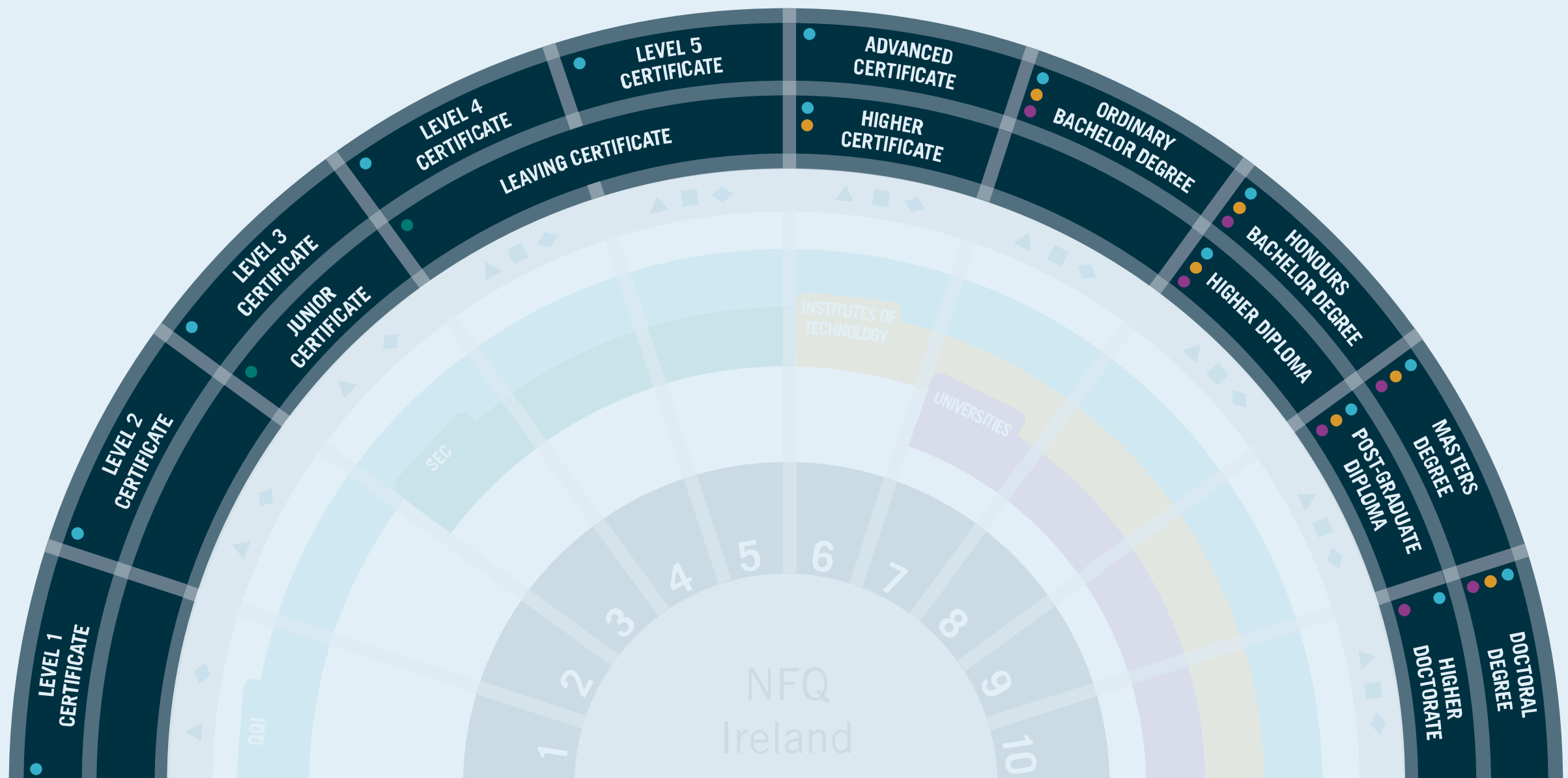


LEVELS



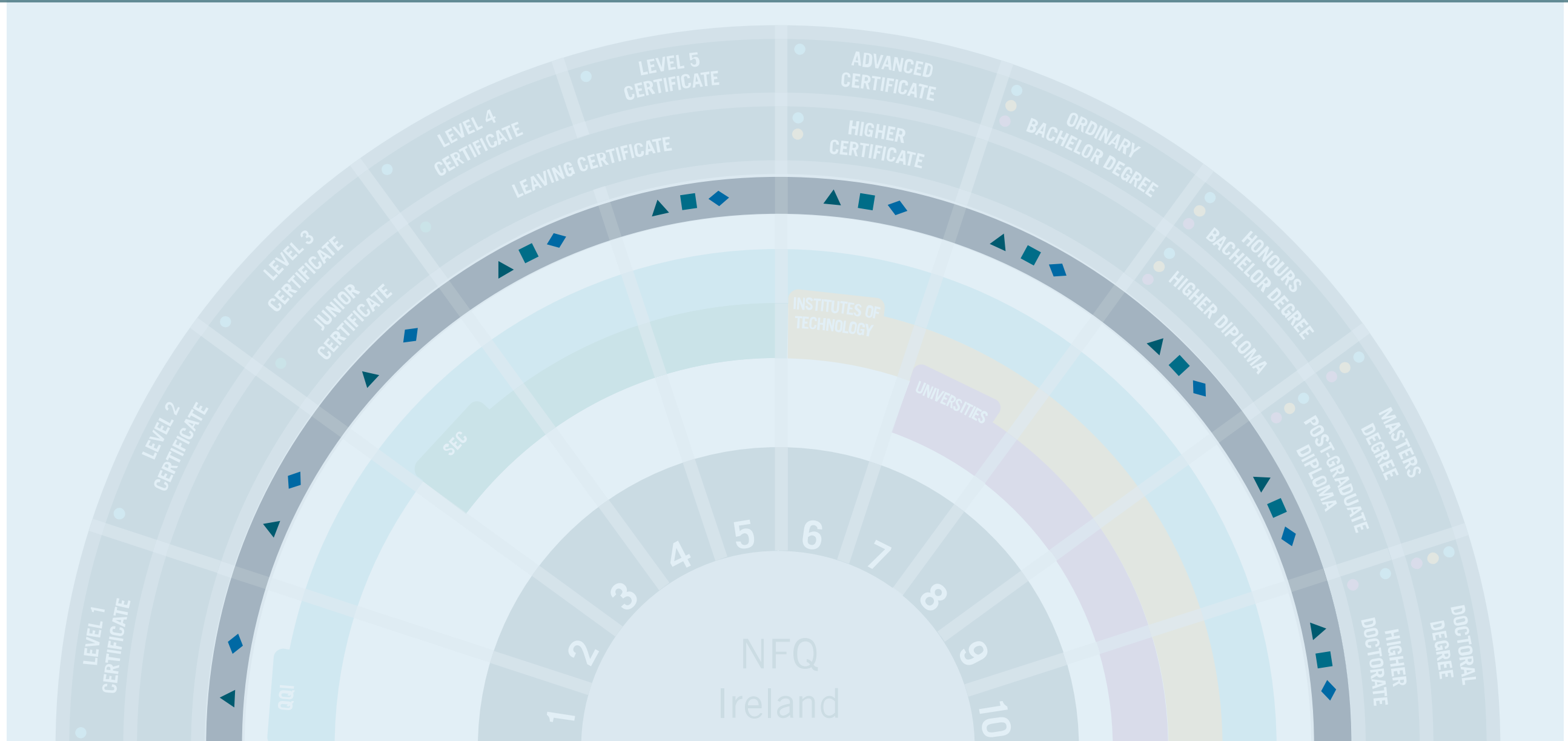


MAJOR AWARDS





NON-MAJOR AWARDS



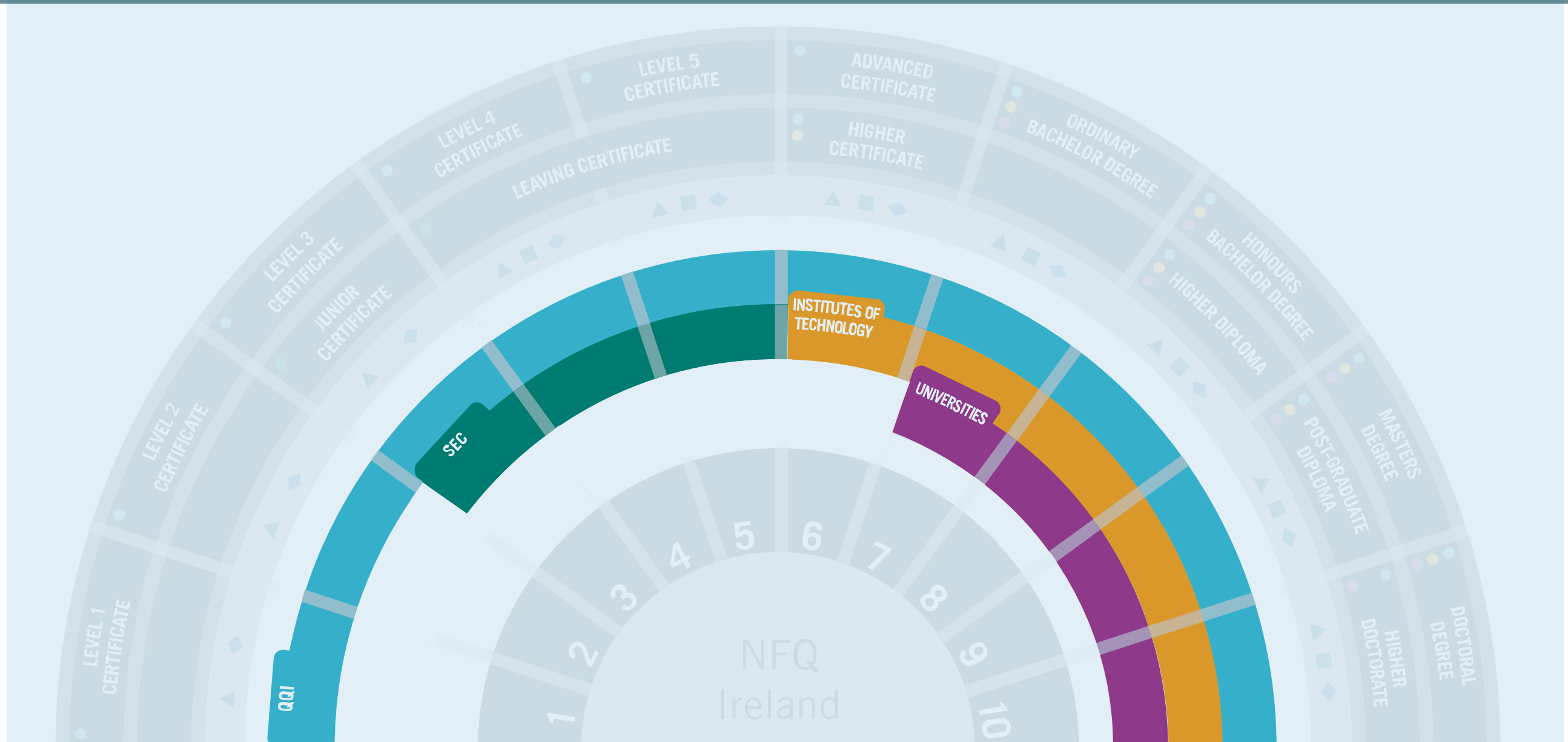


NAMED AWARDS

- » A 'named award' is what a learner receives
- » A named award is for achievement in a specific field of learning –
e.g. Honours Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering, or
Level 5 Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education
- » A named award is associated with a level in the Framework
through the award-type to which it belongs
- » Named awards are developed by the awarding bodies

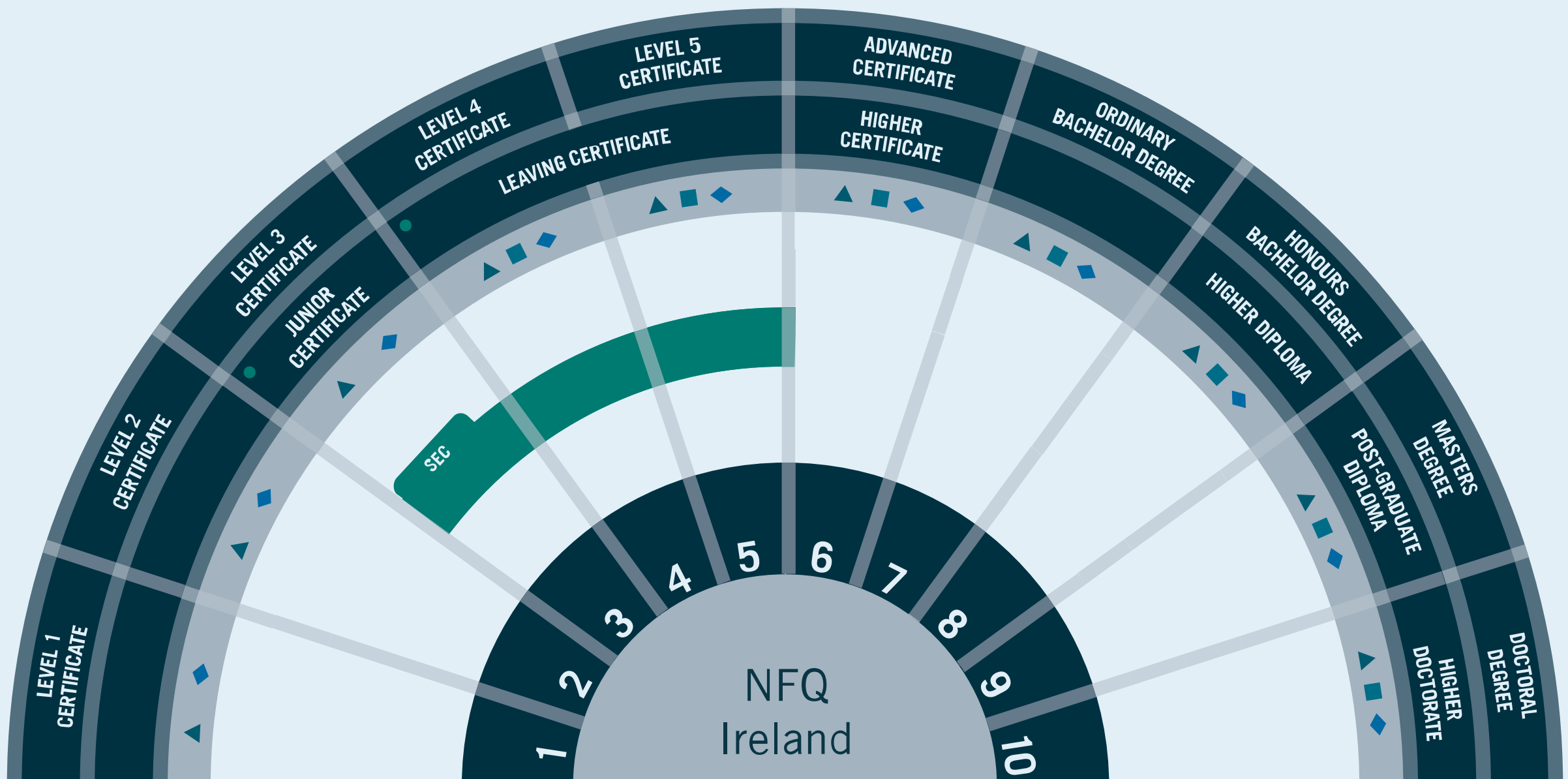


AWARDING BODIES



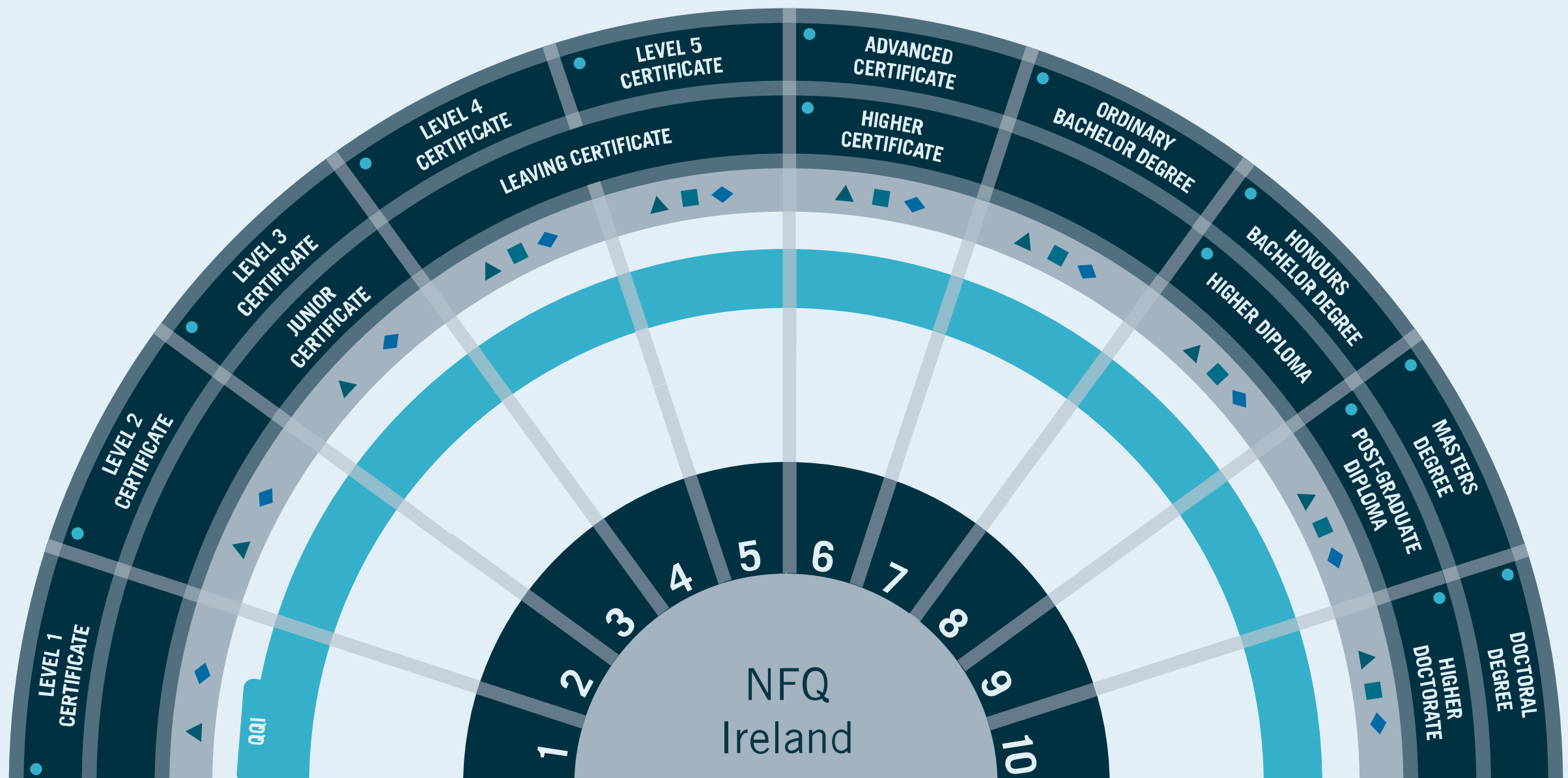


STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION



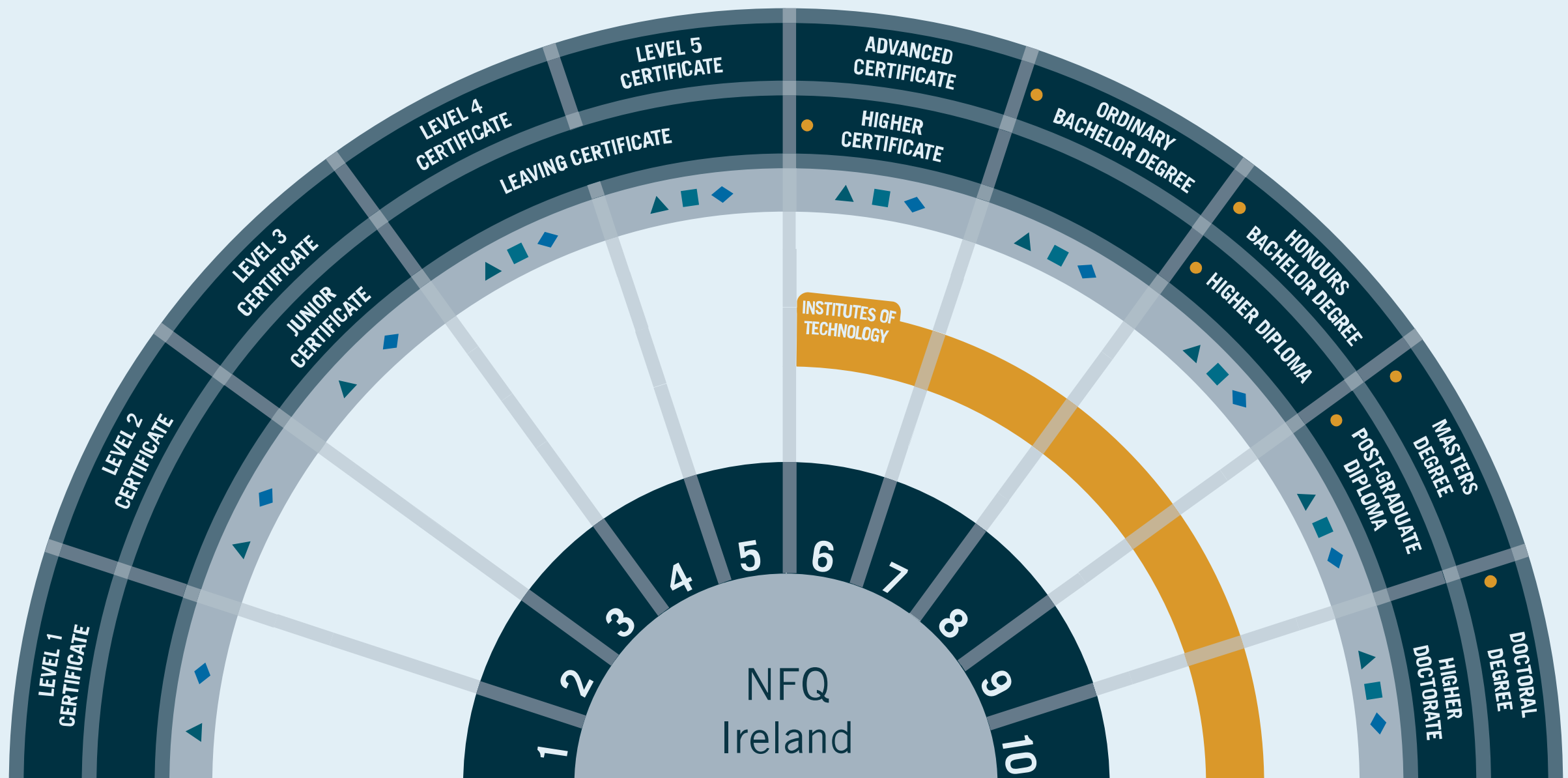


QUALITY AND QUALIFICATIONS IRELAND



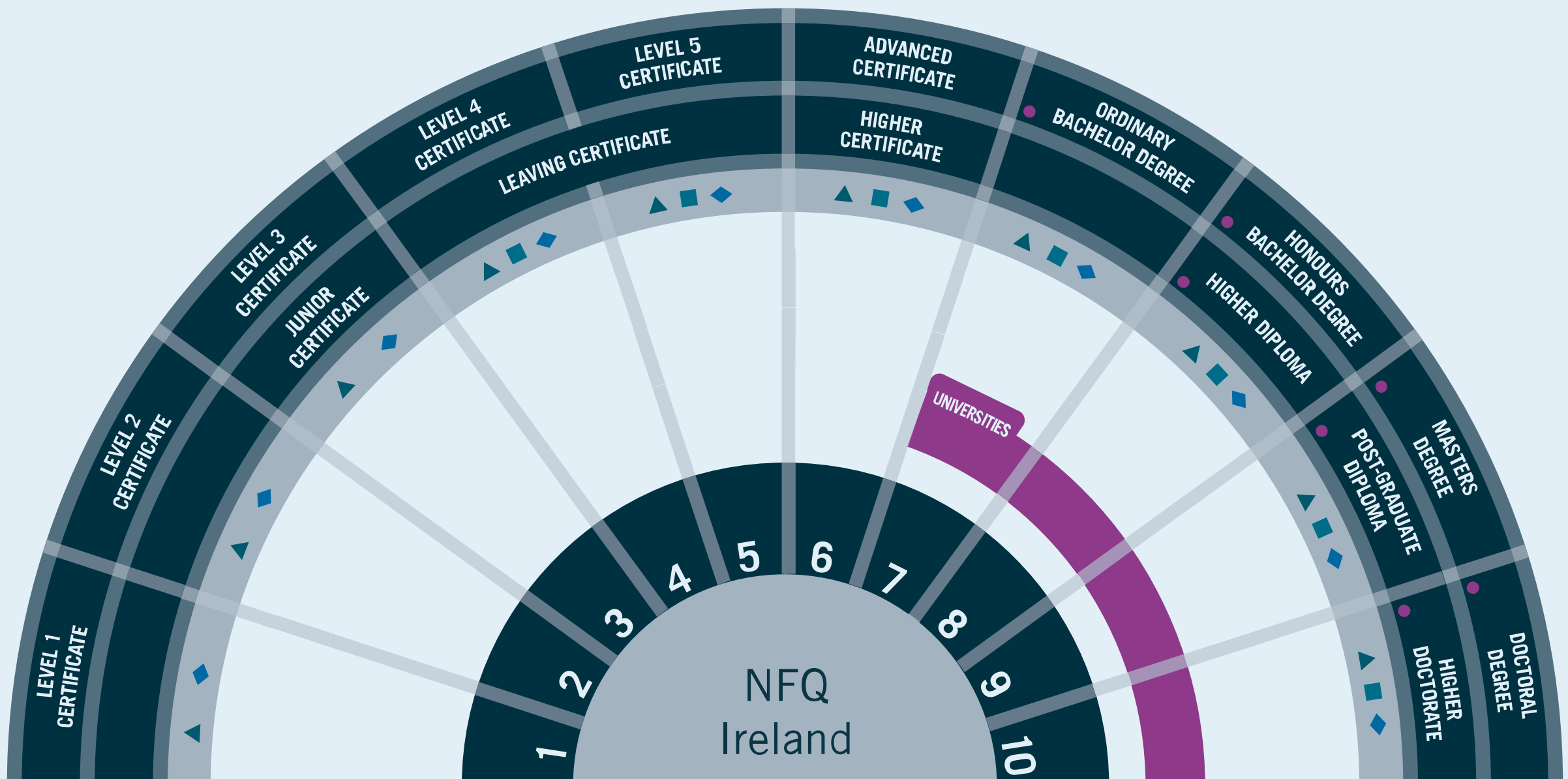


INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY





UNIVERSITIES

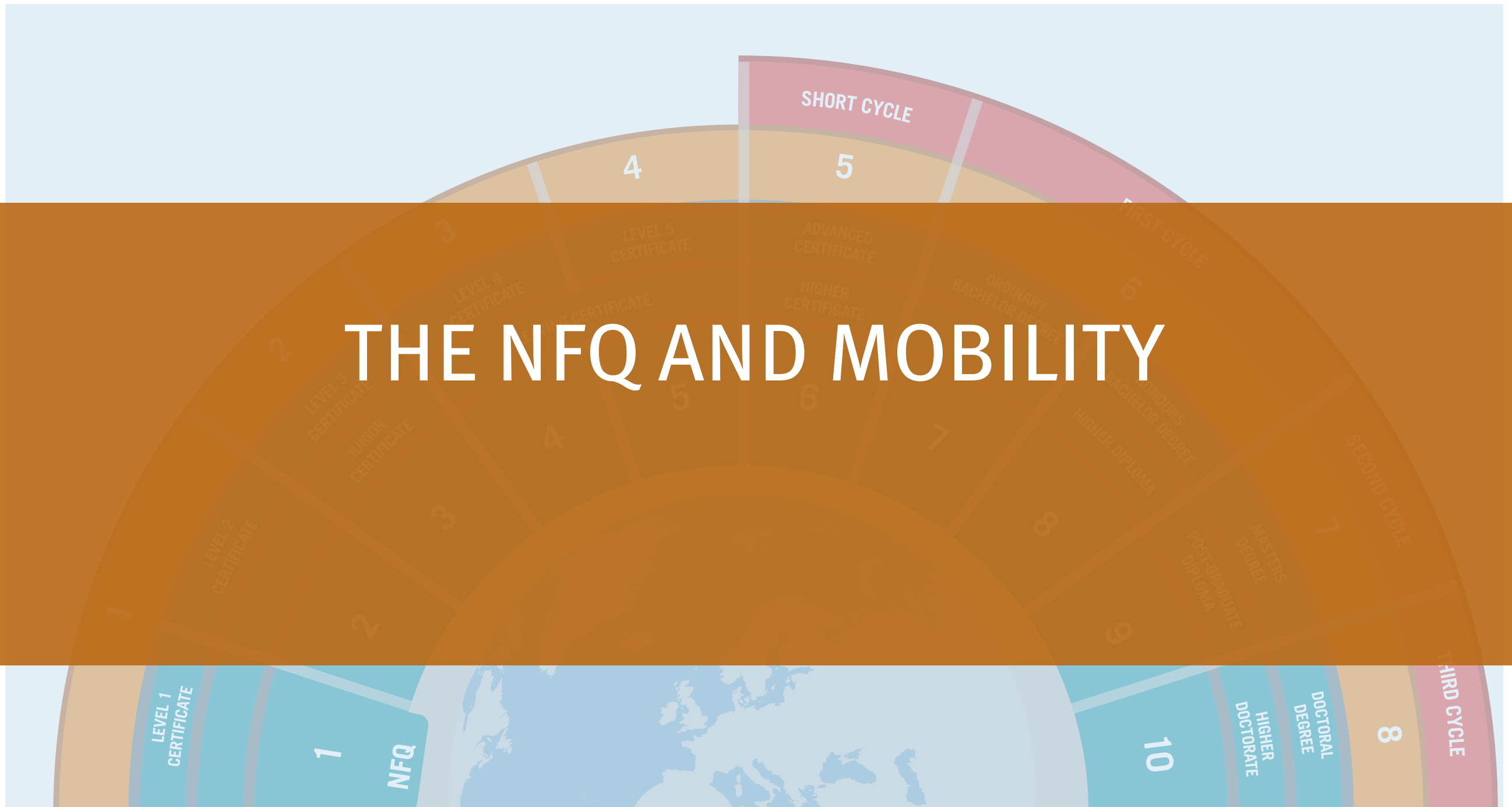




National Framework
of Qualifications



THE NFQ AND MOBILITY



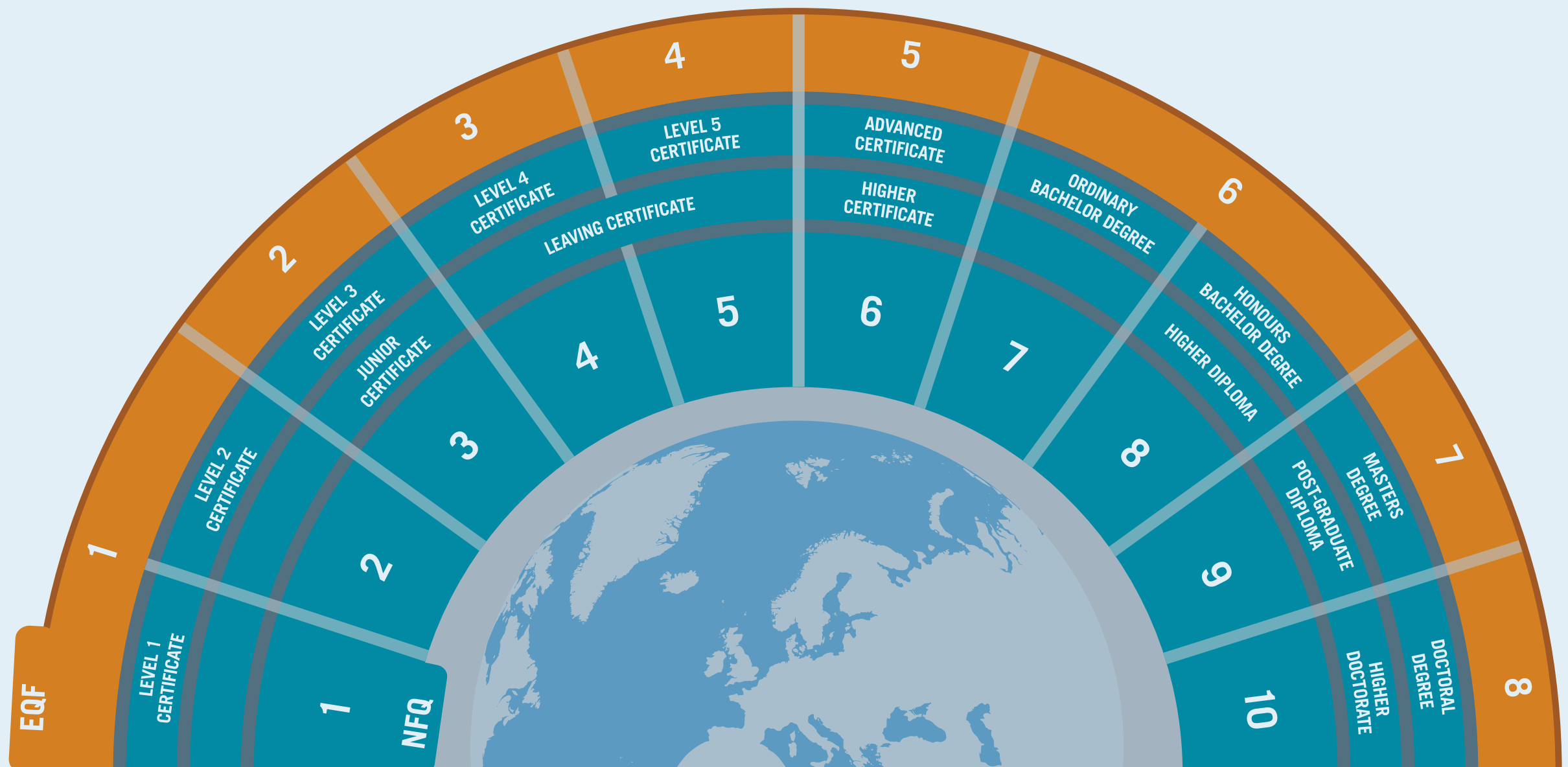


META-FRAMEWORKS

- » Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area, the 'Bologna Framework'
 - » Verification of compatibility with the Irish national framework – completed November 2006
- » European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF)
 - » Irish Referencing process completed in May 2009

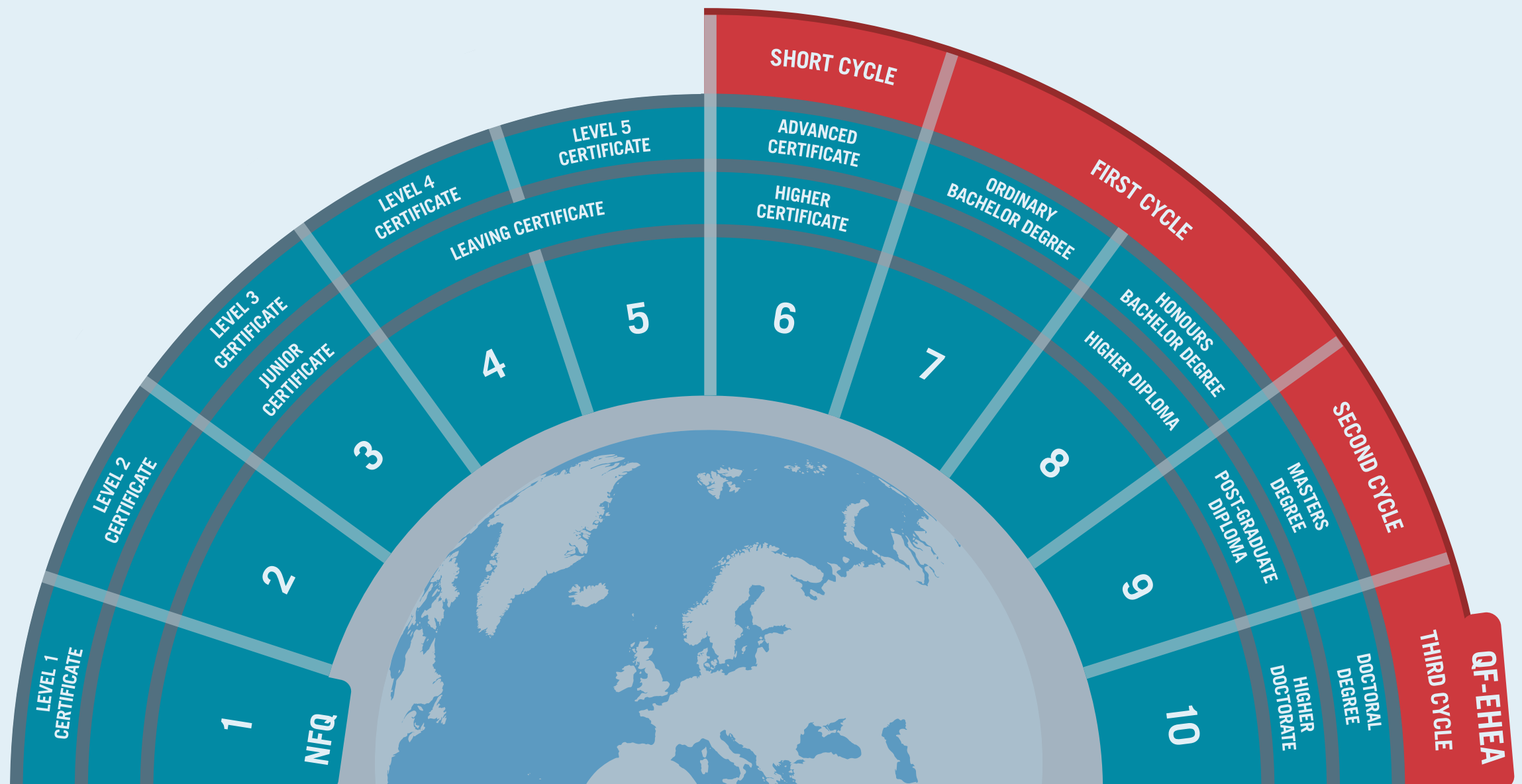


EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK





EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA 'BOLOGNA' FRAMEWORK





National Framework
of Qualifications



EUROPASS





NARIC IRELAND (NARIC: National Academic Recognition Information Centre)





THE NFQ AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

- » The NFQ sets out trusted pathways through our national qualifications system.
- » All qualifications included in the NFQ are underpinned by robust quality assurance arrangements.
- » QQI quality assures providers of courses leading to NFQ awards.
- » You can be sure that your NFQ award will be recognised at home and abroad.



ABOUT QUALITY AND QUALIFICATIONS IRELAND (QQI)

- » QQI is responsible for maintaining Ireland's NFQ
- » QQI is Ireland's Designated National Coordination Point for the European Qualifications Framework
- » QQI is Ireland's National Europass Centre
- » QQI is Ireland's National Academic Recognition Information Centre providing advice on the recognition of foreign qualifications



FURTHER INFORMATION

- » www.nfq.ie
- » www.europass.ie
- » www.naric.ie
- » www.QQI.ie