

Highlights of the Policy to Articulate the Linguistic Proficiency Required for MNQF 2009 Level 7 and above.

Background:

1. The Maldives National Qualifications Framework 2009 (MNQF 2009), fully implemented on 1 September 2011, assigns qualifications to a 10 level framework. The characteristic generic outcomes of every level are described through level descriptors.
2. According to MNQF 2009 all qualifications from level 7 onwards expose students to systematic, research-based, coherent engagement with knowledge, ideas, principles, concepts and research methods in addition to analytical and problem-solving techniques.
3. The depth of engagement demanded of a Level 7 MNQF 2009 qualification requires significant linguistic skills of students and the Regulatory Board of the Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA), in a policy statement, has articulated the minimum linguistic proficiency of students needed to engage in the enquiry and research activities specified at MNQF 2009 Level 7.
4. The objective of this policy is to ensure that each student, completing a programme of study leading to an MNQF Level 7 or higher qualification, has achieved the enquiry and research outcomes specified in the level descriptors of MNQF 2009.

Language of Enquiry and Research:

5. The policy specifies that:
 1. the language of enquiry and research for MNQF 2009 courses conducted in Maldives is English Language, and
 2. this requirement is true even for those programmes conducted in Dhivehi or Arabic medium in the Maldives, and
 3. in case of programmes conducted overseas, the language of enquiry and research will be specified by the authorities that monitor and regulate the institution in the country where the institution is located.
6. The policy does not restrict students seeking higher education and training overseas in languages other than English.

Minimum Proficiency in English:

7. According to the policy statement, a student's ability to engage in the enquiry and research activities leading to outcomes of MNQF 2009 Levels 7 and above maybe indicated by:
 1. a score of 5.5 or higher at IELTS, or
 2. a 'C' pass or a higher grade in IGCSE English as a Second Language, or
 3. an equivalent achievement in a similar assessment of competence in English language

8. According to the policy statement an assessment of competence in English language may be conducted by a course provider. Course providers in Maldives should seek approval of MQA prior to administering such an assessment. In seeking such approval from MQA, the course provider will forward the following documents to MQA:
 1. A completed application form for approval to conduct an assessment of competency in English Language as an entry to a MQA-approved course.
 2. Sample question instruments (at least 02)
 3. Table of specifications for the instruments
 4. Marking schemes for the instruments

Minimum Proficiency in Languages other than English:

9. According to the policy statement, students enrolled in overseas programmes of study, where instruction is not in English, must have the minimum competence in the language of instruction, as declared by relevant regulatory authorities.
10. A pass in a lower secondary school terminal examination, or an equivalent assessment, in the language of instruction is accepted by MQA as a qualification showing competence to study in courses leading to MNQF 2009 Levels 7 and above in the same language.

Implementation Time-Line

11. Validation of qualifications awarded for students enrolled on or after 24 October 2011 will be processed by MQA according to this policy.
12. Validation of qualifications awarded after 1 September 2014, even if the candidate was enrolled in the programme before 24 October 2011, will be processed by MQA according to this policy.
13. Validation of qualifications awarded after 1 September 2014, even if the candidate was issued a formal programme recognition document by MQA, will be processed according to this policy.