

# **PASTORAL FORMATION INSTITUTE**

# PROTOCOL

## BETWEEN THE PASTORAL FORMATION INSTITUTE AND THE MALTA QUALIFICATIONS COUNCIL (MQC) ON THE MALTA QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK.

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1. The Pastoral Formation Institute [PFI] has the purpose of providing a holistic formation, as required by all the members of the Catholic community in Malta. In this light, the Institute offers (a) professional formation of pastoral workers for the performance of their ministries and other work; (b) continuous professional development; and (c) experiences of dialogue with Maltese society. In virtue of Canon 821 of the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Malta, through his decree, published on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007, authorized the PFI to:
  - design and organize courses at different levels;
  - issue certificates for the courses of pastoral formation;
  - prepare schemes of levels and standards suitable for the different courses;
  - ascertain that the level, contents and methodology of the courses provided by the all entities within the Maltese Catholic Archdiocese are of a satisfactory standard.
  
2. The Malta Qualifications Council [MQC] is a national agency for the development, assessment, certification and accreditation of qualifications other than those in compulsory education and degrees. It is responsible to the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family. The overall objective of MQC is to maintain the development of the Malta Qualifications Framework and to oversee the training and certification leading to qualifications within the Framework and which is not already provided for at compulsory education institutions or degree awarding bodies. MQC also promotes and facilitates Life-Long Learning access, transfer and progression and fosters the recognition abroad of professional and vocational certificates awarded in Malta under these regulations. MQC is governed by a Council nominated by the Minister of Education, Employment and the Family.

3. The Pastoral Formation Institute endorses the Malta Qualifications Framework as the official National Qualifications Framework of Malta and agrees to abide with the level descriptors, standards and criteria that the MQC publishes from time to time to maintain the framework's relevancy to the system of qualifications in Malta.
4. Following the Referencing of the MQF to the EQF and the QF/EHEA (September 2009) it has been agreed that MQC will ensure that the MQF continues to respond to the developments in the European Frameworks and the country's social and economic priorities.
5. The Pastoral Formation Institute and MQC agree that:
  - 5.1 qualifications at the Pastoral Formation Institute will reflect Legal Notice 347/2005 and the NQF as defined in the Legal Notice mentioned-above as per Annex 1 and the level descriptors of the European Qualifications Framework for Life Long Learning (EQF) and the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF) as per Annex 2 and the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area (QF/EHEA) as per Annex 3;
  - 5.2 all course-related material such as course descriptions and certificates will reflect the Malta Qualifications Framework by the start of the Academic Year 2010-2011 as per Annex 4;
  - 5.3 all qualifications offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute and which are listed in this protocol will be classified under the eight-level system as detailed in Legal Notice 347/2005;
  - 5.4 The General Education Award in Evangelisation designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Four (10 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this General Education Award (10 credits) to be at Level 4 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.**

- 5.5 The Higher Education Award in Adolescent and Youth Ministry designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Five (16 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Higher Education Award (16 credits) to be at Level 5 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.**

- 5.6 The Higher Education Award in Theology (in collaboration with the Secretariat for Catechesis) designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Five (16 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Higher Education Award (16 credits) to be at Level 5 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.**

- 5.7 The Higher Education Award in Catholic Social Teaching designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute (in collaboration with the Centre for Faith and Justice) is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Five (12 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Higher Education Award (12 credits) to be at Level 5 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning**

- 5.8 The Higher Education Award in Christian Leadership designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Five (8 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Higher Education Award (8 credits) to be at Level 5 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning**

- 5.9 The Higher Education Award in Evangelisation and Catechesis designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Five (10 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed

following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Higher Education Award (10 credits) to be at Level 5 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning**

- 5.10 The Higher Education Award in Missiology designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Five (8 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Higher Education Award (8 credits) to be at Level 5 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning**

- 5.11 The Diploma in Spiritual Accompaniment designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute (in collaboration with the Centre for Ignatian Spirituality) is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Six (60 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Diploma (60 credits) to be at Level 6 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning**

- 5.12 The Higher Education Award in Catholic Religious Education designed and offered by the Pastoral Formation Institute is referenced to MQF and EQF Level **Seven (10 credits)**. The title of the Award is provisional and will be confirmed following the launching and consultation on the Classification of Awards document.

Certificates and transcripts of this qualification shall carry the MQC Quality Label as per Annex 5 and the following statement in all Certificates: **The Malta Qualifications Council deems this Higher Education Award (10 credits) to be at Level 7 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning**

- 6 Levels of qualifications are determined for each course by the exit points as detailed in the Malta Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning. Programmes of Studies and Quality Assurance support mechanisms will be

those established and regulated by the Pastoral Formation Institute and MQC on the basis of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG) as per Annex 6 for those at MQF Level 5 or higher.

- 7 The Pastoral Formation Institute and MQC agree to promote a more visible reference to the MQF and the EQF and the appropriate reference levels on the Certificate and/or Diploma Supplement as per Annex 7 and all related publications including any transcripts.
- 8 The Pastoral Formation Institute obliges itself to adhere to a learning-outcomes based approach when developing and describing qualifications.
- 9 The Pastoral Formation Institute shall provide information on each qualification as per the template in Annex 8, which will form part of the online database of qualifications on the MQC's website.
- 10 By 2012 MQC binds itself to provide the legal and operational structures to enable the Pastoral Formation Institute to implement the recognition of informal and non-formal learning according to the principles agreed at EU level.
- 11 The Pastoral Formation Institute and MQC agree to set up a permanent technical working committee composed of ex-officio the Director or his/her representative on behalf of the Pastoral Formation Institute and ex-officio the Chief Executive and the Senior Manager Standards and Qualifications on behalf of MQC to review this Protocol **every calendar year from the date of signature of this protocol.**

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Mr Joseph Abela Fitzpatrick  
Chairman  
Malta Qualifications Council

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Rev Dr Mark Sultana  
Director  
Pastoral Formation Institute

Witnessed by the Hon. Ms Dolores Cristina Minister of Education, Employment and the Family.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Annexes:**

1. Legal Notice 347/2005;
2. Level Descriptors of the EQF and the MQF;
3. Level Descriptors of the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area;
4. The Malta Qualifications Framework;
5. MQC Quality Label
6. The European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance;
7. Certificate Supplement
8. Qualification Information for MQC's Online Database of Qualifications.