

# The recognition of qualifications

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# Who am I?

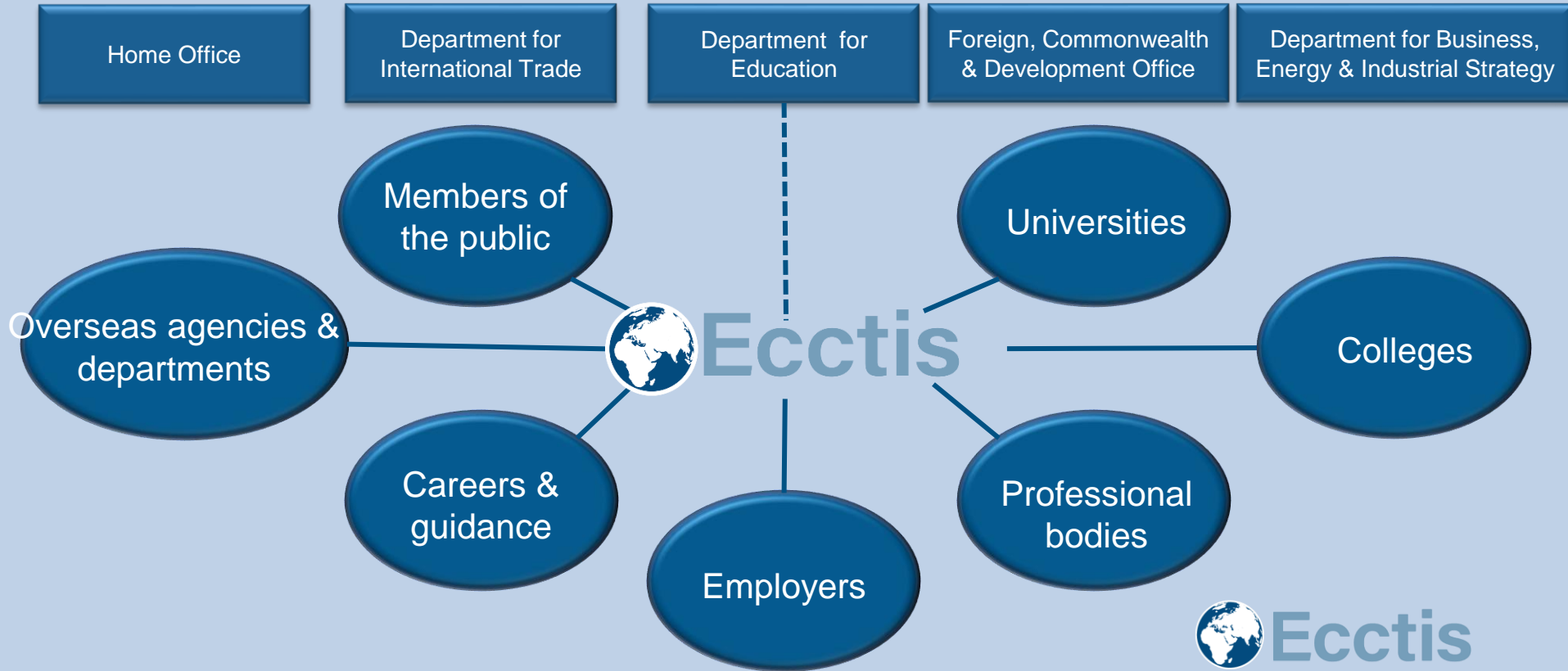
- My name is **Henry HUGGETT**
- Global Partnerships Manager
- I support our international outreach and engagement work
- 6 years with Ecctis
- Previous experience managing qualifications recognition projects, and as a specialist credential evaluator

**Who are we?**

# A national agency with global reach

- **Ecctis** is a leading provider of solutions in international education
- Ecctis manages **UK ENIC**, the designated UK agency global qualifications and skills, on behalf of the UK Government
- Ecctis manages the UK Centre for Professional Qualifications (UK CPQ)
- Part of the international ENIC-NARIC network

# Our stakeholders





Cambridge  
Assessment



Department for  
International Trade



Department  
for Education



Home Office



Established by Act No. 16 of 2004  
*Quality is the Key*



教育部学校规划建设发展中心  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOOLING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



StudyGroup



Universities UK  
International



... Life made easy



Higher Education Policy Institute



ASSOCIATION  
OF COLLEGES



Agensi Kelayakan Malaysia  
Malaysian Qualifications Agency



اتحاد الجامعات العربية



Pearson

# What we do

# UNESCO's definition

**“Recognition is a formal acknowledgement by a competent recognition authority regarding the validity and academic level of a foreign education qualification, of partial studies or prior learning”**

**‘A Practical Guide to Recognition’, UNESCO, 2020**

# So, what exactly is 'recognition'?

- 'Recognition' is a formal acknowledgement by a competent authority of the standard and standing of a qualification
- More important than ever –
  - ❖ More than **5 million** students worldwide enrolled in HE outside of their home countries
  - ❖ Number expected to double over 10 years

# Why is recognition important?

- Benefits:
  - ❖ Facilitates international mobility
  - ❖ Supports recruitment for work/study
  - ❖ Increases transparency and trust
  - ❖ Raises quality standards
  - ❖ Aids internationalisation efforts

# An 'outcomes-based' approach

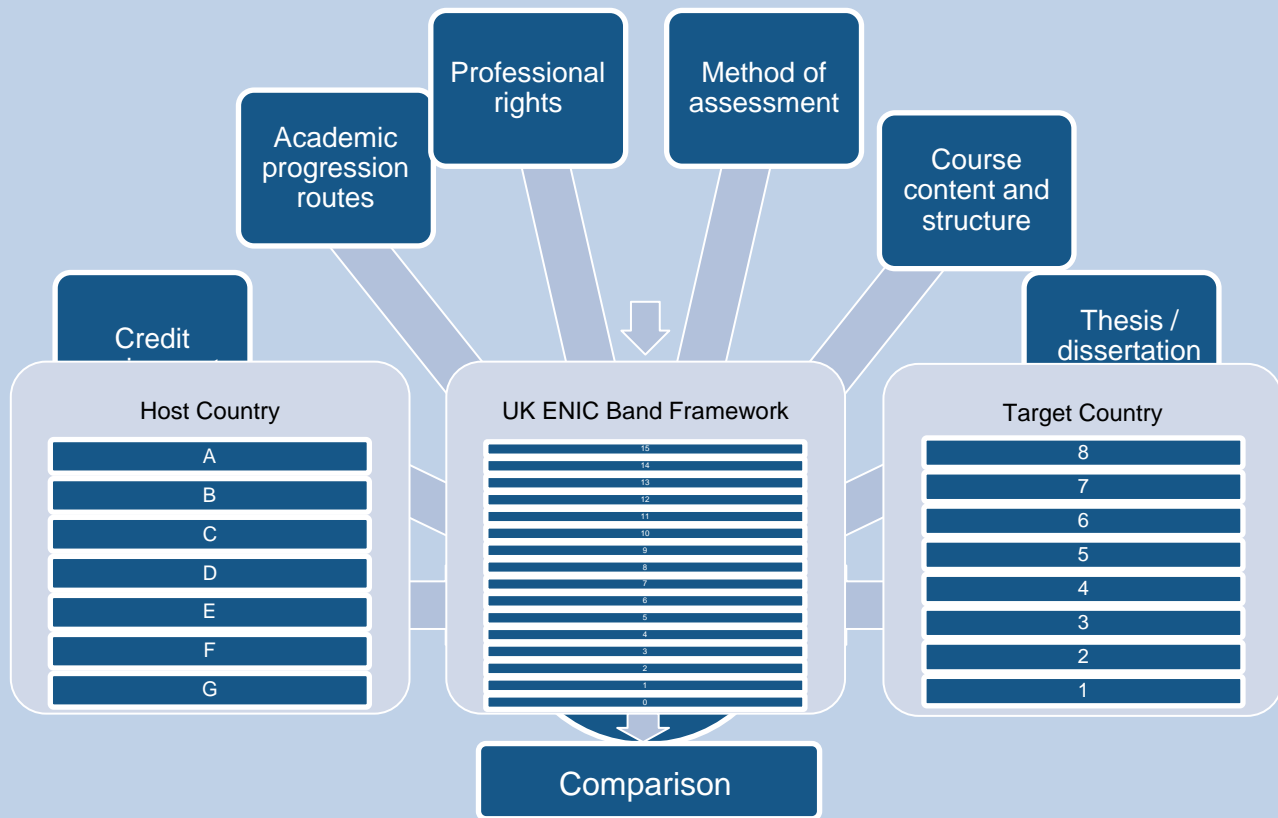
- 'Learning outcomes' describe what an individual should reasonably be able to know, do and/or understand upon successful completion of the programme of study
- Learning outcomes may be generic or subject-specific
- There are different ways in which learning outcomes may be expressed

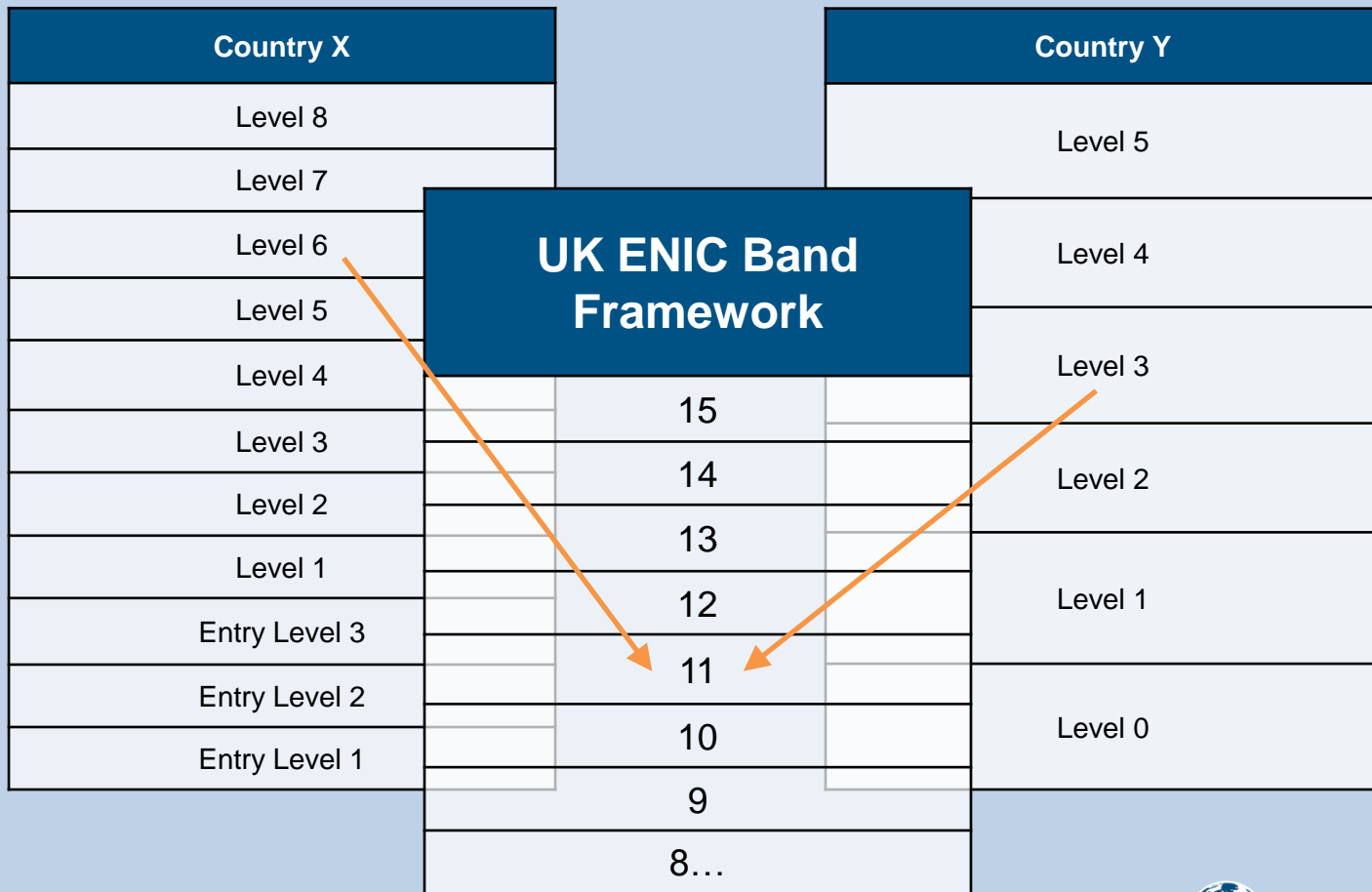
# Factors informing learning outcomes

- National qualification status
- Level of the qualification in its home context
- Entry requirements
- Duration
- Structure and content
- Mode of delivery
- Teaching and learning methods
- Assessment methods
- Progression routes
- Professional rights/licensing

# An 'outcomes-based' approach

- Our outcomes-based methodology has been established for 25 years
- This evaluation methodology can be applied to any types of qualification
- It can support the development of (new) qualifications, education provisions and frameworks





# Ensuring good practice

- An outcomes-based approach to recognition can help inform:
    - ❖ Qualification benchmarking
    - ❖ Qualification design and development
    - ❖ Raising of standards
    - ❖ Mobility and transferability
    - ❖ Establishment of education partnerships
- ...and all sorts of other useful activities

# Our work on 'mutual recognition'

- Successful track-record in leading technical discussions around mutual recognition
- Formal 'Mutual Recognition Agreements' (MRAs) can support national objectives in education and trade
- MoU facilitating India-UK cooperation on the mutual recognition of academic qualifications was signed in July 2022 – intended to pave the way for a full UK-India MRA
- Ecctis-UK ENIC currently working with AIU and BC colleagues to support UK-India collaboration and exchange

# Latest developments

- UK-India MoU on mutual recognition signed in July 2022
- AIU-British Council delegation visit to the UK in June 2023:
  - Various meetings and workshops at Ecctis, including hybrid roundtable discussion featuring 30 UK universities
  - Various site-visits
- Working Group established to facilitate information- and knowledge-sharing, and to drive action
- Programme of workshops and seminars before the end of year

# Looking ahead

- Further engagements planned
- Ecctis-UK ENIC has been developing a new methodology to measure, quantify and translate credit
  - Intended to support the recognition of:
    - incomplete and/or partially documented awards
    - small units of learning (e.g. short courses and micro-credentials)
  - **360** UK ENIC credits = 1 academic year / 2 semesters of full-time study

# Ecctis-UK ENIC support:

- Membership
- Benchmarking and qualifications review
- Quality and standards development
- International partnerships:
  - ❖ Learning outcomes
  - ❖ Alignment of outcomes, teaching and learning, and assessment
  - ❖ Credit systems (credit size, credit value)

# Thank you

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