# Proposal to integrate qualifications guides with Qualification Information Profiles (QIPs)



#### The challenge

We publish UCAS UK Qualifications and International Qualifications Guides each year to provide useful information regarding a wide range of qualifications. However, we now face a number of challenges in ensuring the information they contain is accurate and helpful. The Qualifications Information Review (QIR) showed there is a demand for more consistent and factual information about qualifications. This resulted in the creation of Qualification Information Profiles (QIPs). It is not feasible to update and publish both QIPs and guides each year, as we face significant challenges in trying to ensure the information in the guides alone is updated each year.

### A new way of integrating all qualification information

In December 2014, we held a workshop with a range of higher education providers (HEPs) to discuss the guides and QIPs, and to explore whether it would be possible to integrate them into a more efficient tool to ensure qualifications information is accessible, helpful and accurate. This workshop helped devise a plan that would integrate the guides with the QIPs, and provide the information in a digital format that is easy to navigate, efficient to update and more accurate.

#### Proposed plan

Outlined opposite is our proposal to phase the integration of the guides with the QIPs to stagger the work involved. The proposal involves not updating the guides this year – i.e. for the 2016 admissions cycle – so that we can focus on creating new QIPs and start migrating information in the guides to the QIP format. However, existing QIPs will be updated and any changes to key qualifications will be included in these updates.

#### Proposed integration from guides to QIPs

Start of transition 2015/16

The UK Qualifications and International Qualifications Guides will continue to be available on **ucas.com**. Work will start to convert the information in these guides to a digital QIP format. The guides will be gradually phased out but will remain available as legacy documents.

Progress transition 2016/17

We will continue to convert the information in the UK Qualifications and International Qualifications Guides to digital qualification profiles using a uniform format.

Conclude transition 2017/18

Qualification information will at this stage be available in a searchable, digital format, making side-by-side comparisons of qualifications easier.

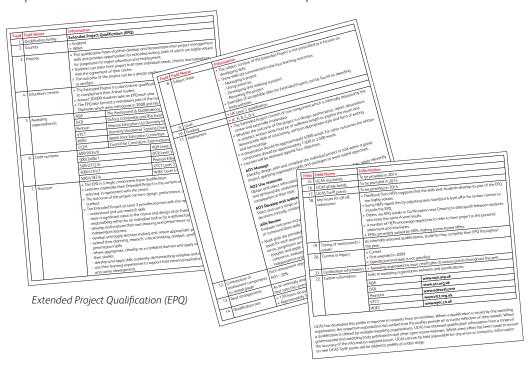
## Benefits of moving towards streamlined, digitised information about qualifications

1. The type of information available about qualifications varies – information in the QIPs guides is more factual and consistently presented. There is also a clear annual process for updates, so the information is more reliable.

Qualifications currently in the guides will be migrated and verified when transferred into the QIP format. Awarding organisations and / or regulatory bodies will be responsible for providing accurate, up-to-date content. Only regulated qualifications will be included.

#### An example of a typical Qualification Information Profile (QIP)

This is the current format of our QIP guides available on **ucas.com**. Future integration of qualification information will follow this standard template.



- 2. There is a need for accurate information about as many qualifications as possible the updated QIP guides will provide you with extended qualification coverage.
  - The streamlined process will focus resources on the production of accurate, up-to-date QIPs for the greatest possible number of qualifications, providing you with more of the information you may need. HEPs will be encouraged each year to tell us if they would like qualifications to have a QIP, in a similar way to how they would request qualifications are added to the new Tariff.
- **3.** A new category of information will be provided for programmes currently provided in the guides that are not qualifications. These include extra-curricular awards and programmes that aren't regulated, like the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- 4. Information about qualifications is hard to manage and update by digitising the qualification information, we will improve efficiency and accuracy.

It will be easier to update online qualification information, and the single, consistent QIP format will improve your capability to do side-by-side comparison of qualifications. Only 30% of qualification information in the International Qualifications Guide was updated in 2014, despite months of work requesting updates from different organisations. Managing the updates received was still a lengthy and manual process because the information was presented in a typeset published document.

We would be grateful for your feedback on our proposal. We will be discussing the integration of qualifications information at upcoming regional forums and the Annual Admissions Conference. You can email us at qualsinfo@ucas.ac.uk.