

## **Notice on the Status of Vocational, Business and Other Courses from 1 July 2011**

It emerged when the new regime came into force that there were certain courses in the vocational or business area and validated by overseas bodies such as ICM or ABE which, although they do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the degree programme, were not covered by the description of language or non degree programme either. These include courses described as Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Graduate Diploma in a particular discipline or subject.

To avoid disadvantaging students or providers who had enrolled them in such courses in good faith a temporary arrangement was put in place that would allow students who had exceeded the 3 year time limit for language and non-degree programmes and whose registration was due to expire prior to 1 July 2011 to enrol for a course of this type for one year. This concession was subject to their not exceeding the overall 7 year time limit.

From 1 July these vocational and management courses will be dealt with in the same way as other non degree programmes and will be designated as such on the new internationalisation register.

### **Status of these Courses from 1 July 2011**

It is proposed that in order to facilitate students attending programmes leading to the awards described above, and colleges delivering these programmes, that these programmes be permitted to be included on the internationalisation register in the same way as non-Degree programmes and must meet the criteria set out for non - degree/ language programmes. Such courses will be subject to the following additional rules

- The maximum time a student may stay in Ireland for the purpose of attending these programmes is limited to 3 years and students are responsible for managing their studies to ensure compliance with this time limit.
- Where a student seeks to progress through certificate, diploma advanced diploma and graduate diploma, each of these will be as a discrete course with its own discrete award.
- It is not permissible for students who come to Ireland to enrol in such programmes for longer than 3 years.
- These programmes must be listed on the Internationalisation Register.

**A new internationalisation register will be available. It will indicate clearly for each eligible course whether it is classified as a degree programme or otherwise.**

Immigration and Citizenship Policy / Student Review Unit