

**SUBJECT:
TEACHERS' (ELIGIBILITY)
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN
IRELAND) 1987**

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TARGET AUDIENCE:.

Education and Library Board
Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
Managers, Boards of Governors
and Principals of Grant-aided Schools
and Institutions of Further Education

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

European Community Directive on the mutual
recognition of professional qualifications.

ENQUIRIES:

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**STATUS OF CONTENTS:
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TEACHER (ELIGIBILITY) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1987

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DIRECTIVE ON THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

On 21 December 1988 the Council of European Communities adopted Directive 89/48/EEC on a general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training of at least 3 years duration. Insofar as teaching is concerned a national of a Member State other than the United Kingdom who is fully qualified to teach in that State will be eligible for recognition in the United Kingdom provided he satisfies the conditions of the Directive.

Regulations made by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) incorporating the provisions of the Directive into United Kingdom legislation came into operation on 17 April 1991 with retrospective effect from 4 January 1991. The Regulations cite this Department as the designated authority for the teaching profession in Northern Ireland.

2. THE EFFECT ON NORTHERN IRELAND

Regulation 5 of the Teachers' (Eligibility) Regulations (NI) 1987 provides that every person appointed as a teacher shall have such qualifications as may be approved by the Department.

To be eligible for recognition as a qualified teacher in Northern Ireland, a national of a Member State, other than the United Kingdom must:

- a. have successfully completed a course of Higher Education of at least 3 years duration which qualified him or her to teach in another Member State; or
- b. be recognised and permitted to practice as a teacher in a Member State where education and training of at least 3 years duration is the normal requirement for a teaching qualification, having taken some lesser (either in duration or level) education and training in a community country; or

- c. be recognised in a Member State by virtue of training in a non-Member State and have 3 years' professional experience certified by the Member State which recognised his or her non-EC qualifications.

3. EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY

A national of another Member State will be required to provide the Department with:-

- i. details of his qualifications on Form TR 261 (copy attached) and supporting documentary evidence;
- ii. medical evidence that he has the health and physical capacity for teaching; a certificate issued by a qualified practitioner in the Member State of origin or the Member State from which the foreign national comes and presented no more than 3 months after the date of issue will be acceptable; and
- iii. documentary evidence as to his good conduct; a certificate from the Member State of origin or the Member State from which the foreign national comes and presented no more than 3 months after the date of issue will be acceptable.

4. LANGUAGE

The Directive makes no provision for systematic language testing. The onus is on employers to determine whether an applicant is suitable for appointment.

5. PROBATION

A national of another Member State will not be required to serve a probation period provided he produces evidence of appropriate professional experience.

R GREGG
Principal