



Dear colleague,

We wish to notify you that, as a temporary measure to support services to maintain staffing capacity over the summer months within Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC) services, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) is, on a **temporary basis**, implementing a **Student Fast Track Qualification Recognition (accelerated) process** for the assessment of equivalence with the **Level 5 minimum qualification requirement**. The Student Fast Track process applies specifically to **students currently enrolled on a recognised Level 6, 7 or 8 early years programme**. The **Student Fast Track application process** will open on **6th May** until **September 1st 2026**.

Eligibility for the Student Fast Track Process

The Fast Track process is open to students who:

- Are currently enrolled on a Level 6, 7 or 8 programme listed on the **DCDE Early Years Recognised Qualifications** list; and
- Have **successfully completed their first year of study**, including the required **professional practice placement**.

Outcome of the Student Fast Track Assessment

Students approved through this **Fast Track (accelerated) process** will be issued with a **Letter of Temporary Permission to Practise** by DCDE.

This letter will be **valid until 01 September 2026** and is recognised by Tusla as meeting the requirements of **Section 9(4) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016**.

Responsibilities of the Registered Provider

Where a student is employed under these temporary arrangements, the **Registered Provider** remains responsible for ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements, including:

- Garda vetting
- Induction training
- Supervision
- Ongoing governance and oversight

Students can access the application form [here](#). Once completed the application form should be submitted to EYQualifications@dcde.gov.ie

Alternatively, students can apply for a letter of qualification recognition through the **Current Student Application Process**. This Letter of Qualification Recognition will remain valid for the duration of the students' studies.

Kind regards

Early Years Qualification Recognition Team