

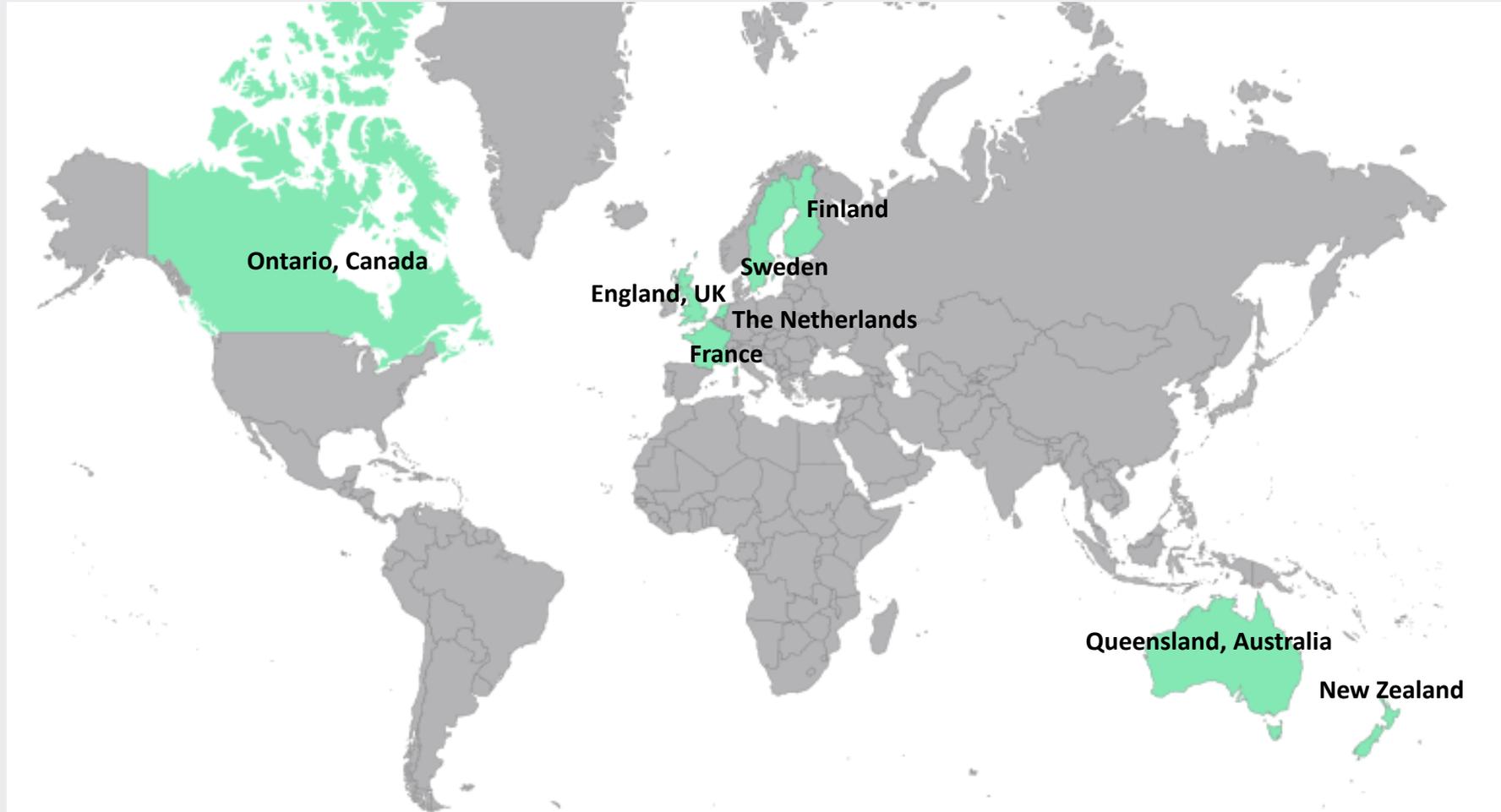


SENIOR CYCLE

Research into upper secondary in other jurisdictions: Considerations for Ireland

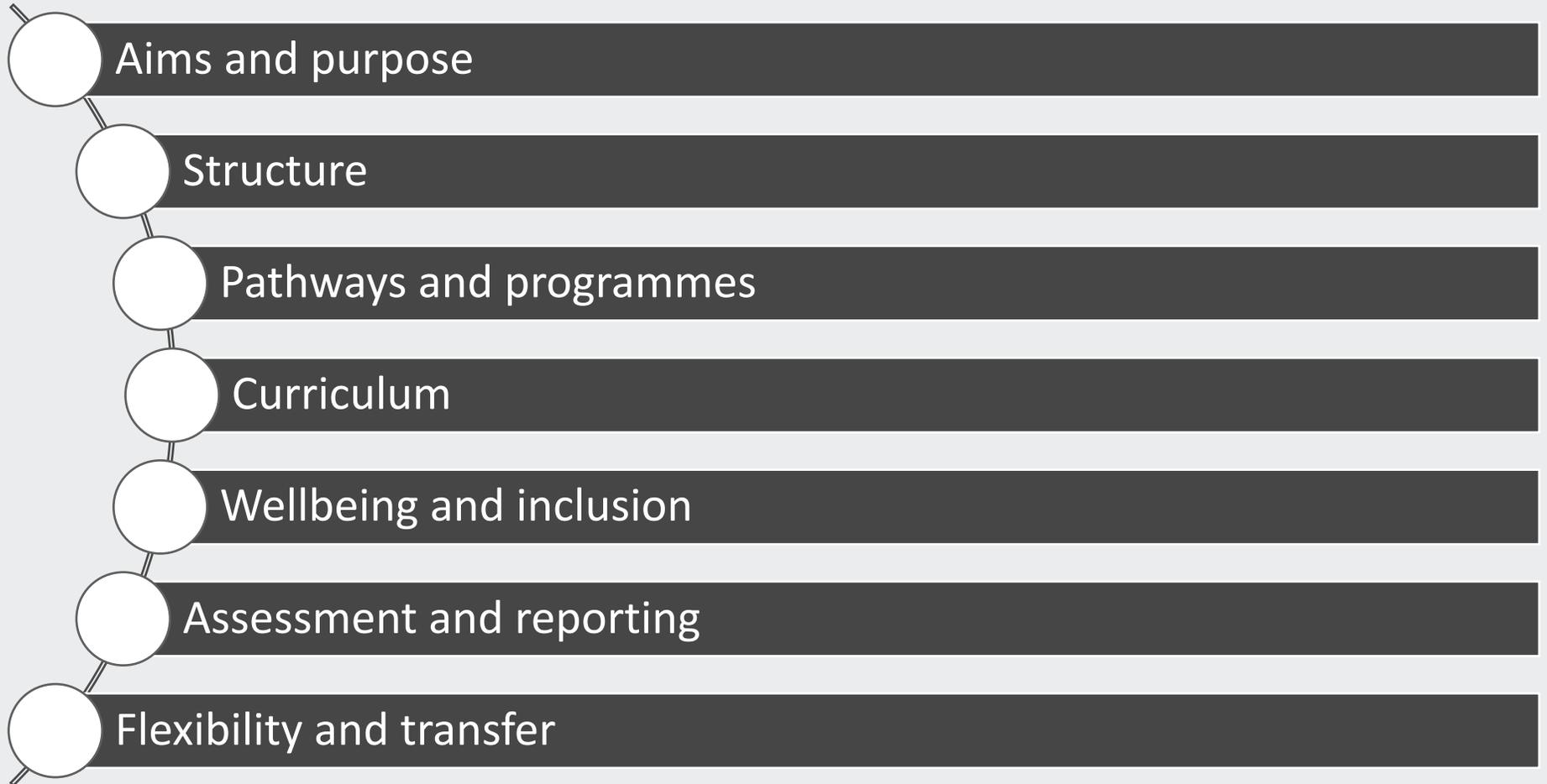
Louise O'Reilly, EO NCCA

Countries included in the study





Research Questions

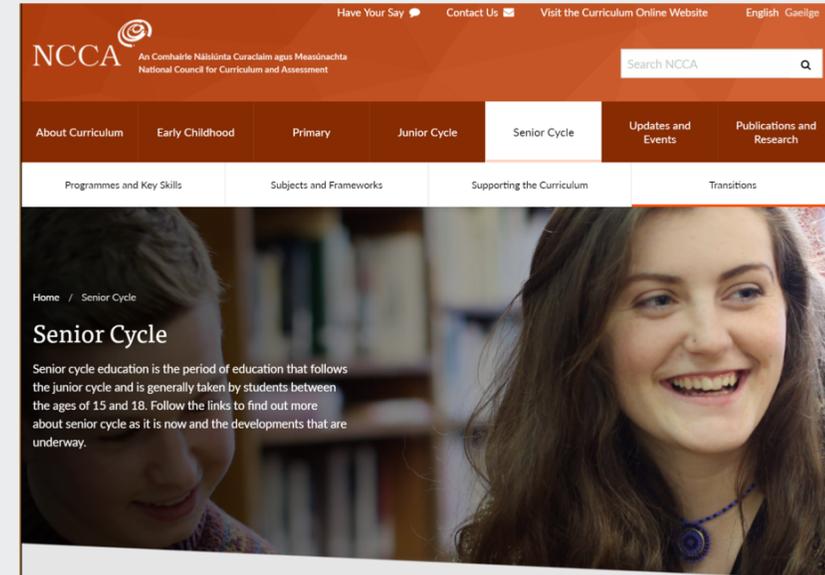




Research



Overview Report



Full Country Reviews

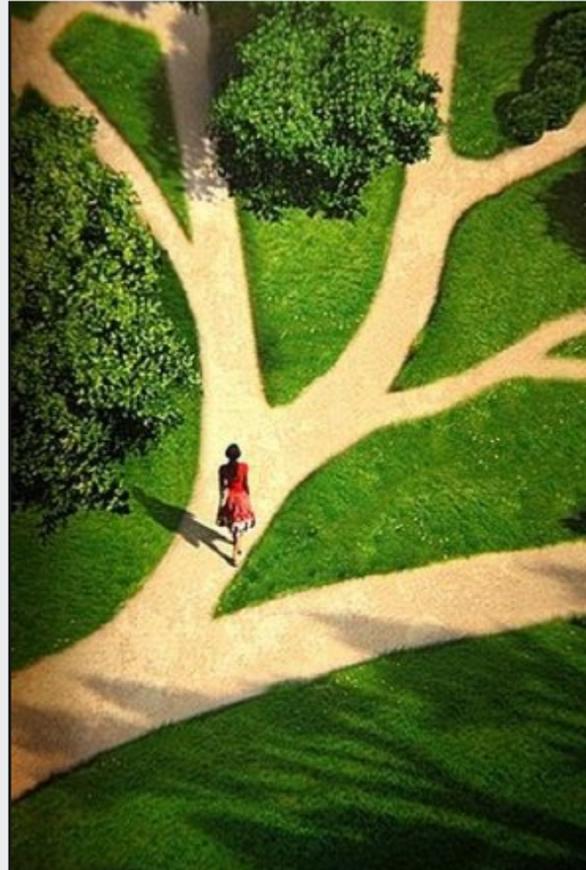


Pathways

‘Upper secondary education systems appear not to be a ‘one-size-fits-all’ offer, but rather to provide students with a range of options with a view to suiting their future destination’.



'There is demand for upper secondary alternatives to traditional academic pathways'.





Flexibility

*‘To complement the range of available pathways / qualifications and support systems in place for upper secondary students, jurisdictions offer an additional layer of flexibility and support through opportunities to **transfer or retake courses and qualifications;** **combine vocational and academic study;** study in **‘alternative’ environments;** recognise **alternative or prior learning;** and complete upper secondary courses and qualifications at a **later age.**’*



Planning and guidance

‘Planning – both at the individual student level and in terms of local planning of provision - is increasingly important as jurisdictions offer an increasing variety of pathways’.



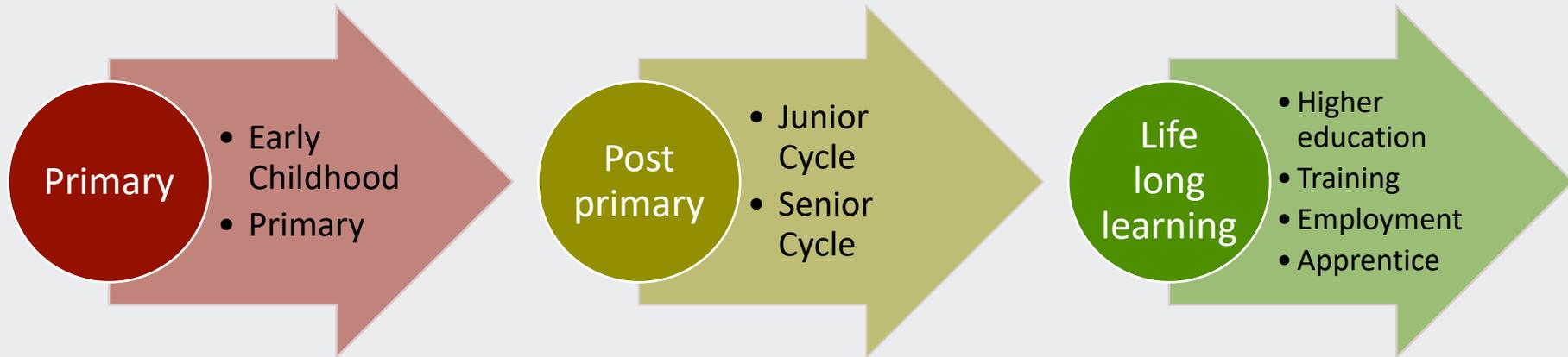
Sites for learning

‘Environments outside of school, e.g. alternative providers, work-based learning or community learning make a key contribution to experiential learning in this phase’.



Coherence

'Links to the previous and next phases of a student's career and education are crucial, and consequently reforms introduced in this phase can have wide-ranging implications at individual and system level'





Transition programmes

‘Preparatory ‘years’ or programmes, offering a ‘breathing space’ between lower and upper secondary education, are being offered or considered as a way in which students can better plan for and be better prepared for the upper secondary phase’.



Assessment

‘Internal assessment arrangements feature prominently in the upper secondary phase, but have a heightened role in vocational, as opposed to academic pathways, and are a particular feature of credit-based systems’.



Reporting

‘Official records of achievement, in addition to certificates, are a feature of the upper secondary phase, serving the needs of students and of future employers or educational institutions’.



Wellbeing

'There is a focus in the upper secondary 'offer' on ensuring students' physical and mental wellbeing'





Accessing the research

The image displays two screenshots of the NCCA website. The left screenshot shows the 'Senior Cycle Developments' page, which features a navigation menu with 'About Curriculum', 'Early Childhood', 'Primary', and 'Junior Cycle'. Below the menu, there are sub-sections for 'Senior Cycle Developments', 'Subjects and Frameworks', and 'Programmes and Key Skills'. The main content area has a header 'Senior Cycle Developments' and a sub-header 'Home / Senior Cycle / Senior Cycle Developments'. The text below reads: 'Here you will find updates on current work to further develop and enrich the senior cycle curriculum.' Below this is a section titled 'International Perspectives' with a sub-header 'Home / Senior Cycle / Senior Cycle Developments / International Perspectives'. The text reads: 'We have published research on the provision of upper-secondary education in nine jurisdictions including Ireland at a conference in February 2018.' The right screenshot shows the 'International Perspectives' page in more detail. It has a search bar at the top right and a navigation menu with 'About Curriculum', 'Early Childhood', 'Primary', 'Junior Cycle', 'Senior Cycle', 'Updates and Events', and 'Publications and Research'. Below the menu, there are sub-sections for 'Senior Cycle Developments', 'Subjects and Frameworks', 'Programmes and Key Skills', 'Supporting the Curriculum', and 'Transitions'. The main content area has a header 'International Perspectives' and a sub-header 'Home / Senior Cycle / Senior Cycle Developments / International Perspectives'. The text reads: 'We have published research on the provision of upper-secondary education in nine jurisdictions including Ireland at a conference in February 2018.' Below this is a section titled 'Review school' with a sub-header 'Keep up to schools to education' and a link 'Find out More'. Below this is a section titled 'Research' with a sub-header 'Conference' and a link 'Find out More'. Below this is a section titled 'Conference Programme' with a sub-header 'Below you can watch highlights from the conference.'