

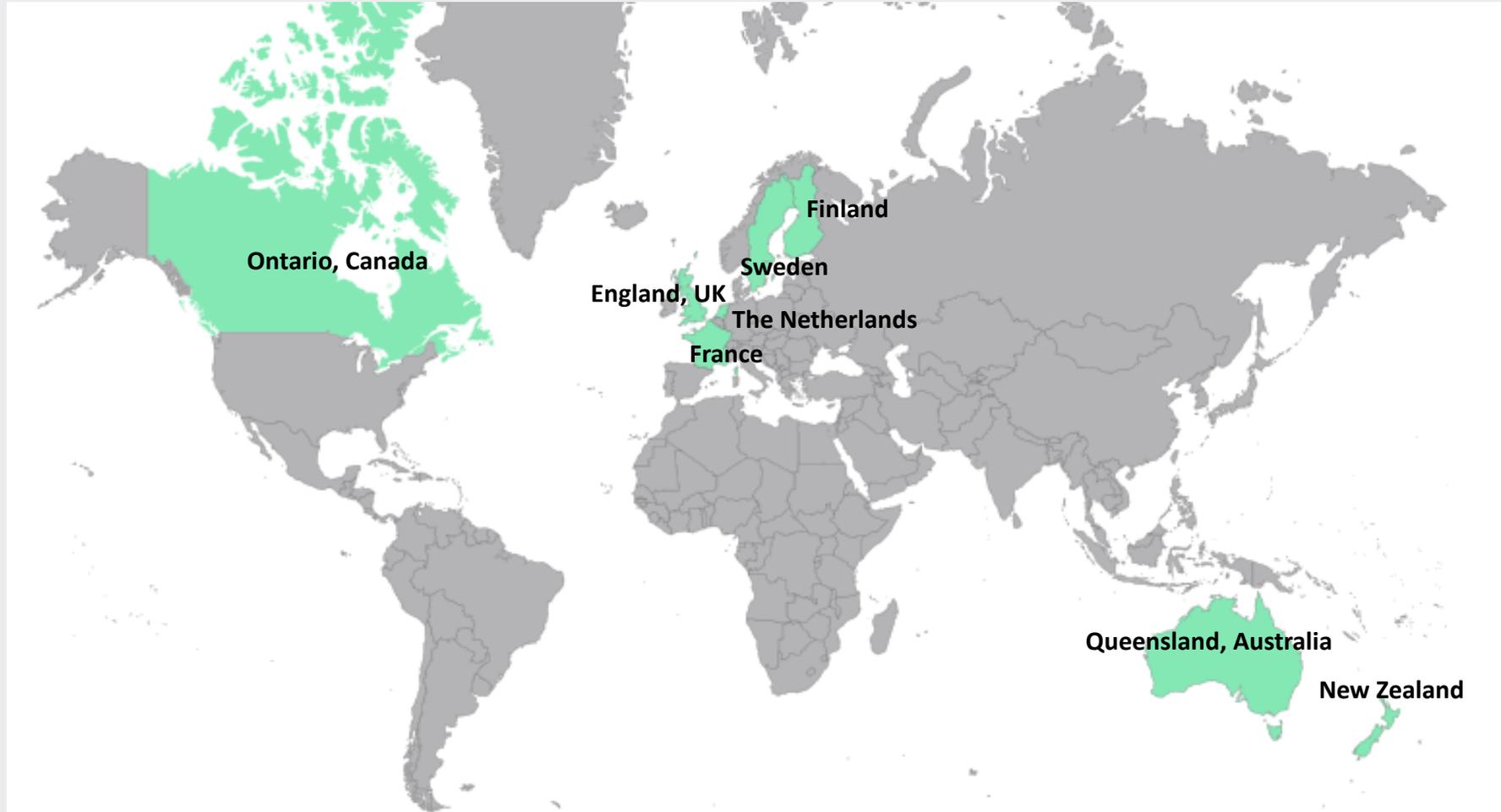


**SENIOR CYCLE**

# Research into upper secondary in other jurisdictions: Considerations for Ireland

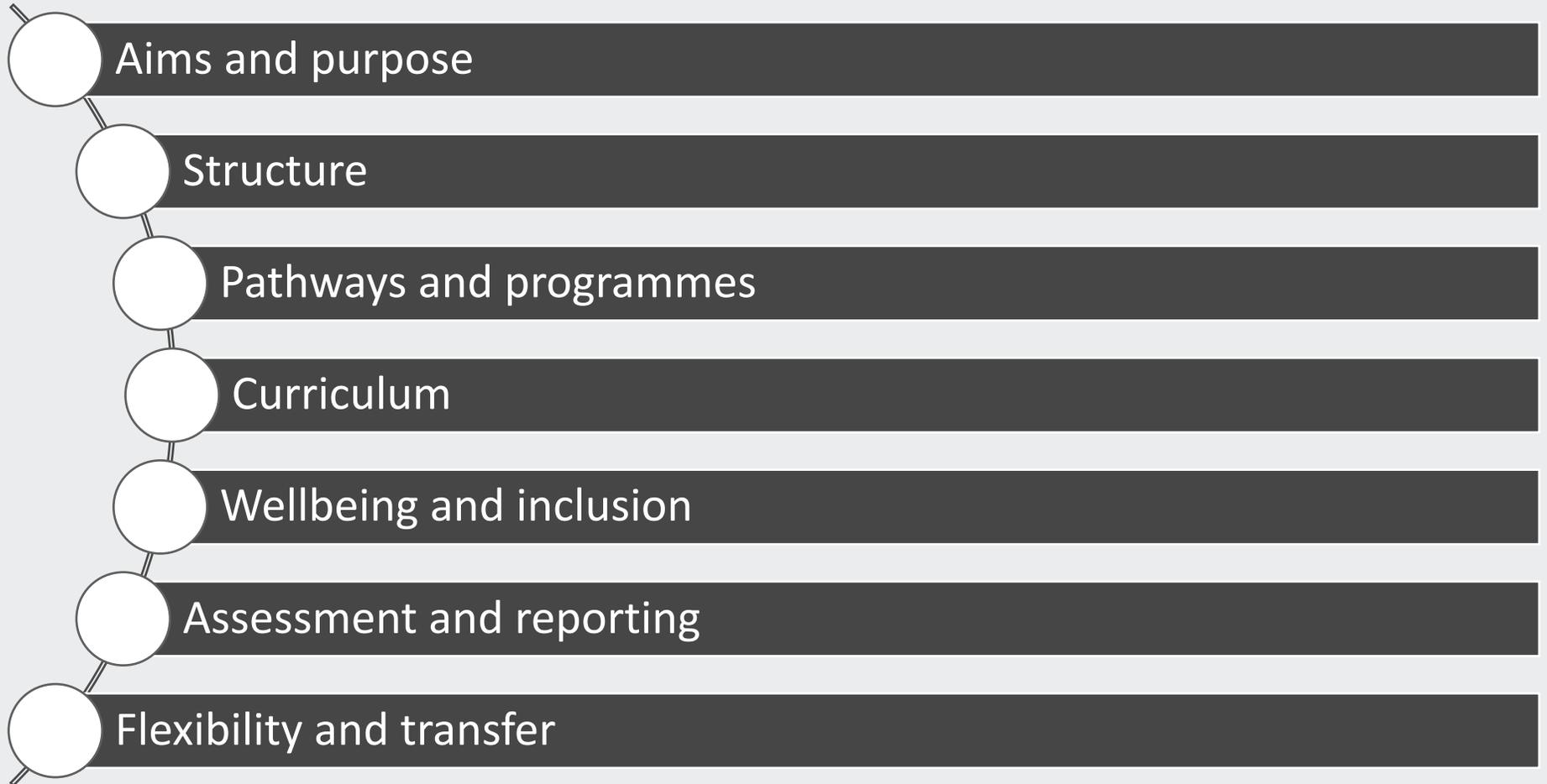
Louise O'Reilly, EO NCCA

# Countries included in the study



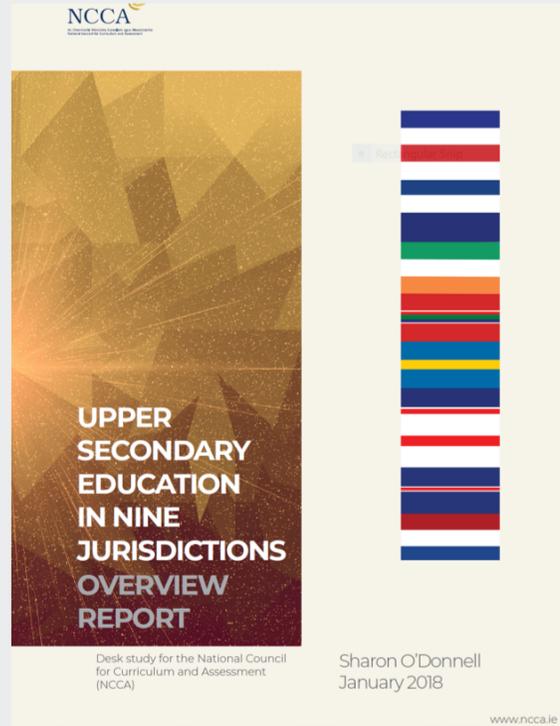


# Research Questions

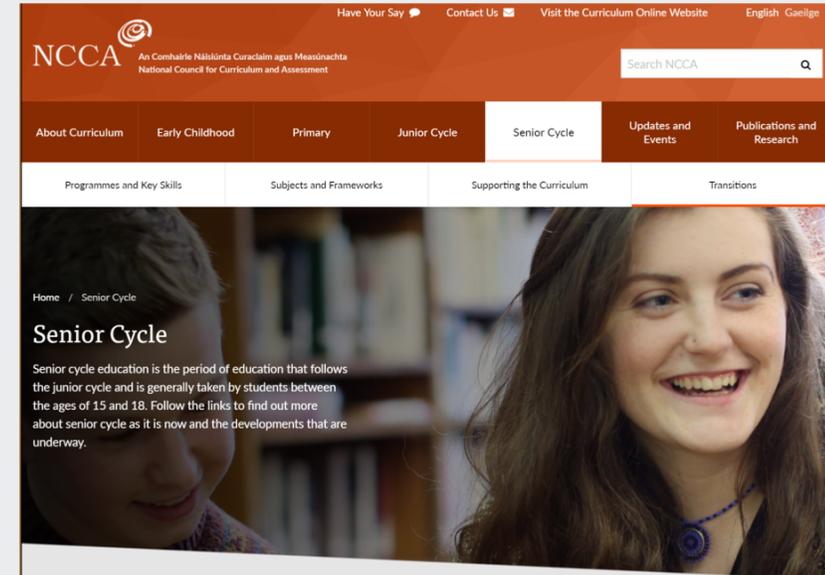




# Research



## 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’.*



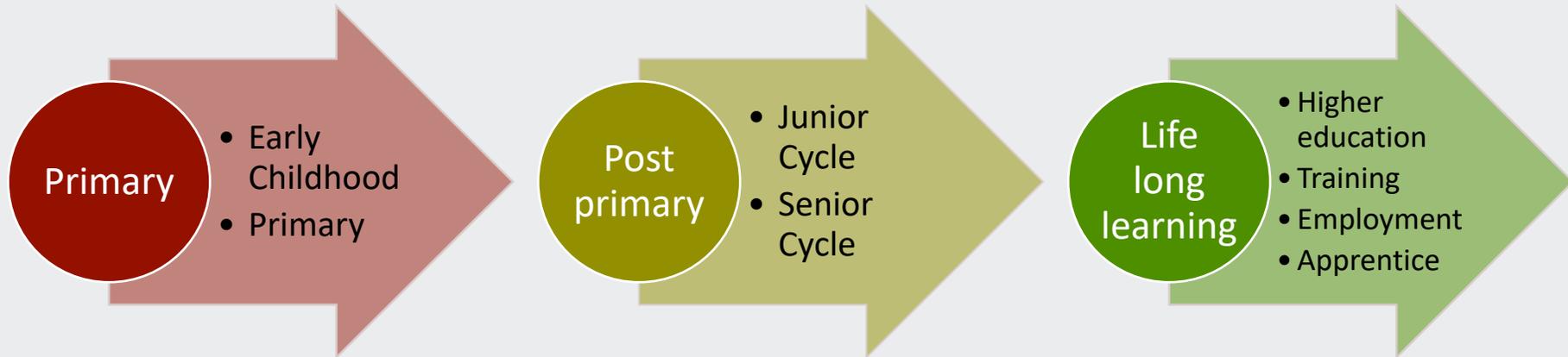
## Sites for learning

*‘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.' Below this is a section titled 'Stay Informed' with a sub-header 'Sign up to receive updates on curriculum, assessments and events from the NCCA team.' Below this is a section titled 'Find Us' with a sub-header '35 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, DD2 KH36, Ireland'. Below this is a section titled 'Legal' with a sub-header 'Copyright and Disclaimer' and a link 'Legal Disclaimer and Data Protection'.