



Introducing

the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework



scottish credit and
qualifications framework



What is the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)?

The SCQF is the national qualifications framework for Scotland.

It promotes lifelong learning for a range of audiences in Scotland. The aim is to include all qualifications and assessed learning in Scotland, if appropriate, so that learners can identify their current position on the SCQF and plan their future learning.

- The SCQF measures qualifications and learning programmes by levels and by credit points (see 'How does a learning programme get on the SCQF?').
- The SCQF has 12 levels. As the levels increase from 1 to 12, the learning involved becomes more challenging.
- The number of credit points demonstrates the length of time it takes to complete the learning.
- One SCQF credit point represents 10 hours of learning time.



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The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9		Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma	Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award	SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3			
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

What does the SCQF do?

The SCQF supports lifelong learning and can help you understand and compare qualifications.



Learners

Helps learners plan their learning journey



Individuals

Helps individuals understand qualifications they are not familiar with and compare different types of qualifications



Employers

Helps employers understand different types of qualifications and supports effective recruitment and workforce development



Education and training providers

Helps education and training providers to identify the level that has been studied in a particular subject and makes it easier to transfer credit points between learning programmes



Guidance givers and influencers

Supports careers advisers, parents, carers and Community Learning and Development (CLD) practitioners by providing a structure for conversations about future learning, including the importance of other learning programmes and experiences outwith formal education



Learning programmes

Provides recognition of a very wide range of learning programmes



How does a learning programme get on the SCQF?

A learning programme is allocated an SCQF level and credit points so it can be placed on the SCQF. This process is called credit rating. It is carried out by SCQF Credit Rating Bodies and overseen by the SCQF Partnership Quality Committee.

Currently, the Credit Rating Bodies (CRBs) are Scotland's universities, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), Scotland's colleges and a small number of approved organisations.

To be allocated an SCQF level and credit points, a learning programme must:

1. **have clear learning outcomes;**
2. **involve at least 10 hours of learning;**
3. **have formal assessment that is recorded; and**
4. **have internal and external quality assurance, to make sure the desired level of quality is maintained.**

Where can I get more information?

The SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk is frequently updated and is the best place to go for the latest information. On the homepage you can sign up to SCQF newsletters. These will keep you up to date with new SCQF projects and developments in Scottish education.

We also regularly publish news and blogs, and encourage stakeholders such as schools, colleges, awarding bodies and learning programme owners to contribute blogs or case studies to appear on our website and social media channels.

We offer workshops to a variety of audiences, from CRBs to school staff, college staff and employers. The workshops are usually free of charge.

Useful Links

About us: <https://scqf.org.uk/the-scqf-partnership/>

News and blogs: <https://scqf.org.uk/news-blog/>

SCQF resources: <https://scqf.org.uk/resources/>

SCQF workshops: <https://scqf.org.uk/workshops/>

SCQF Credit Rating Bodies: <https://scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-credit-rating-bodies/>

FAQs: <https://scqf.org.uk/frequently-asked-questions/>

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