

- THURSDAY 12 MAY 2005
- RADISSON HOTEL
ARGYLE ST, GLASGOW
- 10AM TO 6PM

connecting with  sqa

A CONFERENCE FOR SQA CUSTOMERS

TO TALK, MEET, DISCUSS, ENQUIRE,
CONVEY, COMMUNICATE, SHARE,
EXPRESS, INFORM, CONVERGE





CONNECTING...

OUR CUSTOMERS ARE IMPORTANT TO US – YOU DRIVE EVERYTHING WE DO TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP SCOTTISH EDUCATION AND TRAINING. THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO CONNECT AND COMMUNICATE WITH YOU.

Our Connecting with SQA conference is the highlight of our calendar of customer events for 2005. It's an important opportunity for you to connect with us – and vice versa – and interact on the topics and issues that are important to you.

There will be a wide range of workshops and seminars led by SQA staff (and, in some cases, jointly with external partners). The workshops and seminars will run throughout the day, allowing delegates maximum flexibility to put together a programme that is really meaningful.

There will also be opportunities to meet SQA staff for one-to-one discussions in the exhibition area. The exhibition area will also be hosting interactive demonstrations of SQA online products.

The conference is free, and there is no limit on the number of delegates that can attend from your centre. However, places at all workshops and seminars are limited, so early booking is advised to get the most convenient time slots.

Light refreshments (not lunch) will be provided throughout the day.

PROGRAMME

SQA QUALIFICATIONS

1. NQ Science development in the 3–18 Curriculum Review

Short background presentation on the need for review of Science Courses, and the methodology used.

Duration 20 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00

2. Reviewing SQA's portfolio of qualifications

An update on the progress so far of our comprehensive review of our qualifications, and the next steps in the process.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 13.00 / 16.00

3. E-qualifications

Introducing the new suite of E-qualifications designed to update the skills of practising teachers, lecturers, trainers and others: Diploma in E-Learning (Delivery), Diploma in E-Learning (Production), Diploma in E-Assessment; and Advanced Diploma in E-Learning.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 11.00 / 15.00 / 17.00

4. Learning Bytes and clusters for blended learning

This seminar by learndirect Scotland gives an introduction to 'blended learning' packages for SVQs and Individual Learning Accounts (including e-learning resources as underpinning knowledge), online portfolios, and tutor support available through learndirect Scotland learning centres, marketed via campaigns and the National Learning Opportunities Database. Relevant to Construction Crafts, Hospitality, Care and Engineering.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 14.00 / 17.00

5. English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) – for new Scots and old

An outline of our new ESOL qualifications and a demonstration of how our qualifications will have a positive impact on learning and living in Scotland for non-native speakers of English.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 14.00

6. Computer-vendor qualifications

A joint presentation between Microsoft and SQA covering SQA's relationship with computer-vendor qualifications – current & future developments.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 12.00 / 17.00

7. New National Courses

New National Courses are being piloted in session 2005–06. These new Courses are designed to help young people develop skills and knowledge in a broad vocational area. They will primarily be delivered through partnership arrangements between schools and colleges.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00

8. New developments in Core Skills

This interactive workshop gives an overview of some new developments to support Core Skills, and an opportunity to use the Understanding Standards website for Core Skills. Delegates will also be able to try out the 'Innovative Tool', an interactive program designed to help engage learners who may have been turned off by other approaches. It is currently being developed for Key Skills and may be customised for Scotland's Core Skills.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 11.00 / 12.00 / 14.00 / 16.00 / 17.00

PROGRAMME

9. Supporting SQA's qualifications through e-assessment

An overview of ways in which SQA is developing e-assessment to help support delivery of its qualifications. Includes principles, work already underway, and future plans.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00 / 17.00

10. PC Passport update

An overview of the PC Passport suite of awards and update on current developments, including e-learning and e-assessment. PC Passport is designed to provide a flexible route for the development of up-to-date IT skills and is the only IT qualification of its type to be recognised by the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Duration 45 mins

Session times 11.00 / 17.00

WORKING TOGETHER AND COMMUNICATING WITH SQA

11. Partnership in practice

Joint presentation with Scottish Further Education Unit (SFEU) and Colleges Open Learning Exchange Group (COLEG) on how SQA, Scotland's Colleges, SFEU and COLEG can work together to enhance candidates' experience of vocational qualifications.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 16.00

12. Quality and Equality in Learning and Teaching Materials (QELTM)

Joint presentation with Stevenson College on the QELTM project's objectives, future project developments, and SQA's role in the project. Delegates can discuss the project and how to become involved. Aimed particularly at those producing inclusive learning, teaching and assessment materials.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 11.00 / 15.00

13. SQA-REX

SQA-REX enables centres to enter and validate data in a spreadsheet and produce electronic files which can be processed by SQA.

Duration 30 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.30

14. SQA.net

SQA.net provides an electronic window into SQA. You can use it to: view data about your centre, the qualifications you offer and your candidates; and to submit data for processing direct to our database.

Duration 30 mins

Session times 12.30 / 15.00

15. SQA-RED

SQA-RED is a database to manage a centre's candidate registrations and entries data, which generates electronic files for SQA to process.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 11.00 / 14.00 / 17.00

16. How to make SQA Awards your success

The prestigious SQA Annual Awards Ceremony celebrates success and commitment to qualifications. This year, it could be your success. At this seminar, learn how to make your centre, project, partnership or candidate a winner.

Duration 30 mins

Session times 14.00 / 17.00

17. Connecting with customers

Update on the new structure of Customer Relations and the 2004 Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Duration 40 mins

Session times 11.00 / 13.00 / 16.00

PROGRAMME

18. Question time with the Executive Team

Our Chief Executive and Directors are committed to listening to customers. This session, hosted by Chief Executive, Anton Colella, will give delegates the opportunity to put questions to SQA's Executive Team on any issue. Anton will also update delegates on the challenges and strategic issues facing SQA.

Duration 40 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00

SUPPORT FOR DELIVERY

19. Support for delivering National Qualifications using Learning and Teaching Scotland's resource – NQ Online

A presentation from Learning and Teaching Scotland with a review of their work to support learning and teaching of National Qualifications. In particular NQ Online: how to access a wide variety of resources, information about subject related events, and CPD opportunities.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 13.00

20. The Security Industry Authority approach to Licensing

An awareness session by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) on licensing the Private Security Industry in Scotland. Topics covered will be: the purpose and scope of the Private Security Act; the SIA strategic approach to licensing; plans for licensing in Scotland.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 13.00

21. Commercial strategy and activities

The workshop will discuss SQA's commercial strategy, the strategy's purpose, and some key projects, and will consider longer-term options and partnership opportunities. An independent view will be offered by an external presenter.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 13.00 / 16.00

22. BBC curriculum developments

A joint presentation from the BBC and SQA. An update for schools, colleges and local authorities about joint developments in the development of learning materials.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 11.00 / 14.00

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALIFICATIONS MANAGEMENT

23. Monitoring standards

How SQA monitors standards to ensure they are maintained over time.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 11.00 / 16.00

24. Estimating candidate performance

Report on the outcomes of research into how centres arrive at estimates of candidate attainment.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00

25. How and why we moderate National Qualifications

Opportunity for those who assess or have responsibility for quality within subjects to focus on how external moderation works and how support can be improved by working together.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00

26. The changing role of the External Moderator

How the role of the External Moderator changes when D35 Externally Verify the Assessment Process gives way (from August 2005) to V2 Conduct External Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00 / 17.00

PROGRAMME

27. Alternative Assessment Arrangements

Update on policy and procedures for assessment arrangements for candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs. Includes: key principles that underpin policy and procedures; evidence requirements; quality assurance of requests for Arrangements; and future developments.

Duration 30 mins

Session times 11.00 / 17.00

28. Quality assurance health check workshop

Opportunity to check that your centre still meets our quality assurance criteria, and to interact with the Quality Assurance Managers. A systems surgery based on set of key questions.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 11.00 / 14.00 / 16.00

THE WIDER WORLD

29. Skills for Business Network – the next five years

A presentation by the Sector Skills Development Agency. An update on Sector Skills Councils (SSCs), covering licensed SSCs – what's still to come; staffing in Scotland; development of Sector Skills Agreements; and implications for the supply side.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 14.00

30. SQA in China

The background to SQA's work in China; the main product strands operational in China; and a case study on one of the Chinese universities.

Duration 40 mins

Session times 16.00

31. Attainment in Scotland

How measuring attainment in Scotland using the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework brings a new perspective to our thinking.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 13.00 / 15.00 / 17.00

32. Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) – credit where credit's due

SCQF – what it is, where we are with it now and what are the future developments? Includes update on recent revisions to the Scottish Qualifications Certificate.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 13.00 / 16.00

33. The Skills Agenda

A joint presentation from SQA and Scottish Enterprise looking at the role of SQA and Scottish Enterprise in preparing people for work and development of skills within work. Addresses the skills shortage, training for adults, and introducing National Occupational Standards into SQA's qualifications – HNs, PDAs, SPAs and NCs.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 11.00 / 14.00 / 16.00

34. Awards UK: SQA in the UK

Overview of the work of Awards UK – why it was set up, how it operates, the qualifications and services offered, and sectors in which it operates.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 14.00 / 17.00

35. National Occupational Standards (NOS)

Directory workshop

A seminar by the Sector Skills Development Agency giving an overview of the NOS Directory from both a strategic and operational view. Includes an online demonstration. Presented by the Sector Skills Development Agency.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 12.00 / 16.00

PROGRAMME

36. Career planning workshop by Careers Scotland

Highlights the role and value of Career Planning development services in supporting the skills and transition throughout an individual's life. The workshop will also help participants to understand the role of Career Planning and how it supports their organisation's agenda.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 12.00 / 14.00

MEET SQA BUSINESS TEAMS

37. SQA's research strategy

Discussion group: SQA's research strategy – an opportunity for delegates to shape and influence the research that SQA will conduct in the coming year.

Duration 60 mins

Session times 12.00 / 15.00

38. Quality auditing activities and monitoring of NVQs

Update on the activities of SQA's Accreditation unit, including involvement with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as agents in Scotland monitoring NVQs in centres.

Duration 45 mins

Session times 14.00 / 16.00

39. Moving forward with Data Management

Highlighting changes in Data Management over the last nine months, reviewing the impact and looking forward to the benefits.

Duration 20 mins

Session times 11.00 / 13.00 / 17.00

40. Approval – who we are and what we do

What happens when applications for approval are received; how we make approval decisions; the Approval Officer Group: the three decisions explained; and what happens after a qualification has been re-accredited.

Duration 30 mins

Session times 16.00

SQA WEBSITE SURGERY

Demonstration of SQA's website: opportunity for delegates to ask questions and make suggestions about what they would like to see on the website.

Session times No booking is necessary.

11.00–13.00 and 14.00–18.00

CONFERENCE EXHIBITION AND INFORMATION AREA

The Conference Exhibition and Information Area will give delegates the opportunity to speak to SQA staff and other partner organisations on a range of issues. There will also be ample opportunity to try some online products and pick up promotional materials on SQA and partner organisations, and their products and services.

Session times 10.00–18.00

INFORMATION

BOOKING

Please complete the accompanying registration form and return to SQA to confirm your attendance and secure your place in any of the sessions detailed. Please refer to the conference timeplan in the registration leaflet to ensure that none of your selected sessions overlap. So we can plan a great day for you, please return your registration form to us no later than Friday 6 May 2005.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM:

BY POST: Corporate Events Team
Scottish Qualifications Authority
Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
Glasgow
G2 7NQ

BY FAX: 0141-242 2244

If you have any queries, please call us on: 0845 279 1000 or e-mail: customer@sqa.org.uk

CONFIRMATION

All bookings will be confirmed in writing.

ENQUIRIES

All general enquiries about the conference should be made to: 0845 279 1000 or e-mail: customer@sqa.org.uk

HOW TO GET THERE

The conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Argyle Street, Glasgow. The hotel is in Glasgow city centre, and conveniently close to public transport.



BY RAIL

The Radisson is close to Central Station. Queen Street station is about 10 minutes walk. For further information call 08457 484950.

BY UNDERGROUND

The Radisson is about three minutes walk from St Enoch Underground station. Trains run every 4-6 minutes on weekdays.

BY BUS

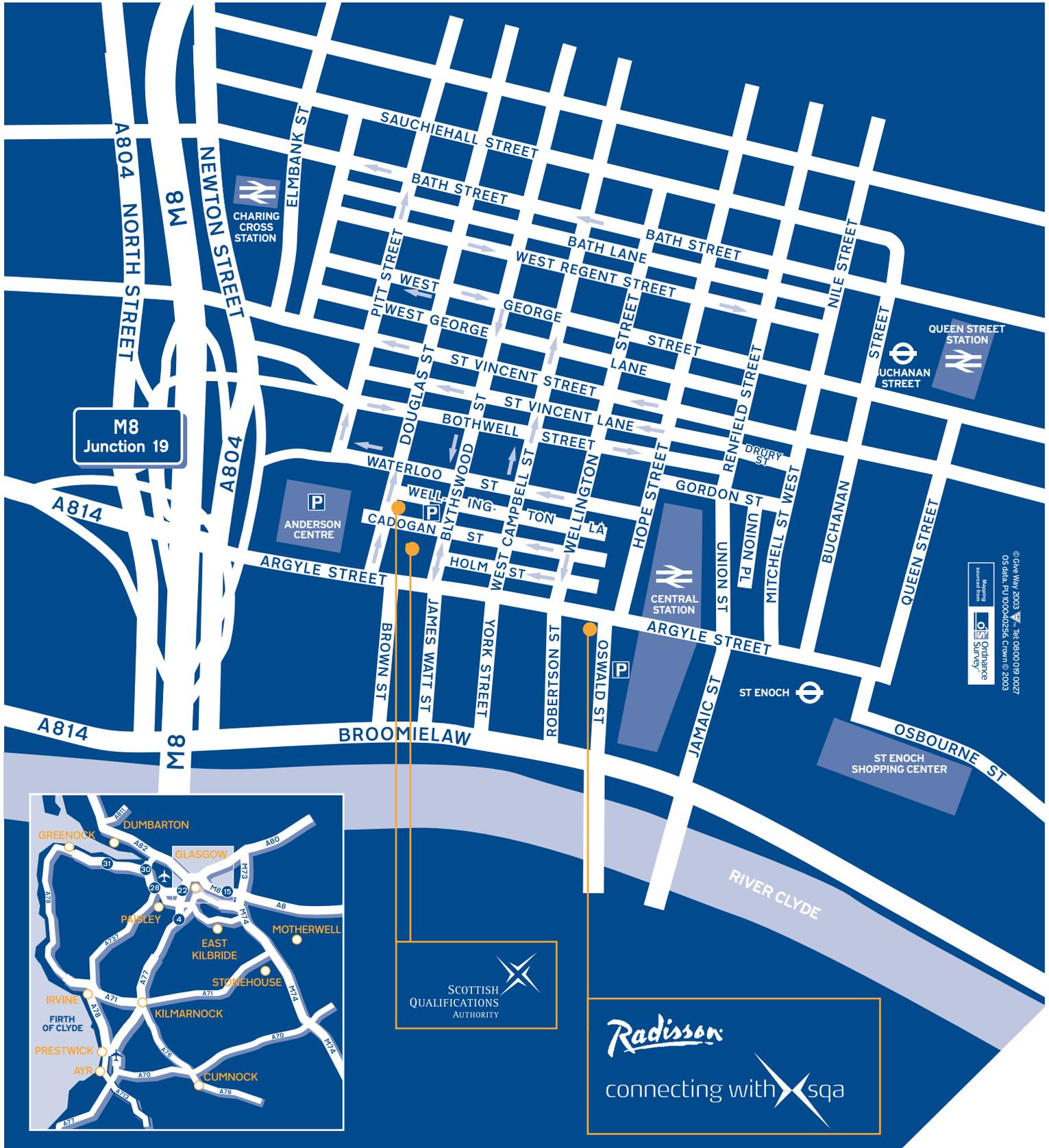
Buchanan Street Bus station is located behind Queen Street station and is about 15 minutes walk from the Radisson. For further information call 0141-333 3708.

BY CAR

East/West bound traffic should leave the M8 at junction 19 and follow signs for Anderston, car parks are located on Waterloo Street, Oswald Street and Cadogan Street. Please note that car parking in Glasgow city centre is difficult, and use of public transport may make for a less stressful day. Some Scotrail stations and Underground stations offer parking as part of the Park & Ride scheme.

BY AIR

Glasgow Airport is approximately 15 minutes drive by car/taxi via the M8. A regular bus service is available between the Airport and Buchanan Street Bus station. The Airport can also be reached by train from Glasgow Central station to Paisley Gilmour Street station and then by bus.



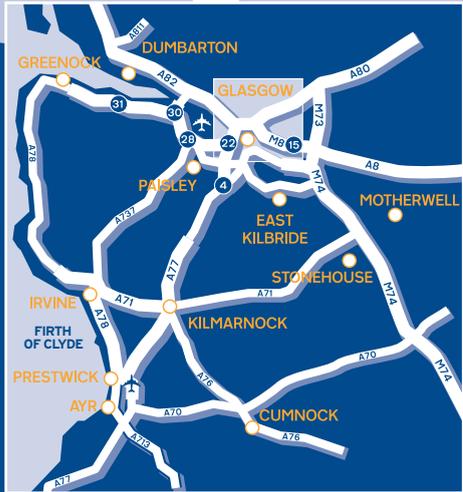
M8 Junction 19

ANDERSON CENTRE

CENTRAL STATION

QUEEN STREET STATION

ST ENOCH SHOPPING CENTER



SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Radisson
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SCOTTISH
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