

SQA HND

Guide for Parents and Students



About SQA



- Scotland's national body for qualifications up to and beyond degree level
- World leader in education and training with 20 plus years of working internationally with governments worldwide
- Not for profit body, accountable to Scottish Government
- SQA offers internationally recognised qualifications linked to national and international frameworks that allow students international mobility and pathways into university, college or work
- As a government-linked body, quality assurance is at the heart of everything we do
- SQA offers qualifications developed in partnership with colleges, universities and employers
- SQA works with local overseas partners to ensure that our qualifications and systems of education and training meet local needs

About SQA HND

SQA Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) are higher education qualifications that are comparable with associate degree programmes. They prepare students for employment and can enable entry to the final (top-up) year of an Honours undergraduate degree programme and beyond, e.g. Masters.

Our HNDs have been in existence for almost 90 years and are designed by SQA in partnership with colleges, universities and employers.

They are developed, quality assured and certificated by the SQA.

How HNDs work

HNDs use practical approaches to learning. Study methods include project and assignment work, team and group work, presentations and case studies. HNDs have been designed in partnership with universities, colleges and employers. They aim to develop the high-level transferrable skills and academic knowledge that are required for degree study

or work. They are therefore recognised by employers and are a recognised way into some professions.

Because employers and universities recognise HNDs as good evidence of a student's ability, having an HND will help them progress into university. This could be in the UK, or in other English speaking countries including the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

For those people who are serious about getting a job and a career with prospects, an HND is one of the best ways to achieve their ambition.



Why choose an **SQA** HND?



An SQA HND will give you:

- A qualification that is widely recognised internationally
- A qualification with a strong track record of students successfully entering and completing university degree programmes at an advanced stage
- Proven independent study and research skills
- Knowledge, understanding, skills and application in a specific subject area
- The ability to demonstrate performance through a range of assessment methods
- A qualification from an awarding body with an international reputation for quality

Gaining entry to university

Students who have completed their HND will be able to apply to university for entry into years 2 or 3 of an undergraduate Honours degree programme. A full list of current SQA partnership universities can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/partnershipuniversities. Entry into these programmes depends on successful completion of all 30 HND credits and getting a specified set of results for the Graded Units (this is known as the Graded Unit profile). The Graded Unit profile is specified by the university and not by SQA. The university will also require evidence of English language ability.



The structure of an SQA HND

- HNDs are made up of 30 Unit credits
- A Unit credit is approximately 40 hours of learning and teaching
- An HND is a qualification made up of Units and Graded Units. Students must pass all Units and Graded Units to achieve an HND
- Units provide the knowledge, understanding and skills for the HND subject area. Units are assessed on a pass/fail basis and all Units must be achieved
- Graded Units assess the knowledge and/ or skills from all of the Units that make up the HND.
- Graded Units are graded A, B, or C. Grades are based on the following achievement:

A	70% - 100%
B	60% - 69%
C	50% - 59%
- Grade C is the minimum grade required to pass each Graded Unit



- The Graded Unit assessment will be an examination, a case study, an investigation or a practical assignment (depending on the HND subject)
- All HND qualifications comprise 2,400 hours of directed and independent learning
- All SQA HNDs are delivered and assessed in the English language
- All SQA HNDs are certificated by SQA
- HNDs are higher education qualifications. All SQA HND qualifications are at Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework Level 8. This is broadly comparable to Level 5 on the Qualification and Credit Framework and the European Qualifications Framework. For more information please visit http://ec.europa.eu/eqf/compare/uk-s_en.htm#comparison

HND Subjects Available from **SQA**



SQA offers around 200 HNDs in subjects. Here are just some of them. For more details please access www.sqa.org.uk/hn

Accounting	Computing - Software Development/Technical Support/Networking and Internet Technology	Marine Engineering
Acting with Performance	Computer Games Development	Manufacturing Engineering
Agriculture	Electronic Engineering	Petroleum Engineering
Beauty Therapy	Fashion Design and Manufacture	Quantity Surveying
Business	Financial Services	Retail Management
Business with HR/Marketing/IT/Accounting	Global Trade & Business	Supply Chain Management (non manufacturing)
Civil Engineering	Hospitality Management	Travel and Tourism

SQA Assessment and Quality Assurance

SQA HNDs are assessed using a variety of assessment methods including those used in higher education, e.g. essays, projects, exams, and portfolios.

SQA approves centres to deliver its qualifications and approves them for each specific qualification.

Assessment is quality assured through internal verification (using an institution's own staff) and external verification (using SQA subject experts from the education sector).

Information on students' certificate

On successful completion of their HND, the student receives a certificate containing:

- A commemorative certificate stating the title of the HND
- Backing pages listing the titles of all the Units passed, the Graded Unit and the grade awarded

If a student fails a Unit, this will not appear -only Units passed appear on the Certificate.



Contact **us now**

If you would like more information about HNDs or SQA, you can contact us by telephoning **00 44 141 282 6500** or e-mail us at **sqainternational@sqa.org.uk**

You can also visit our website at **www.sqa.org.uk**



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