



Collaboration profile

DIVA Overview

The Digital media and ICT Vendor Alliance (DIVA) Project is an initiative by SQA to update and expand its range of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and digital media qualifications working with industry partners.

The objectives of the project are to source and incorporate high-quality support materials from industry into SQA's qualifications and to link those qualifications effectively to the world of work. The project will also create new professional development opportunities for teachers and lecturers to be able to offer the resulting industry-enriched curriculum and awards to their students.

SQA is following a rigorous process in assessing and selecting industry partners for the DIVA Project. A framework for engaging with suppliers has been developed to ensure a consistent approach and forward momentum. In each case, SQA is seeking to involve a consortium of education and training providers to develop, pilot and champion new curriculum and awards, working with Lead Centres appointed through a public tendering process.

Cisco in DIVA

In October 2005, SQA and Cisco Systems signed a three year non-exclusive Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on existing and new awards for Scottish education and training. This new phase of collaboration builds on the strength of delivery and support already established through the Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) in Scotland. It covers:

- Maintenance and onward development of existing awards incorporating Cisco units.
- Enhancing delivery of the Cisco Networking Academy Program into education.
- Investigation of new awards incorporating Cisco units.
- Investigation of the potential to incorporate Cisco units into appropriate non-ICT specific programmes such as Construction and Property.
- Review of Cisco supporting resources such as the CNAP Employability Skills material.

Through an open tender process, SQA and Cisco have appointed James Watt College of Further and Higher Education and Stevenson College Edinburgh to collaborate on a Cisco Development Centre working with partners in CNAP. The Development Centre will help to gain maximum value from CNAP for Scotland's education system.

Find out latest news at

www.sqa.org.uk/diva

Key Points

- SQA and Cisco are working in partnership to integrate further elements of Cisco coursework, resources and certifications into SQA's awards framework.
- James Watt College and Stevenson College will work together to establish a SQA Cisco Development Centre. The aim will be to enhance delivery of the Cisco Networking Academy Program into schools and colleges.

Initial activities will focus on

- Developing guides for schools and colleges on CNAP and delivery of existing HN/PDA units.
- A focus group on voice and data cabling.
- A sector consultation on delivery of Cisco units in SQA awards.

Benefits

- Globally-recognised industry strength qualifications for students in Scotland.
- High quality curriculum and awards relevant to employers.
- Innovative curriculum and professional development opportunities for teachers and lecturers.

'We are delighted to be working with SQA on this exciting development to contribute the strength of Cisco's industry leading course materials and innovative teaching and learning approaches to the Scottish curriculum.'

Dr Jane Lewis
CNAP Manager UK & Ireland
Cisco Systems

DIVA

In the 21st Century knowledge economy, Digital Media and ICT skills will provide an essential contribution to the development of individual chances for life, work and continuing education. SQA therefore considers it a priority to work with world leaders in Digital Media and ICT to provide the best opportunities for the Scottish workforce and wider population.

To this end, SQA has formed a non-exclusive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Avid to work together on a publicly shared action plan to the benefit of Scottish learners, education professionals, employers and citizens.

SQA

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is the statutory body in Scotland with responsibility for the development, awarding, and accreditation of Scotland's national qualifications, excluding university degrees. Over 50% of Scotland's population of 5 million hold a certificate from SQA or its predecessor bodies.

www.sqa.org.uk

Cisco Systems

Founded in 1984 by a small group of computer scientists from Stanford University, Cisco Systems, Inc. is the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. Today, networks are an essential part of business, education, government and home communications, and Cisco Internet Protocol-based (IP) networking solutions are the foundation of these networks. Cisco has well established academic programmes offering discounted products and services for networking certifications through the Cisco Networking Academy Program. There are more than 10,000 Academies worldwide and over 1 million students have gained Cisco certifications through the Academy Program.

www.cisco.com/global/UK/edu/edu_home.shtml

SQA and Cisco Systems

SQA awards in the HN (Computer Networking) framework already incorporate options for Cisco coursework. Part of the DIVA programme activity will be to maintain and develop these existing linkages. In addition, an early focus of activity through the Development Centre led by James Watt and Stevenson Colleges will be to add value to the delivery of Cisco course materials through the Cisco Networking Academy Program, particularly in the context of the school/college partnerships operating within Scotland.