



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Unit code: F1VP 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed for candidates who work with or wish to work with individuals diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It can also be used by candidates who have not yet worked with individuals with ASD but may have opportunities to work with such individuals in the future. This Unit will be of use to those who work in an education, training or other learning environment where they may require to support individuals with ASD.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Plan, set up and monitor a positive environment for individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.
- 2 Support individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to function socially.
- 3 Support individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to cope with anxiety, distress and the impact of change.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates should have good communication skills, both written and oral. It would be beneficial if candidates had undertaken some work experience in an environment for individuals with Additional Support Needs/ASD in either a voluntary or paid capacity.

Core Skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes. This Unit is part of the HNC Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual. However, it is also a free-standing Unit and may be used in other qualifications or for purposes of continuing professional development.

Assessment: This Unit is assessed by two instruments of assessment. Outcome 1 is assessed by an assignment. Outcomes 2 and 3 are assessed by a project which assesses the candidate in the workplace. Alternatively, the Unit could be assessed holistically by a project.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Unit code: F1VP 34

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Plan, set up and monitor a positive environment for individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Facilitation of low arousal environments
- ◆ Modification of environments to support individuals with ASD
- ◆ Ways to build on the strengths and realistic expectations of clients/individuals
- ◆ Safe, secure, consistent and inclusive environments
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements
- ◆ Relevant legislative requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ facilitate and modify the environment to support individuals with ASD, ensuring that the environment is safe, secure, consistent and inclusive
- ◆ introduce changes to the environment in ways that minimise the anxieties of individuals and the disruption of normal routines and practices
- ◆ support a positive environment for individuals with ASD
- ◆ Take into account any legislative and health and safety considerations when setting up the environment

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1 is assessed by an assignment.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Outcome 2

Support individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to function socially

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Understanding of and empathy regarding the different/differing experiences and qualities of individuals with ASD
- ◆ Positive and empathetic approaches
- ◆ Ways to support the growth, development and social functioning of individuals with ASD
- ◆ Ways to support individuals with ASD to communicate more effectively
- ◆ Collaboration with individuals, key people and others to minimise the individual's behavioural, social and communication functioning

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ work positively with individuals to develop existing skills and to encourage new interests in order to facilitate communication and social functioning
- ◆ contribute to the assessment of risks for activities to promote the development and social functioning of individuals with ASD
- ◆ communicate effectively, using appropriate cues and equipment, in the individual's preferred method of communication

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 2 is assessed with Outcome 3 by a practical project which involves a plan of activities, observation of practical activities, and a log book.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Outcome 3

Support individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to cope with anxiety, distress and the impact of change

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Strategies that minimise anxiety and distress
- ◆ Planning(with individuals) ways to manage change
- ◆ Methods of supporting individuals through the change process

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ structure work with individuals to encourage a more predictable way of life
- ◆ develop and apply strategies that aid communication and promote choice and personal autonomy for individuals with ASD
- ◆ contribute to the assessment of risks for activities to promote the development and social functioning of individuals with ASD
- ◆ prepare individuals in advance for any predicted changes
- ◆ provide active support to enable individuals and key people to identify issues associated with change
- ◆ work with individuals to promote choice and extend their ways of coping strategies in ways that are likely to minimise anxiety and distress
- ◆ support individuals with ASD to cope with anxiety, distress and the impact of change

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 3 is assessed with Outcome 2 by a practical project which involves a plan of activities, observation of practical activities, and a log book. Candidates will also need to provide evidence of working with individuals with ASD outside the work setting or work placement.

To achieve these Outcomes candidates need to work with individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in a real work setting usually within the candidate's own working environment or within an appropriate work placement.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	F1VP 34
Unit title:	Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders
Superclass category:	PN
Original date of publication:	May 2007
Version:	01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2007

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed for candidates who work with or wish to work with individuals diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Outcome 1 allows candidates to explore a range of environments in which individuals with ASD can be supported. The Outcome should also cover ways to build confidence, identify strengths and set realistic expectations for individuals with ASD. This Outcome should also look at the physical features of the environment and due cognizance taken of health and safety and security considerations. Agency policies and procedures as well as any relevant legislation should also be taken into account.

Outcome 2 considers socialisation and the importance of providing support to individuals with ASD to enable them to function socially. This is a practically-focussed Outcome where candidates should have the opportunity to work in support of an individual with ASD. Candidates should be encouraged to work positively with individuals to help them develop existing and new skills to improve their social interaction.

Outcome 3 covers helping individuals with ASD to manage change and to minimise anxiety and distress. A range of strategies should be explored which facilitate effective management of change. Strategies to support communication and promote choice should be discussed as should a range of coping strategies. The outcome is practically focussed and requires candidates to work in support of an individual(s) with ASD.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

To achieve these Outcomes candidates need to work with individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in a real work setting usually within the candidate's own working environment or within an appropriate work placement. This may be supplemented by the use of case studies, video and visiting speakers. Care should be taken to ensure that candidates are fully aware of the need for confidentiality of information to be maintained and be aware of safety and protection issues relating to individuals with ASD.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

However, candidates will have opportunities to work towards the Core Skills: Communication (Written Communication — all Outcomes), Information Technology (particularly Outcome 1), Working with Others (Outcomes 2 and 3) and Problem Solving (particularly Outcome 3).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Open learning

Outcome 1 of this Unit may be suitable for delivery in a variety of modes including Open, Distance and Blended learning formats. However, Outcomes 2 and 3 require the candidate to work with an individual with ASD and may not be suitable for an open learning approach.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Supporting the Individual with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

This Unit is designed for candidates who work with or wish to work with individuals diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It can also be used by candidates who have not yet worked with individuals with ASD but may have opportunities to work with such individuals in the future. This Unit will be of use to those who work in an education, training or other learning environment where they may require to support individuals with ASD.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Plan, set up and monitor a positive environment for individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.
- 2 Support individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to function socially.
- 3 Support individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to cope with anxiety, distress and the impact of change.

This Unit is assessed by two instruments of assessment. Outcome 1 is assessed by an assignment. Outcomes 2 and 3 are assessed by a project which assesses the candidate in the workplace. Alternatively, the Unit could be assessed holistically by a project.