

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What changes are we making to SQA Higher National Qualifications (HNs)?

We are changing the name of our SQA HN qualifications for use in countries outside of Scotland.

The qualification aims, design principles, content, assessment standards and criteria will all remain exactly the same. This change does not apply to HN qualifications delivered by your centre in the UK.

### 2. Why are we renaming SQA HN qualifications outside of Scotland?

We took the decision after detailed consideration of a variety of factors.

This change will enable us to offer a unique SQA qualification outside of Scotland. It will also help customers, centres and other external stakeholders to differentiate more easily between our qualifications.

### 3. What are the new names for SQA HN qualifications in markets outside of Scotland?

The SQA Higher National Diploma (HND) will be known as the SQA Advanced Diploma and the SQA Higher National Certificate (HNC) will be known as the SQA Advanced Certificate.

### 4. How will this change affect my centre?

The change does not apply to SQA HN qualifications you currently deliver in the UK. SQA will continue to offer the qualifications that your centre is currently approved for under licence from Pearson Education Limited who are the registered trademark owner for HN qualifications in the UK outside of Scotland. Our subject webpages and qualification documents will be updated to include this reference.

### 5. How will this affect other SQA centres who offer HN qualifications outside of Scotland?

The change of name means that SQA centres offering SQA HN qualifications outside of Scotland will instead offer the SQA Advanced Diploma and/or SQA Advanced Certificate.

Existing centres in the countries below\* who currently offer HN qualifications will transition to the renamed qualifications over a set period (see timescales in Q6).

*\*China, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Indonesia, Brunei, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, USA, Canada, Angola and Pakistan.*

New centres, or existing centres who wish to expand their SQA HN offering outside of Scotland will offer the renamed qualifications from now on.

Centres cannot offer or advertise any SQA HN courses **in any country not listed above** and will have to submit entries for SQA Advanced Diplomas/Certificates from now on.

### 6. What are the timescales for this change?

The renamed SQA Advanced qualifications will be available for entries from 26 March 2018.

Other centres currently approved to deliver SQA HN qualifications outside Scotland **in only the countries listed in Q5** can continue to submit:

- HN entries until **31 December 2018**

- HN results for SQA HN courses commenced prior to 31 December 2018 until **31 December 2021**

This means that from 1 January 2019 onwards, these centres will have to submit entries for SQA Advanced Diplomas/Certificates rather than HNs.

**7. Do the renamed qualifications have the same recognition and articulation arrangements as SQA HNs?**

The SQA Advanced Diploma and SQA Advanced Certificate have the same standards and rigour as the SQA HNs. We are contacting our HEI progression partners to update articulation agreements in light of this name change.

We are also contacting all qualification partners and relevant professional bodies to gain their approval so that the new qualifications will attract the same level of recognition as the current SQA HNs. We will also take the opportunity to contact credential evaluation bodies to discuss gaining further recognition for these qualifications.

**8. Are there any changes to the coding of the renamed qualifications?**

The renamed qualifications have new codes. UK centres should continue to use existing codes for the HNs they are currently approved to deliver in the UK.

**9. How will this affect SQA centres who offer Professional Development Awards (PDAs) outside of Scotland?**

SQA centres can offer only the following PDAs outside of Scotland for the time being:

Work based Assessor and Verifier qualifications (containing SVQ Units):

- Workplace Assessment Using Direct Methods GA28 47
- Workplace Assessment Using Direct and Indirect Methods GA2E 48
- Internal Verification of Workplace Assessment GA2F 48

Non work based Assessor and Verifier qualifications (containing Advanced Units):

- Conduct the Assessment Process GM4L 48
- Conduct the Internal Verification Process GF8R 48

**10. How can I access more details or support?**

Please contact your SQA regional manager if you require any further information or support with this change.

Alternatively, visit [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) or phone our Customer Support Team on 0303 333 0330 or 00 44 141 500 5030 from outside the UK.