

Frequently Asked Questions

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

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

The qualification aims, design principles, content, assessment standards and criteria will all remain exactly the same.

2. Why are we renaming SQA HNs outside Scotland?

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

This change will enable us to maintain and grow our portfolio by offering 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 HNs 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. Will all SQA HN frameworks be renamed?

No. Through analysis of the frameworks that our customers use, or intend to use in the near future, we have a list of 75 HN frameworks that have been renamed — 44 HNDs and 31 HNCs. The full list of frameworks and relevant codes is available in the appendix.

5. How will this affect SQA centres who offer SQA HNs outside of Scotland?

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

Existing centres in the countries below* who currently offer SQA HNs will transition to the renamed qualifications over a set period (see timescales in Q12).

**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 current SQA HN offering outside of Scotland will offer the renamed qualifications from now on.

Scottish centres offering SQA HNs outside of Scotland will also offer the renamed qualifications but will continue to offer SQA HNs in Scotland.

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. 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. Scottish centres can continue to offer the full range of PDAs in Scotland.

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):

For delivery outside of Scotland

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

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

For delivery in Scotland only

- Conduct the Assessment Process GF8P 48
- Conduct the Internal Verification Process GF8R 48

7. Can our centre continue to offer the SQA HNC/D in Scotland?

Yes, if the student is attending the centre in Scotland and being taught and assessed in Scotland, you may deliver the SQA HNC/D.

8. We recruit International students – what qualification can I offer?

If the student is attending the centre in Scotland and being taught and assessed in Scotland, you may deliver the SQA HNC/D.

9. We offer a 1+1 model in markets outside Scotland — what qualification can I offer?

Scenario A:

- Year 1 outside of Scotland — you must deliver SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma
- Year 2 in Scotland — you may deliver either Year 2 of the SQA HNC/D or the SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma.

If you wish the candidate to be certificated with an SQA HNC/D in Year 2, you would need to withdraw the candidate's entry for the SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma and enter the candidate for the HNC/D.

Scenario B:

- Year 1 in Scotland — you may deliver either the SQA HNC/D or the SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma
- Year 2 outside of Scotland — you must deliver Year 2 of the SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma

In this scenario, the student must be certificated for the SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma, so it would be more practical to enter the student for the SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma from the beginning of Year 1.

In both of the scenarios above, 'delivery' includes:

- marketing and promotion of the qualification in the respective country (including student recruitment)
- entering and resulting the candidate on SQA systems

10. Can Scottish centres use their devolved authority to approve themselves for the renamed qualifications?

Yes. Please note that we will ask Scottish centres to specify the countries in which they are delivering these SQA Advanced qualifications in due course.

11. How will this affect ROUK centres?

There will be no immediate impact on the small number of centres in the rest of the UK (ROUK) who will continue to offer specific HNs.

12. What are the timescales for this change?

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

Centres currently approved to deliver SQA HNs 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, you will have to submit entries for SQA Advanced Diplomas/Certificates rather than SQA HNs.

13. How long can centres continue to refer to SQA HNs in their materials?

Centres currently approved to deliver SQA HNs outside Scotland **in only the countries listed in Q5** can use:

- marketing materials referring to HNs until **31 December 2018**
- operational or delivery materials referring to HNs (solely for concluding HN courses commenced prior to 31 December 2018) until **31 December 2021**

All new centres should use the new SQA Advanced qualification names on all marketing, operational or delivery materials once their centre is approved.

Your SQA regional manager and SQA marketing staff will support you with this transition.

14. Are there any changes to the content of the renamed qualifications?

While the content of the renamed qualifications has not changed, only the newest version of units have been transitioned. We advise centres to ensure they are familiar with the content of the renamed qualifications prior to first teaching them.

15. 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 HNs. We will also take the opportunity to contact credential evaluation bodies to discuss gaining further recognition for these qualifications.

16. Our centre offers SQA HNs internationally which are not being renamed. Can we continue to offer these?

Through analysis of the frameworks that our customers use, or intend to use in the near future, we have a list of 75 HN frameworks that have been renamed — 44 HNDs and 31 HNCs. If you currently deliver or plan to deliver any frameworks that are not listed please speak to your SQA regional manager to discuss how we can help you.

17. How does this relate to SQA's HN Next Gen initiative?

HN Next Gen is a longer-term consultation and design process we are undertaking which will consider how best to reshape the SQA HNC/D qualification for the future. We will provide more details in the coming months about how centres are being engaged and contributing to this process.

18. How can I access more details or support?

You can find further information on the [SQA Advanced Certificate and Diploma web pages](#).

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

Alternatively, visit www.sqa.org.uk or phone our Customer Support Team on 0303 333 0330 or 00 44 141 500 5030 from outside the UK.

Appendix

Framework	HN code	New code
Accounting	G9M5 15	GM96 47
Accounting	G9M6 16	GM8G 48
Administration and Information Technology (Fixed Framework)	GM2W 16	GM68 48
Architectural Technology	GJ5N 15	GN0H 47
Architectural Technology	GJ5H 16	GM8V 48
Art and Design	G8KY 15	GN0P 47
Art and Design	G8L0 16	GM8M 48
Building Surveying	GJ5D 15	GN0K 47
Building Surveying	GJ5J 16	GN0M 48
Built Environment	GJ5P 15	GN0G 47
Business	G9ML15	GM8A 47
Business	G9MM 16	GM8Y 48
Business (Fixed Framework)	GE7X 16	GM51 48
Business with Accounting (Fixed Framework)	GE7Y 16	GM52 48
Business with Human Resource Management (Fixed Framework)	GE7V 16	GM53 48
Business with Information Technology (Fixed Framework)	GE81 16	GM55 48
Business with Marketing (Fixed Framework)	GE80 16	GM54 48
Chemical Engineering	GL69 15	GM9X 47
Chemical Process Technology	GL6A 15	GN10 47
Chemical Process Technology	GL6C 16	GM9W 48
Civil Engineering	GJ5E 15	GM97 47

Civil Engineering	GJ5K 16	GM95 48
Computer Aided Architectural Design & Technology	GL5D 15	GM9Y 47
Computer Aided Architectural Design & Technology	GL5E 16	GM8X 48
Computer Aided Draughting and Design	GL57 15	GN0Y 47
Computer Aided Draughting and Design	GL5A 16	GM9V 48
Computer Science	GG7D 16	GM91 48
Computing	GF3E 15	GM8K 47
Computing: Networking	GG7C 16	GM8F 48
Computing: Networking (Fixed Framework)	GG5K 16	GM59 48
Computing: Software Development	GG7E 16	GM92 48
Computing: Software Development (Fixed Framework)	GG5L 16	GM5A 48
Computing: Technical Support	GG7F 16	GM8E 48
Computing: Technical Support (Fixed Framework)	GG5M 16	GM5C 48
Construction Management	GJ5F 15	GN0J 47
Construction Management	GJ5L 16	GM8D 48
Contracting Management	G94N 15	GM9T 47
Electronic Engineering (Fixed Framework)	GE8G 16	GM5D 48
Electronics	G7E8 15	GM8C 47
Electronics	G7E9 16	GM8T 48
Engineering Practice	G86L 15	GM9R 47
Engineering Systems	G85G 15	GM9P 47
Engineering Systems	G8G5 16	GM9N 48
Financial and Business Management	GJ13 16	GM8R 48
Financial Services (Fixed Framework)	GE9R 16	GM58 48
Global Trade and Business (Fixed Framework)	GG5F 16	GM57 48
Golf Club Management	GJ6X 15	GN4Y 47
Golf Course Management	GJ6Y 15	GN24 47
Golf Management	GJ70 16	GN23 48
Hospitality	GF4P 15	GM8P 47
Hospitality Management	GF4R 16	GM8W 48
Hospitality Management (Fixed Framework)	GG26 16	GM5E 48
Marine Engineering	GM1K 15	GN1Y 47
Marine Engineering	GM1J 16	GN20 48
Measurement and Control Engineering	G88N 15	GM9M 47
Measurement and Control Engineering	G88P 16	GM9L 48
Mechanical Engineering	G840 15	GM8L 47
Mechanical Engineering	G841 16	GM8J 48
Mechatronics	G87L 15	GM9K 47
Mechatronics	G87M 16	GM9J 48
Nautical Science	GM7P 15	GN21 47
Nautical Science	GM7N 16	GN22 48
Petroleum Engineering	G963 15	GM9H 47
Petroleum Engineering	G964 16	GN11 48
Poultry Production	G949 15	GN25 47
Professional Cookery	G7N4 15	GN0E 47
Professional Cookery	GF4T 16	GM90 48
Quantity Surveying	GJ5G 15	GN0L 47
Quantity Surveying	GJ5M 16	GM8N 48
Retail	GM6G 15	GN0F 47
Retail Management	GM6H 16	GM8H 48

Supply Chain Management (Fixed Framework)	GG2J 16	GM5G 48
Travel and Tourism	GF3F 15	GM9G 47
Travel and Tourism	GF3G 16	GN12 48
Travel and Tourism (Fixed Framework)	GG27 16	GM5F 48