
Specification for Modern Languages for Life and Work Award (SCQF level 4)

Award code: GF2H 44

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Award Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Introduction

This is the specification for the Modern Languages for Life and Work Award at SCQF level 4.

It includes the Award structure, details of any assessment requirements and guidance on access. Additional guidance on delivery and assessment can be found in the *Award Support Notes*.

Equality and inclusion

This Award Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of candidates should be taken into account when selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence, consistent with maintaining the integrity of the qualification. For further information please refer to the *Award Support Notes*.

Rationale

All Awards reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

The Modern Languages for Life and Work Award (SCQF level 4) provides learners with the opportunity to develop language skills in combination with employability skills while also being able to follow their own interests in a cultural context. Learners will develop language skills in one or two modern languages that they can apply in life and work, developing their roles as active citizens. Learners will gain a greater understanding of their own and other cultures by comparing aspects of life in different countries and will play a fuller part as global citizens.

The main purpose of this Award is to study one or two languages in practical and relevant contexts for life and work, and identify, develop and demonstrate employability skills.

In particular, this Award aims to enable learners, with support, to:

- ◆ develop reading, listening and talking skills in one or two modern languages in the contexts of life and work,
- ◆ develop basic knowledge of one or two modern languages in the contexts of life and work
- ◆ develop employability skills

The Award will provide the opportunity to study the following languages:

- ◆ Cantonese
- ◆ French
- ◆ Gaelic
- ◆ German
- ◆ Italian
- ◆ Mandarin
- ◆ Polish
- ◆ Russian
- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ Urdu

This Award offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills and attributes, including communication, self-awareness, confidence and independent learning. Learners will develop the ability to interact and collaborate with others in vocational and cultural contexts.

This Award is a broad-based qualification suitable for all learners. It provides sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

Prior learning in the subject is not essential, although the Award provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a broad, general education or in a Modern Languages for Life and Work or a Modern Languages qualification at a lower SCQF level.

Target groups

The Award would be useful for learners who wish to develop their vocational and communication skills through one or two modern languages. The Award is also suitable for learners who wish to learn one or two modern languages in practical and relevant contexts, and develop their skills in employability.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Award is at the discretion of the centre.

Progression

This Award or its components may provide progression to

- ◆ Modern Languages Courses at SCQF level 4
- ◆ Modern Languages for Work Purposes Units in the same modern language at SCQF level 5
- ◆ Modern Languages for Work Purposes Units in another modern language at SCQF level 4
- ◆ Modern Languages for Life Units at SCQF level 4 in another modern language
- ◆ National Certificates

Award structure

This Award receives 15 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4 and has three mandatory Units:

- ◆ Modern Languages for Work Purposes
- ◆ Building Own Employability Skills
- ◆ Modern Languages for Life

The Modern Languages for Life and Work Award at SCQF level 4 has been designed to facilitate progression to Modern Languages National Courses at SCQF level 4.

Flexibility within Units will offer the opportunity for personalisation and choice, as the learner will have opportunities to focus on their own development needs and to set targets and identify tasks to enable them to address these needs.

The Units can be taught in any sequence. Learners can develop employability skills in the Modern Languages for Work Purposes Unit and the Building Own Employability Skills Unit. These Units can be delivered in combination, or as stand-alone Units.

Learners can use one modern language for the Modern Languages for Work Purposes Unit and the Modern Languages for Life Unit, or either Unit can be in a different modern language.

The Modern Languages for Work Purposes Unit and the Modern Languages for Life Unit will provide the opportunity to study the following languages:

- ◆ Cantonese
- ◆ French
- ◆ Gaelic
- ◆ German
- ◆ Italian
- ◆ Mandarin
- ◆ Polish
- ◆ Russian
- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ Urdu

Modern Languages for Work Purposes Unit

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop basic skills in talking and reading needed to communicate in **any** vocational context using the language studied. It encourages learners to reflect on skills required for employability.

Building Own Employability Skills Unit

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to acquire the skills needed in order to gain employment. These skills include finding out about job opportunities and employers, and the skills needed to apply for a job.

Modern Languages for Life Unit

The purpose of this Unit is to develop basic skills in listening and talking in practical and relevant contexts using the language studied. Learners explore the culture and everyday life in countries where the modern language is used.

Award framework

Unit title (component)	Mandatory/optional	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Modern Languages for Work Purposes	Mandatory	6	4
Building Own Employability Skills	Mandatory	3	4
Modern Languages for Life	Mandatory	6	4
Overall SCQF level of the Award			4

Skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Award. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Unit are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Award where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

3.4 Planning for, and making, choices and changes

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.1 Employability

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

5.3 Applying

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills should be at the same SCQF level of the Award and be consistent with the SCQF level descriptor. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work is given in the *Award Support Notes*.

Assessment

Assessment for the Award will consist of gathering evidence to show that the candidate is able to successfully complete all the Outcomes in the Units. Evidence could be gathered as candidates work through the Units in an integrated way. Alternatively evidence can be gathered on a Unit-by-Unit basis.

Assessment evidence can be presented in any form appropriate to the candidate and the activity undertaken. Evidence may be paper-based or recorded (oral or visual). Performance or product evidence may be supported by observation checklists and/or oral questions and answers. Candidates may also provide evidence through audio recordings, video diaries, blogs or other electronic means.

Specific Evidence Requirements can be found in the *Unit Specification*.

Appendix 1: Differentiation of Modern Languages for Life and Work Award at SCQF levels 3 and 4

The table below shows how the Award is differentiated in terms of support and task across SCQF levels 3 and 4:

SCQF level	3	4
The learner will work with...	directive support, ie the teacher/lecturer will issue explicit instructions	support, ie the teacher/lecturer will offer advice
The learner will....	participate in, ie agree to ideas, suggestions and plans	contribute to, ie offer some ideas and/or suggestions
Targets, plans and activities will be...	basic, ie routine and familiar	straightforward, ie consisting of routine elements

Administrative information

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History of changes to Award Specification

Award details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website www.sqa.org.uk to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Award Specification.

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