



Scottish Qualifications Authority (trading as SQA)

Qualification Statement of Purpose

SQA Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Archaeological Practice (QCF) 601/4925/5

Type of qualification QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework)

Credit 22

Guided Learning Hours 165 - 176

Overview of the Qualification The Level 3 Certificate in Archaeological Practice is a competence based qualification; the primary aim being to develop the skills of both amateur and professional archaeologists alike and to demonstrate vocational competence.

The qualification is, therefore, ideal for those of you wanting to gain the skills and knowledge needed to carry out a specified job role in the archaeological sector or for you to have your existing skills accredited via a nationally recognised Level 3 qualification in order to develop your own growth and engagement with archaeology.

As this is a competence based qualification, it will be delivered primarily on-the-job and can be assessed in a variety of ways including:

- Observations by an assessor who will watch you carry out your work and check that you can carry out the work-based tasks effectively, whilst also ensuring that you comply with all of the relevant health, safety, security and environmental regulations and requirements.
- Witness testimonies and supporting evidence of your competence from your supervisor in the workplace
- Professional discussions and/or question and answer sessions to confirm evidence of your knowledge

Your assessor will work with you to verify that you have met the requirements set out in this qualification and are therefore competent in your role.

The minimum total number of credits you will need to achieve to be awarded this qualification is 22.

There are four mandatory units worth 14 credits which are:

- *Research and analyse information to achieve objectives in Archaeological Operations*
- *Contribute to health and safety when conducting archaeological operations*
- *Develop your own resources and protect the interests of others*
- *Understand how to develop your own resources and protect the interests of others in archaeological operations*

You will then need to achieve a minimum of a further 8 credits from the range of optional units which include: Contributing to intrusive investigations in archaeological operations; Identify and control the environment for the safe storage of items; Implement routine conservation procedures; Classify compile and maintain data on the material remains of past communities; and Understand how to transfer archaeological items.

The qualification structure can be viewed by clicking [here](#):

Who is the qualification for?

The Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Archaeological Practice is the only vocational qualification currently available for archaeologists. It provides the skills and knowledge required for a career in the historic environment sector and is suitable for those of you who are:

- already degree level academics who wish to acquire the vocational skills and knowledge required by employers in the sector
- would-be archaeologists who are unable, or do not wish, to study at University
- volunteers within an archaeological environment who wish to achieve the qualification in order to enhance your employment prospects.

The qualification also meets the requirements for membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

Age range

There are no formal age restrictions for this qualification, however, the expected level of academic attainment of entrants means that learners are more likely to be over 18 years of age.

Entry requirements

Although there are no formal entry requirements for this qualification, it is likely that you will either already be working or volunteering in archaeology – alternatively, you would need to have an appropriate level of knowledge and communication skills to meet the requirements of the qualification.

Apprenticeship/ Other qualifications

This is the only vocational qualification currently available to Archaeologists so there is no Apprenticeship available for Archaeology.

What can the qualification lead to?

Successful achievement of the Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Archaeological Practice can provide an opportunity for:

- gaining employment in the sector in a variety of job roles including: Archaeologists; Historic Environment Record Archaeologist; Planning/Development Control Archaeologist; Community Archaeologist; Finds or Museum Archaeologist
- progression to a related, higher level qualification such as a degree programme/post graduate qualification

Any other relevant information

The Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Archaeological Practice is based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) in Archaeology which define what you must be able to do, how well and in what circumstances, to show that you are competent in the workplace.

The NOS were developed by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the Creative and Cultural industries in close conjunction with employers, educationalists, professional bodies and trade unions across the historic environment sector.

This qualification is recognised and supported by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

SQA website

www.sqa.org.uk

Telephone

0345 279 1000

E-mail enquiries

customer@sqa.org.uk