

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. This change does not apply to HNs delivered in Scotland.

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 offer a unique SQA qualification outside of Scotland. It will also help customers, centres and other external stakeholders more easily differentiate 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 appendix lists the 11 renamed HN frameworks relevant to our Qualification Partnership Agreement.

5. How will this affect you?

We would ask you to confirm you are happy to provide the same recognition to the renamed qualifications as you currently give to our SQA HN qualifications, including agreement for your logos to be used on the relevant certificates.

6. How will this affect SQA centres?

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 HNs will transition to the renamed qualifications over a set period (see timescales in Q7).

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

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

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.

7. 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 Q6** 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, centres will have to submit entries for SQA Advanced Diplomas/Certificates rather than HNs.

8. 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 Q6** 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.

9. 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 will advise centres to ensure they are familiar with the content of the renamed qualifications prior to first teaching them.

10. 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 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.

11. How can I access more details or support?

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

Please contact Diane Wilson, Qualifications 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	Product Code	Product Level Code
Architectural Technology	GN0H	47
Architectural Technology	GM8V	48
Building Surveying	GN0K	47
Building Surveying	GN0M	48
Built Environment	GN0G	47
Civil Engineering	GM97	47
Civil Engineering	GM95	48
Construction Management	GN0J	47
Construction Management	GM8D	48
Quantity Surveying	GM8N	48
Quantity Surveying	GN0L	47