Recognising Positive Achievement in session 2017–18: National 4 to National 3 courses

This guide outlines the arrangements that are in place to support candidates who do not achieve the National 4 Added Value Unit but may be able to achieve the National 3 course.

Criteria for Recognising Positive Achievement

A candidate will be able to gain a National 3 course award, providing all of the following requirements are met:

♦ there is a hierarchy/corresponding course at National 3 (see Appendix 1)
♦ the candidate has passed all of the internally-assessed units in the National 4 course (except the Added Value Unit)

What action is required?

For an eligible candidate to be awarded the National 3 course, you must submit the entry for the National 3 course. This should be processed by exception or by change of level from National 4 to National 3.

Please note that it is not necessary to withdraw the candidate from the corresponding National 4 course if it is likely that the Added Value Unit will be attempted again.

For the candidate to be awarded the National 3 course in time for August certification, you must ensure this action is taken in line with our key dates.

To enable eligible candidates to achieve the National 3 course award after August, you should submit the course entry via your MIS system. If you are unable to do this, please complete the Entry Creation Form (EC01).

Further information

If you have any questions about Recognising Positive Achievement, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your centre's Liaison Manager.

Information is also available on our Recognising Positive Achievement web page at www.sqa.org.uk/rpa

Appendix 1: Course hierarchies and corresponding courses

Hierarchical structures have been used in National Courses and Units to support smooth progression through the levels of qualifications. 'Hierarchy' is the term used to describe courses and units which form a structured progression involving two or more SCQF levels. Courses that are in a hierarchy will normally have a common set of units. The difference between the levels in a hierarchy reflects the degree of demand from one SCQF level to another.

Courses that are in hierarchies have skills, knowledge and understanding which form a progression through the levels of the course and align with the SCQF level descriptors.

Most, but not all, National Courses are in hierarchies. Courses are in a hierarchy if they share the same subject title at different levels. If they do not share the same title, there are courses where SQA has specifically indicated that a course relationship exists across levels — we call this a 'corresponding course'.

In Design and Technology, the Recognising Positive Achievement arrangement is available from National 4 to National 3 if all the units except the Added Value Unit are completed at National 4 in any one of these courses:

♦ Design and Manufacture
♦ Engineering Science
♦ Graphic Communication

The Recognising Positive Achievement arrangement is available from National 4 to National 3 in each of the following course hierarchies although the courses do not have a common set of Units across levels:

♦ Computing Science
♦ English
♦ Gàidhlig
♦ Applications of Mathematics