



Recognising Positive Achievement in session 2017–18: National 5 to National 4 courses

This guide outlines the arrangements that are in place for session 2017–18 to support candidates who do not achieve grades A–D in the National 5 course assessment but who may be able to achieve the course at National 4.

As centres will be aware, the Deputy First Minister has decided to retain the current mechanism of Recognising Positive Achievement for an “interim” period. The Deputy First Minister has said the mechanism should be used in “exceptional circumstances” to be determined by centres following discussion with parents and candidates.

Statement from the Scottish Government, March 2017

The following is an excerpt from the [Scottish Government’s policy statement on the changes to National Qualifications](#) (Annex B: Recognising Positive Achievement), which has been agreed by the Assessment and National Qualifications (ANQ) group.

‘Given the agreed need to reduce assessment-related workload, this pathway should only be used in a very limited number of exceptional circumstances, where the view of the teacher and head teacher, in discussion with parents and young people, is that it is in the interests of specific individual learners. This pathway will be available as an interim measure only, until any changes to the assessment of National 4 have been introduced.’

Criteria for Recognising Positive Achievement

A candidate who has received a band 8 or 9 (No Award) in the National 5 course assessment will be able to gain a National 4 course award, providing all the following requirements are met:

- ◆ the candidate has attempted all or part of the course assessment (coursework and/or exam)
- ◆ the candidate has passed all the required National 4 course units, **or** the freestanding SCQF level 5 units, **or** a combination of the freestanding SCQF level 5 units and units from the National 4 course
- ◆ the candidate has passed the National 4 Added Value Unit

There is an additional condition that applies only to National 4 English, Gàidhlig, Mathematics and Matamataig courses:

- ◆ the candidate must have passed a Literacy/Numeracy Unit at National 4 or the free-standing SCQF level 5 unit in Literacy/Numeracy.

What action is required?

For candidates who meet the above criteria to be awarded the National 4 course, the following actions must be taken:

- ◆ submit the entry for the National 4 Added Value Unit
- ◆ submit the entry for the Literacy/Numeracy Unit (where applicable)
- ◆ submit the entries for the freestanding SCQF level 5 units and/or National 4 units
- ◆ submit Pass results for the above units, as required

In order to check whether the candidate has met the requirements of a corresponding National 4 course, we will add the course entry.

If you have already completed these actions in line with our key dates, the candidate will be awarded the National 4 course in the August certification.

In early August, we will e-mail you a report detailing your centre's automatically-created National 4 course entries. It will include candidates for whom these actions have not been completed. To enable these candidates to achieve the National 4 course award, you should submit the outstanding data electronically via your MIS system. If you are unable to do this, please write your amendments on the report and return it to the Data Services team at national.qualifications@sqa.org.uk. These candidates will receive their certificate in our next scheduled certification run.

These automatically-generated National 4 course entries will be held open on the system until April the following year.

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