

# COVID-19 pandemic: alternative arrangements for SQA centres delivering Customised Awards, June 2020

The SCQF Partnership has confirmed that, where adaptations are made to credit rated Customised Awards, there should be discussion between SQA and our centres delivering a customised award to ensure that the alternative arrangements still meet the SCQF Principles.

For Customised Awards that are not SCQF credit rated, the following broad principles still apply.

A pragmatic approach is required to ensure that no candidates are disadvantaged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Broad principles

All adaptations proposed should be documented, standardised, and robust.

- ◆ Changes to the delivery method are acceptable — for example a move from classroom delivery to online delivery.
- ◆ The SQA centre should demonstrate that the achievement of learning outcomes is still possible through the proposed alternative assessment methods.
- ◆ Alternative assessment evidence can be accepted for all learning outcomes, and the SQA centre should demonstrate how each candidate can achieve each of the learning outcomes through the alternative assessment before certification.
- ◆ If all learning outcomes can still be achieved through alternative assessment methods, the candidate will receive the same amount of credit points as they would have achieved under normal assessment circumstances.
- ◆ If learning outcomes can no longer be achieved, SQA will appoint a subject specialist to review the amendments to determine whether the SCQF Level and credit points are still valid or need to be amended. This may result in an amended unit specification, and possibly a new group award.
- ◆ Any COVID-19 contingency arrangements (aside from standard alternative arrangements) should be documented and shared with your assessors and internal verifiers.
- ◆ Where alternative evidence is considered or used as the basis of assessment judgements, the discussions should be documented. Evidence should be retained until after external verification.

- ◆ The method that is used to reach assessment judgements should be standardised across all assessors.
- ◆ Alternative assessment evidence should still be subject to quality assurance processes — internal verification and then external quality assurance.
- ◆ SQA will monitor SQA centres' adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic through additional questions during external verification.
- ◆ SQA centres wishing to adapt their Customised Awards should contact their Customised Awards Officer or email [customisedawards@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customisedawards@sqa.org.uk)