

International qualifications



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About us

Qualifications Scotland is Scotland's national awarding body, designing and delivering trusted qualifications that recognise knowledge and skills. Based in Scotland, we create qualifications that are valued and used worldwide.

We are a not-for-profit government agency accountable to the Scottish Government. With over 30 years of international experience, we understand what works across different countries and cultures.

Why work with us?

When you partner with Qualifications Scotland, you get more than qualifications. You get a team that is genuinely invested in your success.

- A dedicated account manager who takes the time to understand your needs and guides you through your journey with us.
- Expert customer support from a team that's always here to help.
- Subject specialist external verifiers. They guarantee the highest standards through in-depth knowledge of your sector.
- Staff training and a marketing toolkit to support your centre.

Our international qualifications

We offer a range of internationally recognised qualifications that help students achieve their potential:

- SQA Advanced Certificates
- SQA Advanced Diplomas
- Professional Development Awards (PDAs)
- Customised Awards

Our qualifications are developed in partnership with industry and are underpinned by our rigorous quality assurance process.

SQA Advanced Certificates and Diplomas

SQA Advanced Qualifications are internationally recognised higher education qualifications at certificate and diploma level. They give students the theoretical knowledge and practical skills, such as information technology, communication and problem solving, that universities and employers expect them to have.

They have been developed to meet the skills needs of employers and the requirements of education professionals.

An SQA Advanced Certificate is equivalent to the first year of a degree, while an SQA Advanced Diploma is equivalent to the first two years of a degree. Through an SQA Advanced Diploma students can gain advanced entry into many undergraduate degree programmes at our partner universities.

To view our full list of courses visit:
sqa.org.uk/advancedsubjects

Practical Learning

SQA Advanced Qualifications develop the high-level transferable skills and academic knowledge students need for degree study or work. They use practical approaches to learning, including project and assignment work, group work, presentations and case studies.

Assessment

SQA Advanced Qualifications use a variety of assessment methods, such as exams, essays, projects, investigations and practical assignments.

We quality assure assessments in two ways. Internal verification uses your institution's own staff, while external verification uses our subject experts from the education sector.

Certification

When students successfully complete an SQA Advanced Qualification, they receive a Qualifications Scotland certificate with a summary of their attainment. This includes a listing of all the units passed and the grades achieved.

- An SQA Advanced Certificate is made up of 96 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7.
- An SQA Advanced Diploma is made up of 240 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8.



Benefits to your students

- Progression — routes for students into employment or further study, including progressing to a degree at one of our 50+ university partners around the world.
- Flexible — students can study internationally, in their own country or online.
- International — our qualifications are assessed in English and underpinned by rigorous quality assurance.
- Trusted by employers — students develop the knowledge and transferable skills that employers are looking for.





International Recognition

SQA Advanced Qualifications align to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). The SCQF is a way of comparing qualifications and making the relationship between them clear. It covers achievements from school, college, university and many work-based qualifications. The SCQF also shows the relationships between Scottish qualifications and those in the rest of the UK, Europe and beyond. This can help clarify international progression routes and credit transfer.

We are a member of the Federation of Awarding Bodies, the collective voice of the UK's world-class qualifications and assessments industry.

We are also a member of the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), an organisation representing the largest national awarding bodies offering qualifications in the UK.

SQA Advanced Qualifications have been evaluated by the Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute (ACEI), World Education Services (WES) and UK ENIC. This analysis helps others understand the value of our qualifications and the calibre of those who have achieved them. It also shows how these qualifications compare with programmes of study at universities and colleges around the world.

Frameworks

Our qualifications align across relevant national and international frameworks:

- Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)
- Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)
- Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW)
- European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

This allows comparisons to be made between qualifications on different frameworks.

Comparable to	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	Regulated Qualifications Framework England/ Northern Ireland (RQF)	Credit & Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW)
*Doctorate	12	8	8	8
*Masters	11	7	7	7
*Honour Degree Ordinary Degree	10/9	6	6	6
*SQA Advanced Diploma	8	5	5	5/4
*SQA Advanced Certificate	7	5	4	4
	6	4	3	3
	5	3	2	2
	4	2	1	1
	3	1	E3	E3
	2		E2	E2
	1		E1	E1

*Benchmark qualifications at higher education institutions

Diploma to »» Degree

Our Diploma to Degree programme is a proven route for students to progress to university after successfully completing an SQA Advanced Diploma.

Students can study in their own country before progressing to a university in their own country, region or abroad to complete a degree. They can enter directly into second or third year of the undergraduate degree programme. This can be a cost-effective route to studying abroad and achieving a degree at an international higher education institution. We make this journey as smooth as possible through our Diploma to Degree programme.

We have partnered with over 50 highly regarded international institutions in countries such as the UK, USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. These partnerships cover various progression models, including online delivery.

These institutions recognise the SQA Advanced Certificate and SQA Advanced Diploma for advanced entry and give students a quality learning experience.

For a full list of our progression partners, visit: sqa.org.uk/progressionpartners





Professional Development Awards (PDAs)

Our Professional Development Awards (PDAs) are flexible qualifications for industry, training and education. They can be used to extend or broaden professional and vocational skills.

Employers use PDAs to meet skills gaps at all stages of career development, including at advanced SCQF levels. PDAs are ideal for developing the skills of young people, graduates and other adult learners.

We develop PDAs in partnership with industry and link them to National Occupational Standards. This ensures they are up to date and relevant.

Find out more: sqa.org.uk/internationalqualifications

Customised Awards

Our Customised Awards are unique qualifications created in partnership with you to achieve your objectives. They are the perfect solution if you want to invest in your workforce, establish competitive advantage or demonstrate quality and compliance.

Benefits to you

- internationally recognised
- owned by you
- enhance competitive advantage
- demonstrate regulatory compliance
- gain external recognition

Benefits to your workforce

- achieve a recognised qualification
- clearly map progression routes
- increase motivation
- enhance self-worth and empowerment
- achieve higher standards

Find out more: sqa.org.uk/customisedawards



Ready to find out more?

Our friendly team are ready to help you start your journey with Qualifications Scotland — whether you have a question or are ready to work with us, we're here to help.

Call: 00 44 141 500 5030

Email: international@qualifications.gov.scot

Visit: sqa.org.uk/international

