

# Guide to **SQA Advanced Qualifications**



Scottish  
Qualifications  
Authority



Call us: +44 (0)141 500 5030

Email: [sqainternational@sqa.org.uk](mailto:sqainternational@sqa.org.uk)

[www.sqa.org.uk/international](http://www.sqa.org.uk/international)

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# SQA Advanced Qualifications

SQA Advanced Qualifications are Higher Education qualifications at certificate and diploma level which meet the skills needs of employers, requirements of education professionals and also enable advanced entry into many undergraduate degree programmes in universities and higher education institutions across the world.

Achieving an SQA Advanced Certificate or SQA Advanced Diploma is one of the best ways to develop a career or progress into further studies.

Developed in partnership with colleges, universities and industry, there are SQA Advanced Qualifications in a diverse range of subjects from Business and Computing to Hospitality and Retail. Whatever you need, there is a qualification to suit.

Find out more at [www.sqa.org.uk/advancedqualifications](http://www.sqa.org.uk/advancedqualifications)



# Who are SQA Advanced Qualifications for?

SQA Advanced Qualifications provide learners with both the practical skills needed to do a job and the theoretical knowledge an employer or university will expect them to have.

SQA Advanced Qualifications are delivered by colleges, universities, and many other training providers worldwide.

Typically, an SQA Advanced Certificate takes one year to complete and an SQA Advanced Diploma takes two years to complete.

SQA Advanced Qualifications are suitable for a range of learners including:

- students preparing for further education
- school leavers
- adult learners returning to education
- employees seeking to enhance their career prospects
- people who wish to start their own business

# What subjects are available as Advanced Qualifications?

SQA Advanced Qualifications are available in a wide range of subjects. Find out more at [www.sqa.org.uk/advancedsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/advancedsubjects)



## **Benefits of an SQA Advanced Qualification**

SQA Advanced Qualifications are well respected and have been designed by SQA to help learners enter the workplace or move on to a related degree programme in a university within their own country, region or overseas.

They develop high-level skills and knowledge with the SQA Advanced Certificate equivalent to the first year of a degree programme and the SQA Advanced Diploma equivalent to the second year of a degree programme.



- **Valued by universities** – a recognised route into year 2 or 3 of related degree programmes at home or overseas.
- **Flexible** – Learners will benefit from both real world experience and academic recognition.
- **International** – it is assessed in English and underpinned with rigorous quality assurance.
- **Trusted by employers** – develops the knowledge and transferable skills the world's businesses are looking for.
- **Designed by experts** – SQA is Scotland's world-leader in education and qualifications development. We have 100 years' experience in developing qualifications and qualification systems plus 30 years' experience of working internationally.

Every SQA Advanced Qualification teaches important practical skills. Examples include team building, communication, problem-solving and information technology. These skills are essential for successful careers and further study.



# How SQA Advanced Qualifications work

SQA Advanced Certificates and SQA Advanced Diplomas are made up of unit credits (one credit represents approximately 40 hours of timetabled learning and 40 hours of self-guided learning and study):

- SQA Advanced Certificates are made up of 96 SCQF credit points, at SCQF level 7, and usually take one year to complete.
- SQA Advanced Diplomas are made up of 240 SCQF credit points, at SCQF level 8, and usually take two years to complete.

Upon completion graduates can also gain entry to a number of professional bodies or to a related undergraduate degree. Whether an individual wants to go straight into a job, or continue their studies, getting an SQA Advanced Qualification is a good place to start.





# Diploma to Degree — a pathway to university and further study

SQA Advanced Qualifications don't just qualify for career development they can also enable advanced entry into many undergraduate degree programmes in universities and Higher Education Institutions across the world.

Learners can study in their own country before progressing onto universities in their own country, region or abroad to complete a degree, entering directly into second or third year. This option 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. SQA has partnered and set up articulation agreements with a number of highly regarded international institutions in countries such as the UK, USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand covering various progression models including online delivery.

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

[www.sqa.org.uk/diplomatodegree](http://www.sqa.org.uk/diplomatodegree)  
[www.sqa.org.uk/progressionpartners](http://www.sqa.org.uk/progressionpartners)  
[www.sqa.org.uk/d2dstudents](http://www.sqa.org.uk/d2dstudents)

# Recognition of SQA Advanced Qualifications by professional bodies

Many professional bodies in the UK and Internationally recognise the quality and value of an SQA Advanced Qualification.

This has led a high number of bodies to enter into agreements with SQA which recognises this value by way of articulation and professional recognition:

- Exemptions (partial and full) to professional body exams.
- Accepted as a membership entry requirement.

Information about what agreements are in place can be found on the relevant qualification pages and in the group award specifications.





## **Student:**

**Muhannad Mohammed  
Ali Al Raba'ni**

## **Journey:**

**SQA Advanced Diploma  
in Accounting >>  
BA Accountancy and  
Business Studies at  
Muscat College**



**I wanted to study to degree level and when I heard about SQA's Diploma to Degree programme it sounded like a good option for me. I had just finished many years of school study, so I liked that it was a fast-track qualification to an internationally recognised degree.**

**The transition from college to university was very smooth. It was great to study alongside other students from other countries and nationalities and I learned a lot both academically and socially. The Diploma to Degree pathway has given me a great opportunity to build on and I look forward to the future.**





## Get in touch

To find out more about SQA Advanced Qualifications, speak to our International Business Development team today.

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Visit:

