



March 2021

Subject guidance for internally assessed qualifications in 2020–21

Please read this document in conjunction with [guidance for the assessment of internally assessed qualifications issued to centres in August 2020](#).

Group award title:	HNC Counselling
Group award code:	G8H6 15

Introduction

This subject-specific guidance has been produced to assist centres to continue delivery of the HNC in Counselling and to find ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Due to current restrictions on colleges, workplaces and movement of people, we recognise the need for flexible approaches to the delivery and assessment of these awards.

We are very grateful for the contributions and cooperation of our college colleagues during this time which has helped us to identify the challenges being faced by centres and trainee counsellors.

Context and issues

The HNC in Counselling is designed to provide underpinning knowledge and understanding of the main theoretical concepts and approaches and the ethics, boundaries and skills required in counselling practice.

General issues identified:

- ◆ methods of remote delivery and assessment
- ◆ Graded Unit 1

Guidance on delivery

A wide range of methods can continue to be used to deliver and assess the HNC in Counselling.

We recognise that the learning environment and social landscape remains very challenging, with more remote and blended learning approaches and significantly less opportunity for face-to-face delivery and assessment.

Learners should, wherever possible, continue to engage in learning, teaching, and gathering evidence.

Remote delivery can provide the opportunity for tutor-led discussions, observation of triad work and peer feedback.

Assessment methods may include written and recorded oral evidence such as extended responses based on case studies and simulated scenarios, personal journals and reflective accounts.

This can be safely carried out utilising online platforms and communication technology.

BACP have provided a [train the trainers online resource](#) to support lecturers who may not yet feel fully confident with these delivery modes.

Health, safety, privacy and care

It should be noted that to ensure the safety of all participants, triad and group work must be observed at all times by the tutor (lecturer) leading on this aspect of teaching.

Where participants are continuing to teach or learn from home, care should be taken that sensitive or unsuitable topics are not discussed or are halted where they may be overheard by children and young people. Use of head or earphones is also recommended where appropriate.

SQA will continue to publish updated subject specific guidance as and when it becomes available on the [HNC Counselling webpage](#).

If you have any questions, please contact qualification.development@sqa.org.uk.