

# SCQF PARTNERSHIP

## OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2022-25

### THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

The Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk) to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Doctoral Degree	
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
9			Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
8	Higher National Diploma			Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher		Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate		Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3		National Progression Award	SVQ
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			



scottish credit and qualifications framework

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**The SCQF has been at the centre of Scottish education since its inception in 2001. It has evolved over the years and now contains over 11,800 qualifications owned by around 300 different organisations.**

However, its uses go far beyond just helping individuals understand qualifications. It can support development and understanding of learning and career pathways, it can support employers in effective recruitment and workforce development and also provides a means of identifying and recognising an individual's level of experiential and non-formal learning. The SCQF represents quality in the Scottish education system and clearly underpins key government strategies focused on developing an education and skills system that is fit for Scotland in the 21st Century. It supports the National Performance Framework ensuring that outcomes on educational attainment, skills profiling and participation can be measured and improved. This supports the NPF mission that, "We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society".



scottish credit and  
qualifications framework

# About The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is Scotland’s lifelong learning framework.

## THE FRAMEWORK IS DESIGNED TO:

- help people plan their learning journeys, so as to fulfil their personal, social and economic potential;
- enable all individuals, employers and organisations in Scotland to:
  - understand and compare the full range and parity of Scottish qualifications;
  - develop and understand learning and career pathways;
  - understand how different qualifications and learning can help improve workforce development and skills utilisation;
  - relate Scottish qualifications to qualifications in other countries;
  - use the SCQF Level Descriptors to assist with qualifications development and benchmarking skills and experience.
- support the Scottish Government aims of fair work and social justice by providing tools and resources which can recognise prior learning, support progression and improve social inclusion.

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
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11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9		Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma	Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
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## About the SCQF Partnership



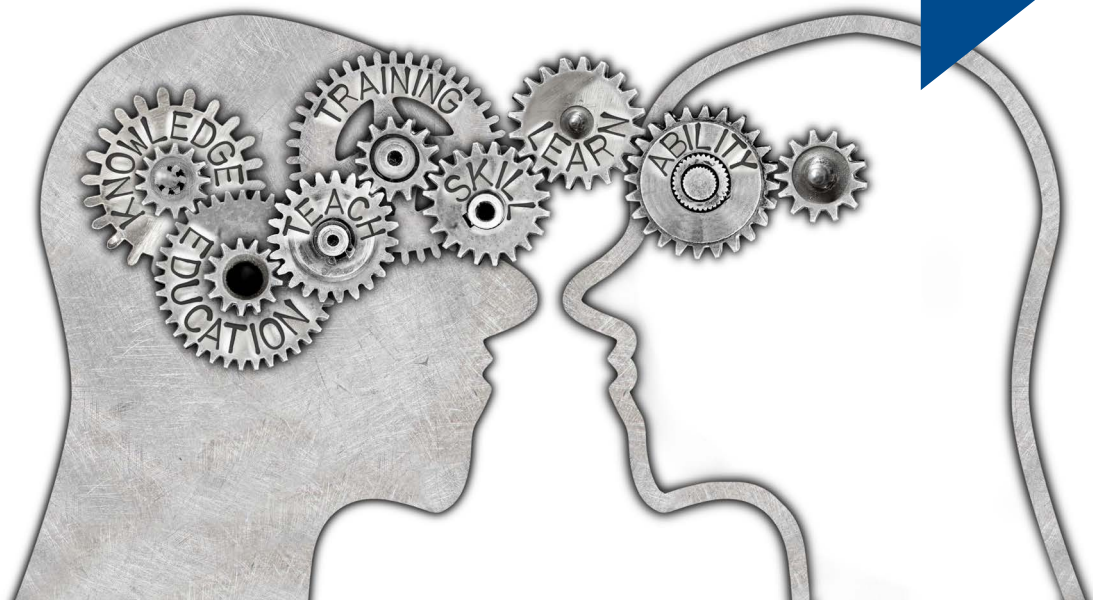
The SCQF is managed by the SCQF Partnership. This arrangement provides for a neutral organisation which can work across all sectors of education and training providing impartial advice, support and guidance to ensure that the SCQF is utilised to its full potential.

### OUR AIMS ARE TO:

- ensure that, where appropriate, all assessed learning and qualifications in Scotland are recognised on the Framework;
- extend the recognition of informal and non-formal learning;
- promote the Framework as a tool for Lifelong Learning;
- develop relationships with other frameworks internationally to improve learner mobility.

## Our Vision

To work with our partners and stakeholders to ensure the SCQF is seen both nationally and internationally as a symbol of quality and underpins the development of a robust education and skills system in Scotland that is fit for the 21st century.



## Our Mission

We ensure that the quality and integrity of the SCQF is maintained at all times and that the benefits of using the Framework are fully promoted to all stakeholders across Scotland and beyond. We provide an authoritative source of information on the diverse range of qualifications on the SCQF.

# What we do

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We maintain the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework as a system relating different qualification levels to each other

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We maintain the SCQF database of all qualifications and learning programmes included on the SCQF

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We approve, monitor and review Credit Rating Bodies and produce a range of quality assurance guidance to support them

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We provide support on development of learning and career pathways

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We provide advice and support on access, transfer and progression opportunities

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We consult, inform and collaborate with national stakeholders in developing our key priorities

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We develop initiatives and host events to learn from and share best practice with stakeholders and to support capacity building across the sector

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We develop resources and training to support best practice in the Recognition of Prior Learning and look for ways to further embed these across all sectors

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We support employers in recognising skills and understanding the diversity of qualifications available

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# Our Values

The Partnership's values demonstrate how we aspire to work both as a team and with our partners.



## Quality

Doing what we say we're going to do on time and ensuring that fulfilment of our customer and partner needs is our highest priority



## Integrity

Behaving ethically, honestly and openly in a business environment whilst displaying trust and respect



## Partnership

Cultivating active networks with our partners and seeking their ideas



## Neutrality

Giving independent, neutral and professional advice to all organisations



## Inclusiveness

Valuing diversity and working collaboratively



## Respect

Actively listening to partners and colleagues and considering their views and opinions

In delivering this plan we will seek at all times to work in ways which support these values.





## Our Stakeholders

The SCQF Partnership works closely with a wide range of stakeholders, to help us to achieve our goals. It is only through such partnerships and collaborative working that we can realise our vision.

In developing this plan we have continued to take full account of the views of our partners and stakeholders to ensure that we, along with others, are playing as full a part as possible in supporting Government agendas around education and the economy.



**Our partners are our key to success and we are mindful of this when developing both our strategic and operational priorities.**

## Key Drivers of Future Activity

**Maintaining quality and integrity is key to preserving confidence in Scottish qualifications and we will continue to work with Credit Rating Bodies to ensure that the SCQF is seen as a mark of quality.**

2022-25 will be a period of significant change in the sector. The recommendations from the Education Reform Review led by Professor Ken Muir will require careful implementation and it was clear during the Education Reform review that those consulted identified the SCQF as one of the key advantages within the Scottish education system and something which should be built on. Discussions will need to take place with Scottish Government on how best to increase the visibility and reach of the Framework.

Linked to that is the work being led by Professor Louise Hayward on qualification reform where we wish to see the SCQF being utilised as fully as possible including further thought on learning pathways and progression routes.

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**The replacement of SQA will be important for us as it currently acts as three Credit Rating Bodies accounting for around 25% of the qualifications on the SCQF. We will need to work with SQA and its successor(s) to ensure continuity of quality assurance.**

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The recommendations from the SFC review of tertiary education accepted by Scottish Government will also provide drivers not just for us but for many of our partners and stakeholders. We have already identified a number of areas where we see the SCQF providing a solid basis for joint development including our work to support Recognition of Prior Learning, work based learning, and microcredentials. In addition, use of the SCQF is key to the development of pathways, progression routes and credit transfer.

In the work-based area of delivery we will want to ensure that we can support the National strategy for Economic Transformation and the commitment to a National digital Academy.



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We will be dealing with the fallout from the pandemic and the changes that it has brought about in the sector. This means that we will need to ensure that we are responsive, flexible, digitally aware and creative in our work to support the Scottish economy in its recovery from the pandemic.



## Our Strategic Priorities

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THE SCQF PARTNERSHIP HAS SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2022-25:

- Maintaining quality and integrity
- Supporting key Government priorities around education, training and skills including education reform, tertiary and work-based learning delivery
- Supporting SCQF Credit Rating Bodies
- Promoting Recognition of Prior Learning
- Engaging with employers
- Driving wider implementation of the SCQF as a lifelong learning tool

The SCQF Operational Plan for each year sets out the annual objectives which help deliver these priorities.

