



Scottish Credit Qualification Framework (SCQF)

The main objective of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is to promote lifelong learning in Scotland. It supports learning providers and employers by:

- helping students get access to appropriate education and training so they can meet their full potential;
- helping employers, learners and the general public to understand the full range of Scottish qualifications, how qualifications relate to each other and to other forms of learning, and how different types of qualification can contribute to improving the skills of the workforce.

The Framework:

- Describes the courses and programmes that lead to qualifications;
- Allows different courses to be compared;
- Helps students develop progression routes;
- Clarifies entry and exit points,
- Maximises opportunities to transfer credit points between qualifications.

The following notes are intended to help you understand how different qualifications and learning programmes relate to each other.

SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (SCQF)

There are many different types of Scottish qualifications, including highers, SVQs, HNCs, HNDs, degrees and many more. The framework gives each qualification **credit points** and a **level** to make it easier to compare to one another.

- The **level** of a qualification shows how difficult the learning is.
- The **credit points** show the size of the qualification and how much work is involved in achieving that qualification.

The Framework helps to clearly see what the next best step is in terms of developing a skill or gaining knowledge.

Looking at the different levels in the Framework is like looking at a road map. Students can see where they are and the different routes they can follow to reach the next destination.

SCQF level	SQA national units	Formal qualification		SVQ
		HE	FE	
12		Doctorate		SVQ 5
11		Masters		
10		Honours degree		
9		Degree		
8		Diploma in Higher Education (Dip HE)	Higher National Diploma (HND)	SVQ 4
7	Advanced Higher	Certificate in Higher Education (Cert HE)	Higher National Certificate (HNC)	SVQ 3
6	Higher			
5	Intermediate 2			SVQ 2
4	Intermediate 1			SVQ 1
3	Access 3			
2	Access 2			
1	Access 1			



Schools, colleges and universities are the main providers of education in Scotland. Between them they offer courses at all the different levels (from 1 to 12) of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Further and Higher Education means studying courses and obtaining qualifications at levels 7-12 of the SCQF. Levels 7-10 cover the four years of a full-time Scottish Honours degree. Degree study at these levels is also described as "undergraduate" study. Higher National courses (level 7 and 8) are offered by colleges. Level 5 and 6 indicate the qualifications obtained when leaving school. These are the traditional entry qualifications for colleges and universities.

CREDIT POINTS AND LEVEL OF STUDY

As mentioned earlier, courses and qualifications are given credit points and levels, relating to the amount of learning students have to do to get the qualification. Each unit, module or course within a programme of study is assigned a certain level and number of credit points. Some examples to make this clearer:

- Most HNC units are each 8 credit points at level 7
- Most HND units are each 8 credit points at level 8
- A Scottish Honours degree is 480 credit points at levels 7-10, with certain requirements for the number of credits required for each level

Relationship between SCQF level and credit levels for the various types of qualifications:

Qualification	SCQF level	Credit points
Doctorate	12	At least 540 credits with a minimum of 420 at level 12
Masters	11	At least 180 credits with a minimum of 150 at level 11. For integrated Masters, at least 600 credits with a minimum of 120 at level 11

Honours Degree	10	At least 480 credits with a minimum of 180 at levels 9/10, including at least 90 at level 10.
Degree	9	At least 360 credits with a minimum of 60 at level 9.
Dip HE	8	At least 240 credits with a minimum of 90 at level 8+.
Cert HE	7	At least 120 credits with a minimum of 90 at level 7+
HND	8	120 credits at level 8 and 120 credits at level 7
HNC	7	96 to 120 credits
Advanced Higher	7	32 credits
Advanced Higher - SGA	7	144 credits of which 96 must be at level 7 (from three Advanced Higher Courses) and 48 at level 6
Higher	6	24 credits
Higher - SGA	6	120 credits of which 72 must be at level 6 (from three Higher Courses) and 48 at level 5.
Intermediate 2	5	24 credits
Intermediate 2 - SGA	5	96 credits of which 48 must be at level 5 (from two Intermediate 2 Courses) and 48 at level 4.
Intermediate 1	4	24 credits
Intermediate 1 - SGA	4	96 credits of which 48 must be at level 4 (from two Intermediate 1 Courses) and 48 at level 3
Access 3	3	18 credits
Access 3 - SGA	3	72 credits of which 36 must be at level 3 and 36 at level 2.
Access 2	2	18 credits
Access 2 - SGA	2	54 credits
Access 1	1	Each unit is worth 6 credits
PDA	6-12	Dependent on Units that make up the particular PDA.
SVQ	4-12	Work is underway to develop an agreed model for allocating credits to SVQs



CREDIT TRANSFER

What is credit transfer?

If students have already successfully studied at higher education level, either in the UK or another country, their previous study may count towards their chosen qualification. This is determined by allocating points to courses, which can then be converted into credit towards the qualification they hope to achieve. By using credits from previous study they may be able to gain their qualification more quickly.

It is important to note, though, that credits transferred this way may not be counted at the same level as within the original programme of study they're interested in, and there may be a limit to the number of credits they can transfer.

Who can apply for credit transfer?

In principle, any person who has successfully completed study at higher education level, either within the UK or another country, is able to apply for credit transfer.

Colleges and universities will often consider applications from anyone who has gained a full qualification, including professional qualifications, but also from those who have successfully completed a part of a course, provided that the course was formally assessed. For further information contact the National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) at www.naric.org.uk. NARIC can advise about the equivalence of qualifications from other countries. The Open University website (www.open.ac.uk/credit-transfer) also provides useful information on credit transfer.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Local information
- North Forum members
- [Diverse Routes](#)
- [National Recognition Information Centre](#)
- [Open University – credit transfer](#)
- [Scottish Qualifications Authority](#)
- [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#)
- [HERO](#)
- [Course you can](#)
- [UCAS](#)
- [PlanIt Plus](#)