

SCQF credit rated qualifications

DOCTORAL DEGREES

SCQF level	12 (Scottish Higher Education (SHE) level D)
Credit points	At least 540 credits of which a minimum of 420 is at level 12. (Research-based Doctorates do not have a credit rating)
Design	Doctorates are available through several routes. The PhD is normally awarded following the successful completion of a thesis requiring the equivalent of three years' full-time research and study to complete. Professional Doctorates also require the equivalent of three years' full-time research and study, and will frequently involve work-based as well as HEI-based research and study.

MASTERS DEGREES

SCQF level	11 (SHE level M)
Credit points	At least 180 credits of which a minimum of 150 is at level 11. For integrated Masters, at least 600 credits of which a minimum of 120 is at level 11. (Credit definitions do not normally apply to the MPhil — see Doctoral Degrees)
Design	Masters Degrees are available through several different routes: as a programme for graduates or equivalent through the equivalent of at least one year of full-time study; as a programme of, typically, the equivalent of five years of full-time study that integrates undergraduate study with the Masters Degree.

THE SCOTTISH BACHELORS DEGREE WITH HONOURS

SCQF level	10 (SHE level H)
Credit points	At least 480 credits of which a minimum of 180 is at levels 9 and 10, including at least 90 at level 10.
Design	The Honours Degree is typically offered through the equivalent of four years' full-time higher education. The Honours Degree is recognised as the normal entry to postgraduate study.

THE SCOTTISH BACHELORS DEGREE

SCQF level	9 (SHE level 3)
Credit points	At least 360 credits of which a minimum of 60 is at level 9.
Design	The Ordinary Degree is typically offered through the equivalent of three years' full-time higher education. The Ordinary Degree is recognised as the normal entry to a number of professions across the UK.

THE GRADUATE DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE

SCQF level	9 and 10 (SHE level 3 and H)
Credit points	At least 120 credits at the minimum of level 9 for a diploma and at least 60 credits at the minimum of level 9 for a certificate.
Design	These qualifications are typically for graduates or equivalent, but are not of postgraduate level of outcome.

DIPLOMAS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SCQF level	8 (SHE level 2)
Credit points	At least 240 credits of which a minimum of 90 are at level 8 or higher.
Design	The Diploma of Higher Education is typically offered after the equivalent of the first two years of full-time higher education in Scotland. The precise focus and outcomes will be identified in the relevant programme specifications.

CERTIFICATES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SCQF level	7 (SHE level 1)
Credit points	At least 120 credits of which a minimum of 90 are at level 7 or higher.
Design	The Certificate of Higher Education is typically offered as an exit award after the equivalent of one year of full-time higher education in Scotland. The precise focus and outcomes will be identified in the relevant programme specifications.

HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMAS

SCQF level 8

Credit points 120 credits at level 8 and 120 credits at level 7 (at present Units are not allocated to a level).

Design HNDs are normally offered through the equivalent of two years' full-time higher education. They can give entry to degree programmes at either level 8 or 9, depending on articulation agreements.

Note: From 2003, new design principles will be introduced which will require newly-validated HNDs to be composed of levelled Units and assessments to the minimum value of 240 credits, of which at least 64 must be at level 8.

HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATES

SCQF level 7

Credit points 96 to 120 credits (at present not all units are allocated to a level)

Design HNCs are normally offered through the equivalent of one year's full-time higher education. They can give entry to HNDs and degree programmes at level 7 or 8 depending on articulation agreements.

Note: From 2003 new design principles will be introduced which will require newly validated HNCs to be allocated 96 credits, of which at least 48 must be at level 7.

The total credit points for all existing HNCs will be calculated on the basis of 8 credits per single HN unit credit.

SCQF level

SCOTTISH VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Credit points 4-11

Design Note: Work is underway in consultation with NTOs/SSCs, to develop an agreed model for allocating credits to SVQs.

SVQs are based on the National Occupational Standards originally developed by National Training Organisations (NTOs) and now falling within the remit of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs). Typically an SVQ is achieved in the workplace. Some SVQs or SVQ Units are incorporated into other awards or programmes including HNCs, Scottish Progression Awards and Modern Apprenticeships. SVQs combine work-based competences and underpinning knowledge.

SCOTTISH GROUP AWARD (SGA) AT ADVANCED HIGHER

SCQF level 7

Credit points 144 credits of which 96 must be at level 7 (these must come from three Advanced Higher Courses) and 48 at level 6.

Design SGAs are made up of National Courses and Units at two levels. They give credit for SVQ 3 or SVQ 4. Achievement of all five Core Skills is required — three at Higher and two at Intermediate 2. This qualification is designed to prepare people for entry to further and higher education, training or employment.

Note: At this level there is a single general award. Programme content will reflect learner choice. SGAs are currently under review.

SCOTTISH GROUP AWARDS (SGAs) AT HIGHER

SCQF level 6

Credit points 120 credits of which 72 must be at level 6 (these must come from three Higher Courses) and 48 at level 5.

Design These SGAs are made up of National Courses at level 6 and National Units at level 5 or above. They give credit for Standard Grades and SVQs. Achievement of all five Core Skills at Intermediate 2 or Higher is required. These qualifications are designed to prepare people for entry to further and higher education, training or employment. The focus is reflected in the titles of particular awards. There is also a general SGA.

Note: SGAs are currently under review.

SCOTTISH GROUP AWARDS (SGAs) AT INTERMEDIATE 2

SCQF level 5

Credit points 96 credits of which 48 must be at level 5 (these must come from two Intermediate 2 Courses) and 48 at level 4.

Design These SGAs are made up of National Courses at level 5 and National Units at level 4 or above. They give credit for Standard Grades and SVQs. Achievement of all five Core Skills at Intermediate 1 or 2 is required. These qualifications are designed to prepare people for entry to further education, training or employment. The focus is reflected in the titles of particular awards. There is also a general SGA.

Note: SGAs are currently under review.

SCOTTISH GROUP AWARD (SGA) AT INTERMEDIATE 1

SCQF level 4

Credit points 96 credits of which 48 must be at level 4 (these must come from two Intermediate 1 Courses) and 48 at level 3.

Design These SGAs are made up of National Courses at level 4 and National Units at level 3 or above. They give credit for Standard Grades and SVQs. Achievement of all five Core Skills at Access 3 or above is required. This qualification is designed to prepare people for entry to further education, training or employment.

Note: At this level there is a single general award. Programme content will reflect learner choice. SGAs are currently under review.

SCOTTISH GROUP AWARD (SGA) AT ACCESS 3

SCQF level 3

Credit points 72 credits of which 36 must be at level 3 and 36 at level 2.

NB This is for a single award — candidates can go on to achieve double or triple awards. The total for a double award is 108 and for a triple award is 144.

Design These SGAs are made up of National Clusters or coherent groupings of Units and/or Units at two levels. They give credit for Standard Grades and SVQs. Achievement of all five Core Skills at Access 2 or above is required. This qualification is designed to prepare people for entry to further education, training or employment.

Note: At this level there are general awards. Programme content will reflect learner choice. SGAs are currently under review.

SCOTTISH GROUP AWARD (SGA) AT ACCESS 2

SCQF level 2

Credit points 54 credits of which all 54 must be at level 2.

NB This is for a single award — candidates can go on to achieve double or triple awards. The total for a double award is 84 and for a triple award is 108.

Design These SGAs are made up of National Clusters or coherent groupings of Units and/or Units. Achievement of all five Core Skills at Access 2 or above is required. This qualification is designed to prepare people for entry to further education, training or employment.

Note: At this level there are general awards. Programme content will reflect learner choice. SGAs are currently under review.

NATIONAL COURSES AT ADVANCED HIGHER

SCQF level	7
Credit points	32 credits at level 7.
Design	Advanced Higher Courses are usually made up of three Units and an external assessment — an examination or a project — all at the level of the Course. Each Advanced Higher Unit is worth 8 credits at level 7. There may be a choice of Units available. These Courses are typically used for entry to higher education and employment.

NATIONAL COURSES AT HIGHER

SCQF level	6
Credit points	Normally 24 credits at level 6 (if Advanced Higher Units are counted towards the Course, it will be worth more points).
Design	Higher Courses are usually made up of three Units and an external assessment — an examination or a project — all at the level of the Course. Each Higher Unit is worth 6 credits at level 6. There may be a choice of Units available. In some cases learners may count Advanced Higher Units (level 7) towards the Course. These Courses are typically used for entry to higher education and employment.

NATIONAL COURSES AT INTERMEDIATE 2

SCQF level	5
Credit points	24 credits at level 5.
Design	Intermediate 2 Courses are usually made up of three Units and an external assessment — an examination or a project — all at the level of the Course. Each Intermediate 2 Unit is worth 6 credits at level 5. There may be a choice of Units available. In some cases learners may count Higher Units (level 6) towards the Course. These Courses are typically used for entry to further education, training and employment.

NATIONAL COURSES AT INTERMEDIATE 1

SCQF level 4

Credit points 24 credits at level 4.

Design Intermediate 1 Courses are usually made up of three Units and an external assessment — an examination or a project — all at the level of the Course. Each Intermediate 1 Unit is worth 6 credits at level 4. There may be a choice of Units available. In some cases learners may count Intermediate 2 Units (level 5) towards the Course. These Courses are typically used for entry to further education, training and employment.

NATIONAL CLUSTERS AT ACCESS 3

SCQF level 3

Credit points 18 credits at level 3.

Design Access 3 Clusters are usually made up of three Units, all at the level of the Cluster, with no external assessment. There may be a choice of Units available. Each Access 3 Unit is worth 6 credits at level 3. In some cases learners may count Intermediate 1 Units (level 4) towards the Cluster. These Clusters are typically used for entry to further education, training and employment.

NATIONAL CLUSTERS AT ACCESS 2

SCQF level 2

Credit points 18 credits at level 2.

Design Access 2 Clusters are usually made up of three Units, all at the level of the Cluster, with no external assessment. There may be a choice of Units available. Each Access 2 Unit is worth 6 credits at level 2. In some cases learners may count Access 3 Units (level 3) towards the Cluster. These Clusters are typically used for entry to further education, training and employment.

NATIONAL UNITS AT ACCESS 1

SCQF level	1
Credit points	Each Access 1 Unit is worth 6 credits at level 1.
Design	Access 1 Units are designed to be used in programmes of learning designed for the personal needs of learners with severe and profound learning difficulties. Many of these Units are designed to articulate with the outcomes of Access 2 Units, offering progression.

STANDARD GRADES AT CREDIT LEVEL

SCQF level	5
Credit points	Each Standard Grade Course is worth 24 credits.
Design	Each Standard Grade Course is designed to take two years of full-time study at S3/4 to achieve.

STANDARD GRADES AT GENERAL LEVEL

SCQF level	4
Credit points	Each Standard Grade Course is worth 24 credits.
Design	Each Standard Grade Course is designed to take two years of full-time study at S3/4 to achieve.

STANDARD GRADES AT FOUNDATION LEVEL

SCQF level	3
Credit points	Each Standard Grade Course is worth 24 credits.
Design	Each Standard Grade Course is designed to take two years of full-time study at S3/4 to achieve.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (PDAs)

SCQF level 4–11

Credit points Dependent on Units that make up the particular PDA.

Design PDAs are qualifications for people already in a career who wish to develop an aspect of their existing skills, develop new ones or change direction. There are four kinds of PDA: Advanced Diploma normally at SCQF level 9-11; Diploma, normally at SCQF level 7 or 8; Advanced Certificate, normally at SCQF level 6; and Certificate, normally at SCQF level 4 or 5.

Note: As each PDA is reviewed and revised, it will be credit rated.

SCOTTISH PROGRESSION AWARDS (SPAs)

SCQF level 4–11

Credit points Dependent on the Units that make up the particular SPA.

Design SPAs are normally subsets of SVQs and offer learners an opportunity to achieve a group of Units which encourages progression to a full SVQ. The design rules are very flexible, allowing SPAs to meet the needs of occupational sectors. They can comprise SVQ, National and Higher National Units or a combination. They can help a learner develop capability and demonstrate potential to prospective employers.

Note: As each SPA is reviewed and revised, it will be credit rated.