



Scottish Qualifications Authority

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The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is the national body in Scotland responsible for the development, accreditation, assessment, and certification of qualifications other than degrees. Its functions are to:

- Devise and develop qualifications, and keep them under review
- Accredite and validate qualifications
- Approve education and training establishments to offer SQA qualifications
- Make arrangements for, assist in and carry out, assessments and examinations
- Carry out a quality assurance function
- Certificate achievement

SQA has over 560 permanent employees and works in partnership with representatives from education, industry, commerce, government and the social partners - all those who have a stake in the way education and training develops in Scotland.

SQA is used as a resource by countries seeking to reform their own systems of education and qualifications. It is able to offer advice on setting up and administering qualifications systems both in the UK and internationally. Its staff and network of consultants provide consultancy services including feasibility studies, project design, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and training in-country and in the UK.

SQA's European/international activity

SQA recognises the benefits to Scotland of sharing best practice with other countries through participation in international activities. We are active members of European Union and international education policy networks. Our work overseas also includes consultancy and training services to support strategic reform of education and training systems and the delivery of SQA qualifications overseas. SQA has a strong track record of such activity in Central and Eastern Europe; the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. We also have an interest in the international benchmarking of qualifications standards and in international portability of qualifications.