



An Introduction to SQA Accreditation

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**Delivering Quality Assurance  
through the Approval and  
Regulation of Awarding Bodies  
and their Qualifications**

*An Assurance of Quality*

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The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has two distinct and autonomous parts. We are: **SQA Accreditation**

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Under Scottish Government legislation, SQA Accreditation has a remit to quality assure qualifications by approving awarding bodies and accrediting their qualifications. Our work is underpinned by Regulatory Principles and Regulatory Directives, which define the standards awarding bodies must meet in order to be compliant.

Our main areas of work are:

- **Quality Assurance of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)**
  - **Accreditation of Qualifications**
  - **SCQF Credit Rating of Accredited Qualifications**
  - **Regulation**
  - **Research and Statistics**
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The other part of SQA is the awarding body, one of those that we regulate, and as such is separate from SQA Accreditation. They are subject to the same processes and regulation as any other approved awarding body.

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## Benefits of being an SQA Accreditation approved awarding body

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We provide extensive support and quality assurance that offers a badge of quality for awarding bodies and their customers.

Our involvement in qualifications starts with our advisory remit and formal approval role, working with Standards Setting Organisations and other stakeholders in the following:

- **Development of National Occupational Standards (NOS)**
  - **Development of the qualification structures and associated products**
  - **SCQF credit rating of qualifications**
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We can add value to your qualifications because our quality standard – the Regulatory Principles – have been designed to encourage awarding bodies to improve the quality of their products and the standard of service that they offer to their stakeholders. We know this because we wrote our Principles in line with industry standards which promote continual improvement such as ISO 9001.

We also offer direct access to our Accreditation Managers and their range of expertise with qualification design, development and delivery so that they can make the process of qualification submissions an easy experience.

Our Regulation Managers are qualified ISO auditors so we can offer you the best advice and help you develop your systems and processes so that you are always improving and developing your business.

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## SCQF Credit Rating of Accredited Qualifications

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We are an SCQF Partnership Approved Credit Rating Body (CRB) and can credit rate any qualifications we accredit. We encourage approved awarding bodies and stakeholders to be proactive in using and promoting the SCQF.

The following **must** be credit rated:

- **SVQs (as owners of the SVQ brand we are the only CRB for SVQs) and qualifications which form the mandatory section of a Modern Apprenticeship.**
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- **We can also provide SCQF credit rating training and support you to develop the expertise and knowledge to credit rate qualifications that you are submitting for accreditation and approval.**
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Please contact us at:

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Visit our website at:

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SQA Accreditation has been approved by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance to the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System Standards. This applies to the approval and subsequent monitoring of awarding bodies and the accreditation of vocational and occupational qualifications, other than those conferred by higher education institutions. Certificate No: LRQ 0923654

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