

**INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SCQF CREDIT RATED COURSES ASSOCIATED WITH LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS 2023**

**BACKGROUND**

Scotland's Learning for Sustainability action plan 2023 to 2030 ["Target 2030: A movement for people, planet and prosperity"](https://www.gov.scot/publications/target-2030-movement-people-planet-prosperity/pages/1/) aims to build an inspiring movement for change so every 3 to 18 place of education becomes a sustainable learning setting by 2030.

To help progress this action plan and the [Vision 2030+](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/documents/res1-vision-2030.pdf) Strategic Objective ‘All learners should have an entitlement to Learning for Sustainability,’ the SCQF Partnership has been asked by the Scottish Government to administer a small pot of funding that organisations can bid into to allow existing learning programmes or awards that they own and which have an LfS focus to be credit rated onto the SCQF.

These learning programmes or awards should be available to be taken mainly (but not necessarily solely) by children and young people up to the age of 18 in any setting, and should be expected to be credit rated at SCQF Level 7 or lower.

**We welcome all bids which fall under the definition of Learning for Sustainability, however we are particularly keen to fund projects which focus on the areas of social justice and/or global citizenship.**

**MAKING A PROPOSAL**

Organisations are invited to submit a proposal to have the cost of initial credit rating (up to a maximum of £5000) covered for a learning programme or award that they own and that has an LfS focus.

In order to qualify for this funding, programmes or awards must prove that they:

* fit within the LfS definition
* have a strong uptake in terms of learners
* are mainly (but not necessarily solely) aimed at children and young people up to the age of 18
* would be expected to sit at **SCQF level 7 or lower**
* will be made available to learners for a minimum of three years once credit rated
* are solely owned by your organisation

In addition to covering the cost of initial credit rating, the SCQF Partnership will support successful projects by providing:

* training to help organisations understand the credit rating process
* support to identify any areas requiring further development
* links with Credit Rating Bodies

**Credit Rating Bodies**

You will require to work with a Credit Rating Body (CRB) in order to have your programme credit rated. We will explain this process in the training provided. The funding provided is solely to cover the cost of credit rating charged by the CRB.

We will introduce you to suitable CRBs and you can decide which one you feel would best suit your needs. Funds will be paid to your organisation and your organisation will be responsible for paying the CRB.

Funding for the successful applicants will be paid in two instalments. The first of these will be payable on receipt of a detailed project plan and timetable and the final payment once the project has been completed and the final report submitted. A contract will also be issued.

**Criteria for Credit Rating**

Any programme has the potential to be included on the SCQF, provided that the programme meets the following criteria:

* must contain clear learning outcomes
* must be a minimum of 10 notional learning hours
* must be formally assessed
* must be quality assured

Further information about the credit rating process can be found at [www.scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-employers/recognising-your-training-programmes/](https://scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-employers/recognising-your-training-programmes/)

**Benefits of Credit Rating**

* Helps Individuals to understand the level of their learning
* Aids recognition of learning and skills by employers and learning institutions
* May encourage more learners and organisations to take part in your programme

**Definition of Learning for Sustainability**

Learning for sustainability (LfS) is an approach to life and learning which enables learners, educators, schools and their wider communities to build a socially-just, sustainable and equitable society. An effective whole school and community approach to LfS weaves together global citizenship, sustainable development education, outdoor learning and children’s rights to create coherent, rewarding and transformative learning experiences. Offering learning programmes that build understanding, skills and desire for action in the following areas is an integral part of this approach.

The qualification or award should, therefore, fit **AT LEAST ONE** of the following statements:

* Supports learners in understanding the interconnected nature of global societies, the importance of recognising and challenging inequalities, upholding human rights for all, and the benefits of interacting with others in the spirit of cooperation, fairness and equality.
* Supports learners in recognising that there are not simple solutions to complex problems and should empower young people to use their voices to challenge injustice
* Supports learners in understanding how human prosperity is utterly dependent on nature thriving globally and locally, and therefore the need to protect ecosystems and help them to recover and flourish.
* Supports the development of skills and knowledge to allow responsible participation socially, culturally, politically and/or environmentally in society.
* Supports the development of skills and knowledge central to sustainable development, including but not limited to: food security, clean water and sanitation, suitable housing, upholding human rights, tackling poverty, developing cohesive communities, energy efficiency, renewable energy, low carbon technologies, waste minimisation, circular economy, pollution-reduction, protection of biodiversity/habitats/ecosystems and sustainable transport.
* Specifies the use of either the natural or built environment to allow learners to contextualise and apply learning, and understand the interdependence of humans and their environment.

Further information can be found in Scotland's Learning for Sustainability action plan 2023 to 2030 ["Target 2030: A movement for people, planet and prosperity"](https://www.gov.scot/publications/target-2030-movement-people-planet-prosperity/pages/1/)

**Definition of Global Citizenship**

Oxfam define global citizenship as a term used to describe the social, environmental, and economic actions taken by individuals and communities who recognise that every person is a citizen of the world.

* It is about how decisions in one part of the planet can affect people living in a different part of it, and about how we all share a common humanity and are of equal worth.
* It means being open to engaging positively with other identities and cultures and being able to recognise and challenge stereotypes.
* It is also about how we use and share the earth's resources fairly and uphold the human rights of all.

Global citizenship education (GCE) is a type of transformative education that aims to shift individual perspectives and influence collective action and behaviours, encouraging us all to think critically about what is equitable and just for people, and what will minimise harm to our planet.

**SUBMISSIONS PROCESS AND TIMESCALES**

Organisations interested in applying are asked to complete the attached application form. Submissions should be made via e-mail to Nicola Smith at n.smith@scqf.org.uk no later than **12 noon on Friday 10th November 2023**. Each project must be completed by the end of **June 2024.**

By agreeing to participate in a funded project, organisations are agreeing to:

* meet regularly with SCQFP Officers to discuss proposed plans
* attend a ‘Would You Credit it?’ Training course on Thursday **30th November 2023**
* produce a plan and timetable for the project
* complete a short final project report
* have designated staff members responsible for this project and for the running and delivery of the programme after credit rating
* ensure that they have the capacity to run the programme for at least three years
* fulfil the continued requirements of running a credit rated programme
* adhere to the following timescales
* ensure the project is completed by the end of June 2024

**We would recommend that, before you put in a bid, you have an informal chat with Nicola Smith (****n.smith@scqf.org.uk****) to make sure that your course is suitable and ready for credit rating, eligible for funding, and that you understand what is involved in running a credit rated programme.**

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| Closing date for receipt of submissions | Fri 10th November 23 at 12 noon |
| Review of submissions by Steering Group  | Mon 20th November 23 |
| ‘Would You Credit it?’ training session for successful organisations  | Thu 30th November 2023 |
| Work plan to be submitted to SCQF  | Fri 8th December 23 |
| One to one support sessions with SCQFP Officers | As Required |
| Learning programmes submitted for credit rating  | April 2024 |
| Report submitted to SCQF  | Latest end June 24 |