

DELIVERING OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

THROUGH THE 2022/23 OPERATIONAL PLAN



22/23

Scottish Credit
and Qualifications
Framework Partnership



scottish credit and
qualifications framework



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9		Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma	Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award	SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3			
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

DELIVERING OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

THROUGH THE OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022/23

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) supports individual learners and exists to sustain a vibrant lifelong learning culture in Scotland. It is our aim to include, where appropriate, all qualifications and assessed learning in Scotland on the SCQF so that learners can identify their current position in relation to the Framework and can plan their future learning pathways.

BENEFITS OF USING THE FRAMEWORK



LEARNERS

Helps learners at all stages plan their learning journey



INDIVIDUALS

Helps individuals understand qualifications they are not familiar with and the parity of those qualifications



EMPLOYERS

Helps employers understand different types of qualifications as well as supporting effective recruitment and workforce development



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Helps education and training providers of all kinds to identify the level that has been studied in a particular subject and makes it easier to transfer credit points between learning programmes



GUIDANCE GIVERS & INFLUENCERS

Supports careers advisers, parents/carers and CLD practitioners by providing a structure for conversations about learning pathways, including the importance of other learning programmes and experiences outwith formal education settings



LEARNING PROGRAMMES

Provides recognition of a very wide range of learning programmes



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We ensure that the quality and integrity of the SCQF is maintained at all times and that the benefits of using the Framework are fully promoted to all stakeholders across Scotland and beyond. We provide an authoritative source of information on the diverse range of qualifications on the SCQF.

OUR VALUES



QUALITY



INTEGRITY



PARTNERSHIP



NEUTRALITY



INCLUSIVENESS



RESPECT

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

The SCQF is in the custody of, and managed by, the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF Partnership). This is a neutral organisation working across all sectors of education and training providing impartial advice, support and guidance to ensure that the SCQF is utilised to its full potential.



OUR AIMS ARE TO:

- **ENSURE THAT, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ALL ASSESSED LEARNING AND QUALIFICATIONS IN SCOTLAND ARE INCLUDED ON THE FRAMEWORK;**
- **EXTEND THE RECOGNITION OF INFORMAL AND NON-FORMAL LEARNING;**
- **DEVELOP AND PROMOTE THE FRAMEWORK AS A TOOL FOR LIFELONG LEARNING;**
- **DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER FRAMEWORKS INTERNATIONALLY TO IMPROVE LEARNER MOBILITY.**

The Partnership is a company limited by guarantee and is a Scottish registered charity.

The SCQF Partnership has a Board of Directors which comprises nominees of the following organisations:



In addition, the Board has two co-opted Directors – the first is the Chair of Quality Committee and the second is an employer-facing representative – currently filled by Scottish Training Federation. Scottish Government has observer status. All of those bodies represented on the Board have a significant interest, involvement in, and influence on, learning in Scotland. The Partnership also works closely with a wide range of stakeholders, to help the company to achieve its goals. It is only through such partnerships and collaborative working that the Partnership will realise its mission statement. This operational plan therefore, will be developed, implemented and evaluated through a variety of partnership arrangements using the SCQF Board partners but also the members of our key committees, the Quality Committee and the Forum, which comprises around 30 different stakeholder organisations.

In developing this plan, we have reflected on the past two years of the pandemic, both its highs and its lows,

and have tried to ensure that we have captured lessons learnt in our plan for this year. We will continue to flex our engagement approach to ensure that we can reach out to as wide a range of stakeholders as possible whether that is through the provision of workshops, guidance, capacity building support, partnership working or quality assurance.

This year will see the beginnings of a period of significant change in the sector. The recommendations from the Education Reform Review led by Professor Ken Muir will require careful implementation. It was clear during the Education Reform review that those consulted identified the SCQF as one of the key advantages within the Scottish education system and something which should be built on. Discussions will take place with Scottish Government on how best to increase the visibility and reach of the Framework and the SCQFP team will work hard to make this happen.

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2022/23

Core activities

1. Maintain the quality and integrity of the Framework to promote and support coherence and mutual trust amongst institutions and stakeholders

IMPACT

- The provision of an overarching quality assurance model that provides comfort and mutual trust to all Credit Rating Bodies that standards are being maintained and capacity developed as appropriate
- There is recognition by other organisations that standards are being maintained and capacity developed as appropriate

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ Successful periodic and annual monitoring reviews of SCQFP Approved CRBs
- ✓ Successful implementation of a model for review of all colleges actively credit rating
- ✓ A robust approval process to ensure that all new organisations becoming CRBs have appropriate quality assurance systems in place

ACTIVITY

- a) Carry out a robust approval process for any new CRB
- b) Ensure all CRB credit rating activities are robustly monitored and quality assured
- c) Provide a comprehensive set of information and guidance for potential and existing CRBs on the SCQF Quality Assurance Model
- d) Continue to amend and enhance the Quality Assurance Model as required



2. Provide capacity building for all Credit Rating Bodies in credit rating for the SCQF to ensure they are well placed to support a range of learner pathways

IMPACT

- There is an increase in number of programmes credit rated
- Increased engagement with colleges and universities to enable them to actively use the SCQF
- There is greater understanding of how the learner journey can be best planned and supported

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ A wider range of credit rated programmes on the SCQF offered by colleges and universities and other CRBs
- ✓ Positive feedback from institutions receiving training from SCQFP
- ✓ Colleges are more aware of and are using the SCQF across a range of functions

ACTIVITY

- a) Provide an open programme of support for all CRBs including colleges and universities
- b) Provide a bespoke service of tailored workshop, individual support and tailored guidance to all CRBs including colleges and universities
- c) Investigate ways of encouraging colleges and universities to credit rate programmes for third parties or to start to engage with credit rating
- d) Continue to support partners and stakeholders to explore the development and credit rating of microcredentials

3. Maintain and promote the SCQF Database as a central source for current information about SCQF credit rated programmes

IMPACT

- There is a central resource on the SCQF website providing user friendly comprehensive information source on credit rated programmes in Scotland

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ Feedback from the Database User Group
- ✓ Increased information on credit rated programmes included
- ✓ Feedback on usefulness of infographics

ACTIVITY

- a) Provide support to CRB users of the database
- b) Continue to monitor the database to ensure it continues to meet user needs and generates useful public information
- c) Explore options for sharing data with and from other organisations



4. Ensure that the company functions effectively and efficiently

IMPACT

- Funders have trust in the effective management of budgets
- The Board is able to provide the appropriate level of direction
- Stakeholders value our services
- SCQFP is seen as an attractive employer
- SCQFP complies fully with governance and regulation requirements

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ Securing continuation of funding
- ✓ Recruit the best people for posts
- ✓ Feedback from employees and stakeholders

ACTIVITY

- a) Provide appropriate levels of support and information to ensure effective Board and committee decision making
- b) Provide a professional service to all of our workshops, seminars and events
- c) Ensure we continue to be a best practice employer
- d) Provide support for SCQF Week
- e) Continue to review approaches to a range of administrative functions to improve efficiency
- f) Provide the Board, funders and the budget holders with clear, accurate and timeous information on budgets and cashflow
- g) Ensure the wellbeing of staff is fully prioritised as well as ensuring they feel supported and empowered to deliver on their agreed outcomes
- h) Futureproof the business to enable a flexible working model whilst maintaining quality of service
- i) Begin the organisation's journey towards net zero

Specific activities for 2022/23

5. Support schools in developing a wider range of learning pathways through engagement with the SCQF School Ambassador programme

IMPACT

- Schools better understand the SCQF and ensure pupils and parents understand qualifications and the parity of pathways
- Pupils are better supported and more learner journey opportunities are created through use of the SCQF

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ More schools becoming SCQF School Ambassadors
- ✓ An increase in the ongoing engagement of School Ambassadors, including more schools signing up for the recognition programme
- ✓ A greater demand for support and resources particularly around development of learning pathways

ACTIVITY

- a) Ensure local authorities are engaged with our work in schools
- b) Continue to manage the effective recruitment and ongoing engagement of Schools Ambassadors
- c) Work with partners and groups to ensure schools are aware of the full range of curricular and extracurricular learning programmes available for young people



6. Work with Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council on specific policies and initiatives which would support the recognition of skills and a diverse range of learner pathways

IMPACT

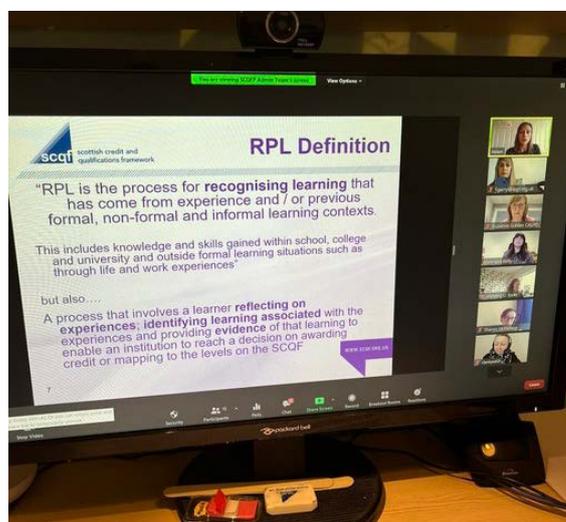
- Learning journeys and career pathways for everyone in Scotland are underpinned by the SCQF
- Tools and methods which support specific groups are promoted in order to fulfil individual potential
- There is an increased use of RPL and credit transfer to support a diverse range of learner pathways and journeys
- The activities will support the planned outcomes from a range of current Scottish Government and SFC policies and strategies

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ Response from employers, veterans and service leavers to resources
- ✓ Engagement from colleges and universities on the work with employers, veterans and with refugees
- ✓ The sharing of stories and experiences of different learning journeys
- ✓ More organisations using the language of the SCQF

ACTIVITY

- Implement any actions for the SCQFP resulting from Government and SFC strategies and look to maximise links and opportunities in this area
- Work with key stakeholders and partners to implement joint plans to support wider engagement with the SCQF
- Review and implement the strategy for future RPL activities and promotion taking into account key agencies' projects, policies and strategies
- Support the roll out of the RPL model for refugees and asylum seekers
- Identify and implement work to support the next set of priority areas for veterans and armed forces
- Continue to promote related tools, resources and campaigns



7. Promote the SCQF as a tool to support lifelong learning and skills recognition

IMPACT

- The SCQF is utilised across all sectors to ensure opportunities for learning and progression are maximised
- Stakeholders have a greater understanding of the ways in which the SCQF can be used and the benefits engagement provides

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ Increased traffic to the SCQF website
- ✓ Increased engagement on social media
- ✓ A wider variety of campaigns and joint partnership opportunities promoting the SCQF across different media
- ✓ Positive feedback from delegates attending SCQF workshops and events

ACTIVITY

- a) Develop and implement detailed plans for PR, blogs and digital marketing
- b) Identify targeted opportunities for raising the profile of the SCQF and its uses to stakeholders
- c) Plan and run SCQF Week which promotes the uses and benefits of the SCQF

8. Promote the reputation of the SCQF internationally

IMPACT

- Alternative methods of partnership working in Europe are identified post Brexit
- There is an increased profile among partners of the SCQFP of its international work and services
- SCQF Partnership is invited to support QF development in other countries

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

- ✓ Successful clarification of the post Brexit position on referencing to the EQF and use of logos
- ✓ Referencing to other NQFs is continued and potentially increased if mutually advantageous
- ✓ Successful completion of any overseas projects

ACTIVITY

- a) Continue to identify key partners with a strong international presence and promote SCQFP online international services
- b) Continue to collaborate with all UK NQF owners and UK Regulators
- c) Deliver any consultancy work as per individual contracts and tenders
- d) Explore potential referencing to other NQFs internationally and ensure the continued currency of existing referencing reports

www.scqf.org.uk

A REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY SC037958

scqf | SCOTLAND'S LIFELONG LEARNING FRAMEWORK



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