

# SQA Advanced Diploma

## Guide for Parents and Students



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## About SQA



SQA is a global awarding body with headquarters in the UK.

We are accountable to the Scottish Government for the work we do, and we work on educational projects with governments throughout the world.

# What is an SQA Advanced Diploma?

The SQA Advanced Diploma is an internationally recognised Higher Education qualification. It has been designed by SQA to help students enter the workplace. It is also ideal for students who would like to move on to a related degree programme in China or overseas.

The SQA Advanced Diploma is powerful and respected. It is equivalent to an associate degree and develops high-level skills and knowledge.

## Why should I study for an SQA Advanced Diploma?

The SQA Advanced Diploma is affordable, career-focused and delivered by experts. If you are intending to work abroad, or if you would like to study for a degree at an English-speaking university, the diploma is especially useful.

## Building your skills

Every SQA Advanced Diploma teaches important practical skills. Examples include communication, problem-solving and information technology. These skills are essential for successful careers and further study.

## Benefits of your SQA Advanced Diploma

- Trusted by employers – develops the knowledge and transferable skills the world's businesses are looking for
- Valued by universities – a recognised route into year 2 or 3 of related degree programmes at home or overseas
- Flexible – you will benefit from both real-world experience and academic recognition
- International – it is assessed in English and underpinned with a foundation year of English language learning, preparing you for overseas work or study
- Designed by experts – SQA is Scotland's world-leader in education and training. We have been offering qualifications in Chinese universities since 2003

If you want to gain the skills local and international employers need, or if you'd like to advance to a degree or Masters, this is the diploma for you.

## Case study: XU Jian

**Ocean University of China**

**Supply Chain Management**

**2015 completion**

**University of Birmingham, UK**

My SQA qualification gave me a solid foundation in writing essays, and I gained plenty of knowledge from classes and extracurricular reading. This helped me when I began studying in the UK, where I gained my First-class degree.



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# A high-quality diploma



A top priority for SQA is maintaining the highest of standards throughout every stage of our SQA Advanced Diploma programme.

Our experienced subject experts ensure excellence through strict quality control checks. These regular checks make sure that every SQA Advanced Diploma offers you the skills and knowledge employers and universities are looking for.

## **An established presence in China**

SQA has worked alongside Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) since 2003. This close relationship allows SQA to support the staff directly at our China-based universities. The diploma programme is the largest foreign higher education programme in China.

The partnership also ensures the SQA Advanced Diploma is being delivered to the same high standards at each of our Chinese universities.

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# What is the format of an SQA Advanced Diploma?

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Each SQA Advanced Diploma has been designed with involvement from universities, employers, students and professional bodies. This makes sure that the most useful and relevant subjects are studied in the most practical ways.

## Diplomas are studied over three years

- Year 1: a locally designed Foundation year builds your English-language skills – essential for university entry
- Years 2 & 3: two years to complete your SQA Advanced Diploma

## Each diploma is made up of separate Units – usually you will study 30 Units

- You will study between six and eight Units each term
- Each Unit consists of approximately 40 hours of learning and teaching
- Each Unit is taught and assessed using a mix of research, project, case studies, group work and practical work
- In year 1 of your diploma you will sit a Graded Unit assessment
- In year 2 you will sit either one or two Graded Unit assessments. The number of year 2 assessments will depend on the subject you are studying
- Different subjects are assessed in different ways. Your Graded Unit assessment could take the form of an examination, a case study, an investigation or a practical assignment

## Result grades are shown in the table below

Grade	Mark
A	70%+
B	60% - 70%
C	50% - 60%
Fail	< 50%

## Additional Units

Each diploma includes:

- Workplace Communication in English
- Research Skills

## Successful graduation

On successful completion of your diploma you will receive:

- An SQA Advanced Diploma certificate
- Backing pages listing all of the Units you have passed

# Which subjects can I study?

The SQA Advanced Diploma offers study in a number of areas. Each subject has been selected to appeal to employers and to help you progress to a related degree.

- |   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| • <b>Administration with Information Technology</b> | • <b>Business with Marketing</b>         | • <b>Financial Services</b>        |
| • <b>Business</b>                                   | • <b>Computing: Networking</b>           | • <b>Global Trade and Business</b> |
| • <b>Business with Accounting</b>                   | • <b>Computing: Software Development</b> | • <b>Hospitality Management</b>    |
| • <b>Business with Human Resource Management</b>    | • <b>Computing: Technical Support</b>    | • <b>Supply Chain Management</b>   |
| • <b>Business with Information Technology</b>       | • <b>Electronic Engineering</b>          | • <b>Travel and Tourism</b>        |

## Where can I study for my SQA Advanced Diploma?

You can study for your diploma at a wide selection of universities across China.

Beihang University	Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Beijing Institute of Technology	Ningxia University
Beijing International Studies University	Ocean University of China
Beijing Jiaotong University	Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance
Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications	Shanghai University of Finance & Economics
Capital Normal University	Sichuan University
Central University of Finance and Economics	South China Normal University
China University of Petroleum (East China)	University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (Applying)
Concord University College, Fujian Normal University	University of International Business and Economics
East China Normal University	University of Jinan
Fujian Jiangxia University	Wuhan University of Technology
Guangdong University of Finance	Xiamen University
Guangdong University of Finance and Economics	Xi'an Kedagaoxin University
Guizhou Normal University	Xianda College of Economics and Humanities, Shanghai International Studies University
Inner Mongolia Normal University	Xinjiang Agricultural University
Mingde College of Northwestern Poly-Technical University	

For the most up-to-date list of universities offering the SQA Advanced Diploma please check the SQA China website at [cn.sqa.org.uk/FAQs/Centres](http://cn.sqa.org.uk/FAQs/Centres)

# I'd like to progress to a university degree. Where can I study?

The SQA Advanced Diploma is a proven entry route to year 2 or year 3 of an undergraduate Honours degree. Many students also advance to a Masters degree.

Successful diploma graduates go on to study at universities in the UK, USA, Canada, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

Please note that each university may ask for additional entry requirements.

For the full list of participating universities, please visit [cn.sqa.org.uk/FAQs/Universities/index](http://cn.sqa.org.uk/FAQs/Universities/index)

## Case study: XU Yixiao

**Sichuan University  
Business with HRM**

**June 2009  
completion**

**University of New  
South Wales,  
Australia**

**Working in  
corporate banking**

Through studying in the SQA programme, I learnt about the studying mode in overseas universities. I also enhanced my English-language skills. This meant I could quickly adapt to life in Australia, and understand the classes and coursework at university there. Thanks to my qualification, language barriers at work are no problem for me, and the skills I learned mean I work very efficiently.



## Case study: LIU Ying

**SUFE**

**Business**

**2015 completion**

**University of  
Birmingham, UK**

The SQA programme is an excellent route to overseas education. It has helped me gain admission to a Masters programme at University of Birmingham. Prior to studying abroad, my centre's learning environment helped me to clarify my aims and develop good studying habits.



## Where can I find out more?

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It is easy to find out more about the SQA Advanced Diploma.  
Just visit SQA's China website at **[cn.sqa.org.uk](http://cn.sqa.org.uk)**

For more information on joining a course, please visit the  
Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) at  
**[www.cscse.edu.cn](http://www.cscse.edu.cn)**

