

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What changes are we making to SQA Higher National Qualifications (HNs)?

We are changing the name of our SQA HNs for use in countries outside of Scotland.

The qualification aims, design principles, content, assessment standards and criteria will all remain exactly the same.

2. Why are we renaming SQA HNs outside Scotland?

We took the decision after detailed consideration of a variety of factors.

This change will enable us to maintain and grow our portfolio by offering a unique SQA qualification outside of Scotland. It will also help customers, centres and other external stakeholders to differentiate more easily between our qualifications.

3. What are the new names for SQA HNs in markets outside of Scotland?

The SQA Higher National Diploma (HND) will be known as the SQA Advanced Diploma and the SQA Higher National Certificate (HNC) will be known as the SQA Advanced Certificate.

4. Will all SQA HN frameworks in China be renamed?

Yes, all 15 frameworks will be renamed. These are listed in the appendix along with the relevant codes.

5. How will this affect SQA centres who offer HNs outside of Scotland?

The change of name means that SQA centres offering SQA HNs outside of Scotland will instead offer the SQA Advanced Diploma and/or SQA Advanced Certificate.

Existing centres in the countries below* who currently offer HNs will transition to the renamed qualifications over a set period (see timescales in Q8).

**China, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Indonesia, Brunei, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, USA, Canada, Angola and Pakistan.*

Scottish centres offering SQA HNs outside of Scotland will also offer the renamed qualifications but will continue to offer SQA HNs in Scotland.

New centres, or existing centres who wish to expand their SQA HN offering outside of Scotland will offer the renamed qualifications from now on.

6. How will this affect ROUK centres?

There will be no immediate impact on the small number of centres in the rest of the UK (ROUK) who will continue to offer specific HNs.

There are no plans to launch the renamed qualifications in the ROUK at present, as they will not attract centre or student funding due to the legislation governing funding in the ROUK.

7. How will this affect international accreditation agencies?

International accreditation agencies will need to replace the current SQA HNC and/or HND titles on their systems with SQA Advanced Certificate and/or SQA Advanced Diploma.

8. What are the timescales for this change?

The renamed SQA Advanced qualifications will be available for entries from 26 March 2018.

In China, providing teaching of the three-year SQA HN programme (i.e. including foundation year) commences before **31 December 2018**, centres can continue to submit HN entries and results in China as follows:

- HN entries until **31 December 2019**
- HN results for SQA HN programmes commenced prior to 31 December 2018 until **31 December 2021**

From 1 January 2020 onwards, centres will have to submit entries for the SQA Advanced Diplomas/Certificates rather than HNs.

9. How long can centres continue to refer to HNs in their materials?

Centres currently approved to deliver SQA HNs outside Scotland in only the countries listed in Q5 can use:

- marketing materials referring to HNs until **31 December 2018**
- operational or delivery materials referring to HNs (solely for concluding HN courses commenced prior to 31 December 2018) until **31 December 2021**

All new centres should use the new SQA Advanced qualification names on all marketing, operational or delivery materials once their centre is approved.

10. Are there any changes to the content of the renamed qualifications?

While the content of the renamed qualifications has not changed, only the newest version of units have been transitioned. We will advise centres to ensure they are familiar with the content of the renamed SQA qualifications prior to first teaching them.

11. Do the renamed qualifications have the same recognition and articulation arrangements as SQA HNs?

The SQA Advanced Diploma has the same standards and rigour as the SQA HND. We will engage with CSCSE regarding the update of agreements with articulation partners to recognise the renamed qualifications.

We are also contacting all qualification partners and relevant professional bodies to gain their approval so that the new qualifications will attract the same level of recognition as the current SQA HNs. We will also take the opportunity to contact credential evaluation bodies to discuss gaining further recognition for these qualifications.

12. How can I access more details or support?

You can find further information on the [SQA Advanced Diploma web pages](#).

Appendix

Title of Framework	HN code	New code
Administration and Information Technology	GM2W 16	GM68 48
Business	GE7X 16	GM51 48
Business with Accounting	GE7Y 16	GM52 48
Business with Human Resource Management	GE7V 16	GM53 48
Business with Information Technology	GE81 16	GM55 48
Business with Marketing	GE80 16	GM54 48
Computing: Networking	GG5K 16	GM59 48
Computing: Software Development	GG5L 16	GM5A 48
Computing: Technical Support	GG5M 16	GM5C 48
Electronic Engineering	GE8G 16	GM5D 48
Financial Services	GE9R 16	GM58 48
Global Trade and Business	GG5F 16	GM57 48
Hospitality Management	GG26 16	GM5E 48
Supply Chain Management	GG2J 16	GM5G 48
Travel and Tourism	GG27 16	GM5F 48