

# SQA HND

## Guide for Parents and Students

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# About **SQA**



SQA is Scotland's national body for qualifications.

SQA is a world leader in education and training. We are accountable to the Scottish Government for the work we do, and we work on educational projects with governments throughout the world.

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# What is an **SQA HND**?

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An SQA HND is a Higher Education qualification. HND stands for Higher National Diploma. They emphasise practical approaches to learning, including project and assignment work, team and group work, and research. They prepare students for employment, and can also be used to progress to degree programmes and beyond, eg Masters.

The SQA HND features rigorous and systematic quality assurance procedures to ensure consistent quality wherever you study. The quality of the management and teaching of the programme is checked regularly by SQA subject experts. SQA provides continual professional guidance to our centres.

## How HNDs work

HNDs use practical approaches to learning. Study methods include project and assignment work, team and group work, presentations, case studies and research into business practice. The central purpose

of HNDs is to develop the high-level transferrable skills and academic knowledge that are required for work or degree study.

SQA has been offering HNDs in China in partnership with Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) since 2003.

HNDs are specially designed to meet the needs of employers. They are developed by SQA in partnership with colleges, universities and employers.

Because employers and universities recognise HNDs as good evidence of a student's ability, having an HND will help them to progress into university. This could be in the UK, or in other English-speaking countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

For those people who are serious about getting a job and a career with prospects, getting an HND is one of the best ways to achieve their ambition.

## Case study: XU Jian

**Ocean University  
of China**

**Supply Chain  
Management**

**2015 completion**

**University of  
Birmingham, UK**

I had built up a solid foundation in writing essays thanks to practice and assessment in the SQA HND programme and learnt plenty of knowledge from taking classes and extracurricular reading. This benefitted me in my studying abroad and counted much in my obtaining a first class degree.



Scotland is one of the four nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, along with England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The population of Scotland is 5.3 million. The main cities are: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Stirling.

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# Studying for **the HND**



HNDs are made up of 30 Unit credits. Each single Unit comprises 40 timetabled learning and 40 hours self-guided learning and study. They usually take two academic years to complete. Two mandatory additional Units are studied: Workplace Communications in English and Research Skills. All students must meet SQA's specified English language entry requirement to progress into HND year 1.

Normally, students complete between six and eight Units in a semester. Units can be worth single, double or perhaps even triple credits. Students must complete all the Units to gain their HND.

## How HNDs are assessed

HND assessment may be quite different from what students are used to, but it will prepare them for a degree in countries such as the UK. Of the 30 Unit credits, 27 are assessed on a pass or fail basis. All 27 must be achieved. There are many different ways of assessing these Units, depending on the subject - it could be projects, research, or doing a piece of practical work, for instance.

In addition, depending on the HND subject, there are also two or three 'Graded Units'. These Units assess the knowledge and/or skills from all of the Units that make up the HND. There will be one Graded Unit assessment in Year 1 of the course and one or two Graded Unit assessments in Year 2.

# HND subjects available in China

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Administration with Information Technology</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business with Marketing</b></li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Financial Services</b></li> </ul>        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business</b></li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Computing: Networking</b></li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Global Trade and Business</b></li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business with Accounting</b></li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Computing: Software Development</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hospitality Management</b></li> </ul>    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business with Human Resource Management</b></li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Computing: Technical Support</b></li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Supply Chain Management</b></li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business with Information Technology</b></li> </ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Electronic Engineering</b></li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Travel and Tourism</b></li> </ul>        |

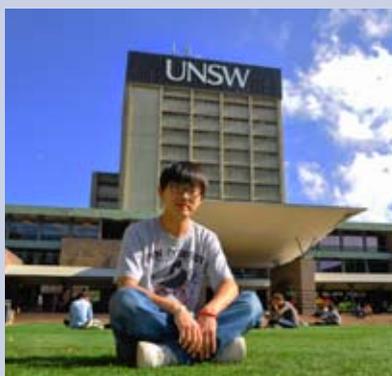
The Graded Unit assessment will be an examination, a case study, an investigation or a practical assignment (depending on the HND subject). The result will be an A, B, C or Fail and will be graded as shown in the table. C grade is the minimum grade required to pass each Graded Unit.

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

## 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 HND programme, I learnt about the studying mode in overseas universities, which helped me to adapt to overseas study soon. Meanwhile I had also enhanced my English level from this programme, which made it much easier for me to adapt to local life and have a good understanding of the classes. The units I completed in the SQA HND also laid foundation for my later study, making it more smooth.

My current job requires using English. Study in the SQA HND programme was of great help for my English reading and writing, which has cleared the language barriers in work. The knowledge learnt from the units of SQA HND may also be used in working and make it more efficient.

# Gaining entry to university

Currently, at least two thirds of students completing an HND in China go on to a degree in a university in the UK, USA, Canada, Ireland, Australia or New Zealand.

Students who complete an SQA HND programme in an SQA-approved Chinese university will be able to apply to a university in these countries. There is a list of the universities that participate in this programme on SQA's China website <http://cn.sqa.org.uk/FAQs/Universities/index>

## Topping up to a degree

Students who have completed their HND will be able to apply to an international university for entry into year 2 or year 3 of an

undergraduate Honours degree programme. Entry into these programmes depends on successful completion of all 27 HND Unit credits and getting a specified set of results in the Graded Unit (this is known as a 'Graded Unit profile'). The Graded Unit profile is specified by the university and not by SQA. To date, most SQA HND students from China studying for a Bachelor Honours degree have progressed to a Masters degree.

The university will also require some evidence of English language ability. Depending on the degree you select, some form of bridging programme – either in China or in the UK – may be required by the university.

## Selection of universities offering HNDs in China

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

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# Information on **students' certificate**

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If a student successfully completes their HND, they will receive a certificate containing:

- a commemorative certificate stating the title of the HND
- backing pages listing the titles of all the Units passed
- the same backing page(s) will show the name of the Graded Unit and the grade awarded

Note that if a student fails a Unit, this information will not appear on the students' certificate — only Units that are passed are reported on the certificate.

## Preparation for the world of work

The Units you will do in your HND course cover important skills that you will need when you eventually look for work. These important skills cover areas such as working with others, problem solving, communication skills and using information technology.

### **Case study:** LIU Ying

**SUFE**  
**Business**  
**2015 Completion**  
**University of**  
**Birmingham, UK**

SQA HND is a very good platform for us to go abroad to experience overseas education and cultures. This programme has also made it easier for me to get admitted to a Master programme at University of Birmingham. Some other factors also benefitted me by exerting subtle influences on my character and thinking, for example, good learning environment helped me to clarify my aims and develop good studying habits.



# Contact **us now**

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## Need more information?

More information on the content of each of the HNDs currently available in participating Chinese universities can be found in the booklet 'Information on SQA HNDs'. Alternatively check the SQA China website at **[cn.sqa.org.uk](http://cn.sqa.org.uk)**

If you would like to find out more about how to enrol on an SQA HND course, please contact the Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE).

**[www.cscse.edu.cn](http://www.cscse.edu.cn)**

Search SQA中国 at **[www.weibo.com](http://www.weibo.com)**

