

# SQA Advanced Diploma

Guide for Parents  
and Students



**SQA**

Scottish  
Qualifications  
Authority



## About SQA

SQA is a global leader in qualifications development, educational assessment and certification 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 for students who would like to move on to a related degree programme in China or overseas. It is also ideal to help students enter the workplace.

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

- 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.
- Trusted by employers – develops the knowledge and transferable skills the world's businesses are looking for.

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

## Student case study: Mingji Li

Course: SQA Advanced Diploma in Global Trade and Business



“ The curriculum design of the SQA programme and the 3+1 academic structure attracted me deeply, not only can I experience the university campus life in China, but also can choose to study abroad in the final year of the desired university to complete further study, experience a different humanities and academic atmosphere, which is in line with the goal of personal all-round development. [...] After three years of study in China, I deeply experienced that SQA's curriculum does not just stay on book knowledge, in fact, SQA has made a lot of special design and arrangement in close to the daily life and future work scenarios, which is very fascinating. ”

# 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.



# What is the format of an SQA Advanced Diploma?

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 – equating to 30 SQA Credits

- Each Unit consists of approximately 40 hours timetabled teaching and 40 hours self-guided learning.
- 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
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A	70%+
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B	60% – 69%
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C	50% – 59%
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Fail	< 50%
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## 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.

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

## 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	Qingdao University of Technology
Beijing Institute of Technology	Shandong Normal University
Beijing International Studies University	Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance
Beijing Jiaotong University	Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
Capital Normal University	Sichuan University
Central University of Finance and Economics	South China Normal University
China University of Petroleum – Beijing	University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
China University of Petroleum (East China)	University of International Business and Economics
Concord University College, Fujian Normal University	University of Jinan
Dalian University of Foreign Languages	Wuhan University of Technology
East China Normal University	Xiamen University
Fujian Jiangxia University	Xi'an International Studies University
Guangdong University of Finance	Xi'an Kedagaoxin University
Guangdong University of Finance and Economics	Xi'an Mingde Institute of Technology
Guizhou Normal University	Xianda College of Economics and Humanities, Shanghai International Studies University
Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics	Xinjiang Agricultural University
Ningxia University	
Ocean University of China	

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](http://cn.sqa.org.uk/FAQs)

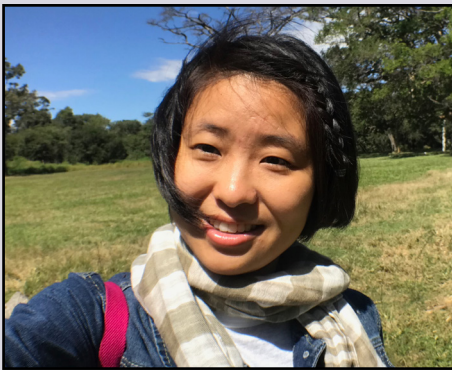
# I'd like to progress to a university degree. Where can I study?

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, 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/Qualifications/Universities](http://cn.sqa.org.uk/Qualifications/Universities)



## Student case study: Xiangyu Song

Course: SQA Advanced Diploma in Business

Progressed to: Undergraduate Degree at Middlesex University, UK



My education journey started with an SQA Advanced Diploma in Business in China, which allowed me entry to an undergraduate degree course in Business Administration at a UK university.

I chose my course because I wanted to improve my language proficiency and obtain adequate knowledge and skills before studying for a business-related degree at a UK university.

This course impressed me with its comprehensive curriculum design for both knowledge-building and student engagement, which prepared me well for my higher education in the UK.

My overall SQA Advanced Diploma experience was exceptional. This programme offered me a great transition to studying with confidence. After completing my SQA Advanced Diploma in Business, I was offered a place to study at Middlesex University and awarded a partial academic scholarship. My final year of undergraduate study at Middlesex University was filled with inspirational learning experience and academic progress, and I earned my BA degree with Upper Second Class honours in Business Administration.





## Where can I find out more?

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) or contact us via:

**Call: +44 (0)141 500 5030**

**Email: [sqainternational@sqa.org.uk](mailto:sqainternational@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)

