

➤ SQA Advanced Diploma

Guide for students and parents



About Qualifications Scotland

At Qualifications Scotland, we believe every learner can achieve their full potential. That's why, as Scotland's national awarding body, we design and deliver trusted qualifications that recognise knowledge and skills. Based in Scotland, we create qualifications that are valued and used worldwide. Working closely with industry experts, we ensure our qualifications give people the skills and recognition they need for their next steps in learning or work.

What is the SQA Advanced Diploma?

The SQA Advanced Diploma is a higher education qualification that opens doors to university and careers.

Study time: **2 years**

What you'll gain:

- A qualification equal to an associate degree
- Practical skills employers want
- A route to university abroad

Universities worldwide recognise this qualification. You can use it to progress to year 2 or 3 of a degree programme.



Quality you can trust

We maintain high standards at every stage of the programme. Our subject experts carry out regular quality checks. This ensures your qualification gives you the skills and knowledge that:

- Employers are looking for
- Universities recognise and value

Established in China

We have worked with the Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) since 2003. This partnership remains a leading foreign higher education programme in China.

We support staff at all our partner universities to ensure high-quality delivery everywhere.

Why choose this qualification?

University progression

- Start in year 2 or 3 of a degree
- Study abroad
- Many students progress to a master's degree

Career ready

- Learn practical skills
- Gain real-world experience
- Build knowledge employers value

English language support

- Study in English
- Develop your language skills
- Prepare for international opportunities

Globally recognised

- Universities worldwide accept this qualification
- Study in the UK, USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or Europe



I chose the SQA Advanced programme because it combines professional knowledge with a global outlook. It helps me look beyond just one subject and teaches me how to solve real-world problems in different cultures. What really motivated me was how flexible the programme is—the credits are recognised by universities all over the world, which makes it much easier for me to apply to study abroad and build a strong career later on.

The “English-only” environment has also made a huge difference. Since the classes, books, and assignments are all in English, my IELTS score improved from a 6.0 to a 7.0. My reading is much faster now, and I can understand my textbooks easily without getting stuck on difficult words. This gives me a lot of confidence as I plan to finish my degree overseas at a top-ranked university.



Jiaying Liu
Foundation Year student

How it works

Course length: Usually 2 years (flexible)

What you'll study:

- 30 units in your chosen subject
- Workplace Communication in English
- Research Skills

Study time per unit:

- 40 hours in class
- 40 hours independent study

English language requirement:

Before starting year 1, you'll need to meet our English language requirement at Level B1 or above. Speak to your university for further information.

Progression Information

Where will this take you?

University

More than two thirds of our students progress to university abroad.

You can apply for:

- Year 2 or 3 of a degree programme
- Universities in the UK, USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or Europe

Most of our students who complete a bachelor's degree go on to study for a master's degree.

Career

This qualification prepares you for work in your chosen field. You'll have the skills and knowledge employers are looking for.

Subjects available

We offer qualifications in these areas:

Business, Operations & Human Resource Management

- Business
- Business with Human Resource Management
- Business with Marketing
- Global Trade and Business
- Administration and Information Technology
- Supply Chain Management

Finance & Accounting

- Financial Services
- Business with Accounting

Computing & Engineering

- Computing: Software Development
- Computing: Networking
- Computing: Technical Support
- Electronic Engineering

Tourism & Hospitality

- Hospitality Management
- Travel and Tourism

Creative Arts

- Creative Art and Design

Each subject is designed to help you progress to university and build skills employers value.



My educational journey began with the SQA Advanced Diploma in International Trade and Business in China. I chose this because it offers a cost-effective path to an international education, allowing me to build a strong academic foundation at home before transitioning abroad. The prospect of gaining globally recognised qualifications was a major motivator, as it enhances my competitiveness in both the domestic and international job markets.

What impressed me most about the programme was the integration of international teaching resources with practical courses. Engaging in case studies and group projects allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world business models. This hands-on approach, combined with an immersive English-only environment, significantly improved my language proficiency. By using English textbooks and participating in daily classroom discussions, I raised my confidence in academic writing and oral communication, preparing me for the rigours of a foreign university.

After completing my diploma, I plan to continue my studies at an overseas university. My choice will be guided by academic excellence, teaching quality, and a vibrant campus life that offers cross-cultural networking. I am confident that the smooth transition provided by the SQA Advanced program has given me the broader perspective and professional English skills necessary to succeed in my future career in international trade.



Zhang Nuoyan
SQA Advanced Diploma in
International Trade and Business



Find out more about the qualification:

To find out more about this qualification:

Visit: china.qualifications.gov.scot

Call: +44 (0)141 500 5030

Email: international@qualifications.gov.scot



Enrol at a Chinese university

To find a participating university and begin your application, visit the Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE):

Visit: cscse.edu.cn



