

**TABLE 1****THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (SCQF)**

The SCQF covers all the major qualifications in Scotland from school to Doctorate and including work-based Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)

| SCQF Level | Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions   | SQA Higher National and National Units, Courses and Group Awards | SVQs  |
|------------|---|--|-------|
| 12         | Doctoral Degrees<br>(Minimum 540 SCQF credits)  |  |       |
| 11         | Masters Degrees<br>(Minimum 180 SCQF credits)<br><br>Postgraduate Diploma<br>(Minimum 120 SCQF credits) |  | SVQ 5 |
| 10         | Bachelors Degree with Honours<br>(Minimum 480 SCQF credits)<br><br>Graduate Diplomas and Certificates   |  |       |
| 9          | Bachelors Degree<br>(Minimum 360 SCQF credits)<br><br>Graduate Diplomas and Certificates                |  |       |
| 8          | Diploma of Higher Education<br>(Minimum 240 SCQF credits)   | Higher National Diploma  | SVQ 4 |
| 7          | Certificate of Higher Education<br>(Minimum 120 SCQF credits)   | Advanced Higher<br>Higher National Certificate                   |       |
| 6          |   | Higher   | SVQ 3 |
| 5          |   | Intermediate 2<br>Credit Standard Grade                          | SVQ 2 |
| 4          |   | Intermediate 1<br>General Standard Grade                         | SVQ 1 |
| 3          |   | Access 3<br>Foundation Standard Grade                            |       |
| 2          |   | Access 2   |       |
| 1          |   | Access 1   |       |

## Notes

- 1 SCQF levels represent increasing complexity and demand in learning outcome.
- 2 One credit represents the outcomes achievable by the average student through 10 notional hours of learner effort. In general terms, one full-time undergraduate year is considered to be 120 credits worth of learning. A postgraduate year is 180 credits. 1 ECTS credit is deemed equivalent to 2 SCQF credits. Research degrees - Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) are not credit rated.
- 3 Graduate Certificates (minimum of 60 SCQF credits) and Graduate Diplomas (minimum of 120 credits) are offered at levels 9 and 10 within the SCQF framework. They are offered for programmes that are for graduates but do not have outcomes that are at postgraduate level.
- 4 The Bachelors Degree (level 9) leads to employment and can give access to postgraduate study particularly when accompanied by relevant work or professional experience.
- 5 At postgraduate levels, the framework and the higher education qualifications are the same as those for the rest of the UK. The Honours Degree levels of the two frameworks are considered to be in broad alignment (the Honours Degree in Scotland normally takes 4 years and that in the rest of the UK takes 3 years). Below Honours level the frameworks reflect the different educational structures of Scotland and the rest of the UK).
- 6 Levels 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions are within the first cycle of the European Qualification Framework for Higher Education, level 11 is within the second cycle and level 12 is within the third cycle.