

SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (SCQF)

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF): Key Points

- brings all mainstream Scottish qualifications into a single, national framework (secondary school, further education and vocational)
- aims to promote lifelong learning.
- uses two measures to describe qualifications:
 - **Levels**, reflecting the demand and difficulty of learning associated with a course/programme
 - **Credits**, used to quantify the outcomes of learning; based on the average amount of time taken to complete a course/programme

HWU Qualifications

All of Heriot-Watt University's undergraduate and postgraduate taught qualifications (incl. taught Doctorates), *across all modes and locations of study*, are part of the SCQF and rated by SCQF credits and levels.

SCQF Levels and Credits at HWU

There are 12 levels within SCQF. HWU's taught degrees correspond to Levels 7-9 (Ordinary), 7-10 (Hons), 7-11 (UG Masters), 11 (PGT). Each course within a programme is allocated to a particular level, based on its learning outcomes. SCQF Levels Descriptors assist in the process of specifying learning outcomes at the appropriate level.

At HWU, a standard course is rated at 15 credits. A student will, on average, take 150 hours (incl. class time, self-study and assessment) to complete each course. SCQF credits are recorded on Transcripts.

- UG: 8 courses in each stage/year = 120 credits
- PGT Masters: 8 taught courses (120 credits) + dissertation (60 credits) = 180 credits

In HWU, all types of learning leading to an award must be rated by SCQF level and credit, and require approval of the Studies Committee. **Other forms of learning which do not have a formal award, but are credit-rated, must also adhere to SCQF level and credit requirements and be approved by the Studies Committee.**

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12			DOCTORAL DEGREE	
11			INTEGRATED MASTERS DEGREE / MASTERS DEGREE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	SVQ5
10			HONOURS DEGREE GRADUATE DIPLOMA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	
9			BACHELORS / ORDINARY DEGREE GRADUATE DIPLOMA GRADUATE CERTIFICATE	SVQ4
8		HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA	DIPLOMA OF HIGHER EDUCATION	
7	ADVANCED HIGHER SCOTTISH BACCALAUREATE	HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE	CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION	SVQ3
6	HIGHER			
5	INTERMEDIATE 2 CREDIT STANDARD GRADE			SVQ2
4	INTERMEDIATE 1 GENERAL STANDARD GRADE	NATIONAL CERTIFICATE	NATIONAL PROGRESSION AWARD	SVQ1
3	ACCESS 3 FOUNDATION STANDARD GRADE			
2	ACCESS 2			
1	ACCESS 1			

References and Further Information

SCQF: <http://www.scf.org.uk>

Contact: quality@hw.ac.uk

Quality Assurance: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/quality-assurance.htm> Learning and Teaching Policies and Procedures: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/policy-bank.htm>