



THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CREDIT SYSTEMS AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS - THE SCOTTISH EXPERIENCE

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SCQF Partnership Arrangements

- 1996 – Government report instigated a voluntary partnership between Scottish Government, SQA, QAA and Universities Scotland to develop an NQF for Scotland
- 2001 SCQF established - architecture, principles and criteria were based on existing national structures and principles
- 2003 – 2006 National Implementation Plan to broaden and embed use of SCQF – working collaboratively with other national bodies, institutions and employer representatives
- Administration office coordinated and managed activities and funds

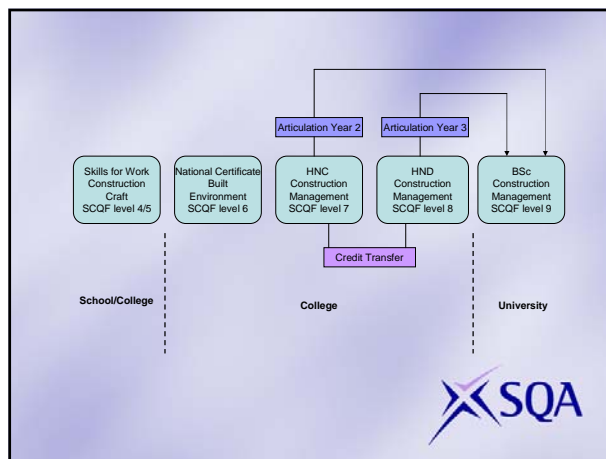


SCQF Partnership Arrangements

Success of implementation required a formal, structured governance to maintain integrity of SCQF and expand knowledge and use further

- ♦ 2006 – Establishment of formal, legal entity -SCQF Partnership with Board of Directors – with supporting infrastructure
- ♦ SCQF P is now the NCP for EQF referencing

However, Partnership with a capital 'P' and small 'p'!



How does Credit work in Scotland?

- ♦ Learning outcomes and unit/modular based qualification system, referenced to the SCQF level
- ♦ Assessed by a method that is valid, reliable, and subject to appropriate quality assurance
- ♦ Units/modules are the building blocks of qualifications
- ♦ Provides an approach to the measurement of the outcome of learning wherever, whenever, and however it has been achieved
- ♦ Credit is an award for the quality assured achievement of the learning outcomes

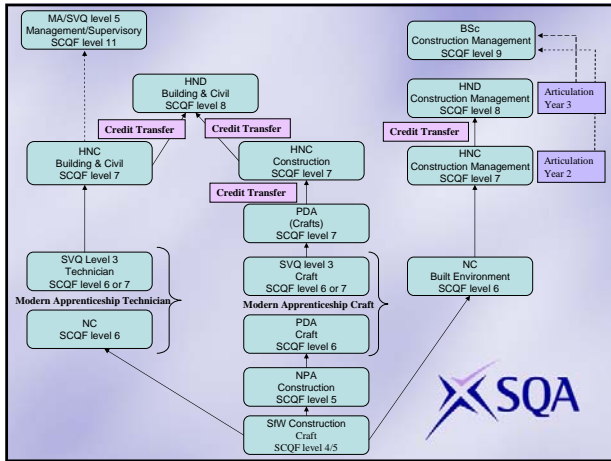


SCQF Credit is Further Defined

- ♦ One SCQF credit point represents a notional 10 hours of learning time, including assessment activities
- ♦ Has the same basis across general, vocational and higher education sectors in Scotland
- ♦ The SCQF level and credit allocated to the Unit stays with the Unit no matter in which qualification it is used
- ♦ The importance of any Unit in relation to a wider qualification is defined at the point of development within the design principles of the qualification.

This provides a great deal of flexibility and progression





Credit Transfer in the SCQF

- The receiving organisation will satisfy itself that the content and level are compatible
- SQA will allow specific credit transfer of the same units across different SQA qualifications
- Arrangements between college and university provide the opportunity for articulation of qualifications
- The receiving organisation will make the decision on where *general SCQF* credit can be *specifically* counted towards another programme of learning

