

Welcome to the fourth bi-monthly update from Education UK Scotland! Our annual report for the year 2002/3 is now available and will shortly be available electronically. New promotional flyers in collaboration with Scottish Networks International are now available on request along with other materials including brochures, leaflets, bookmarks, CD ROMS, bags, pencils and more! A global mailing will go out shortly to all British Embassy and Consulate offices to update them on our work.

2 + 2 = flexible routes to a degree...

A degree from a Scottish university is a world class qualification – widely recognised and valued around the globe. But there is more than one way to achieve that prized certificate. With the development of the new Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) it is now easier than ever to see the flexible routes to a degree qualification.

One popular model is commonly referred to as the 2+2 model. Students enrol in a further education college to do a Higher National Qualification – an HNC or an HND. With this qualification in many cases it is possible to progress directly into year two or year three of a four year degree programme at university. The end result is a degree achieved in four years and a certificate from the awarding university.

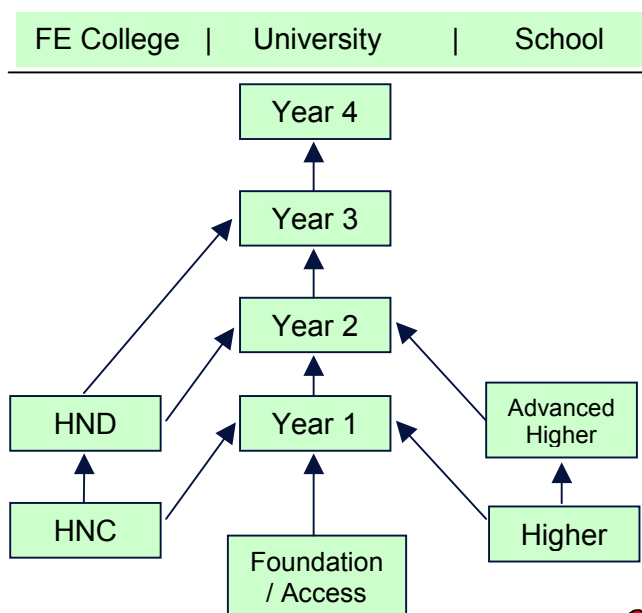
But for the student the benefits of this model are great. With FE fees being lower, students make considerable savings in their first two years at college – with total savings of 25% of the cost of a degree. The high level of supported learning at college can mean that students find the transition from school to University much easier. Another benefit is entry requirements for an HNQ are lower than for a degree course. And of course they achieve a degree qualification from the university or HEI in the same time it would take entering directly into the university itself.

The Scottish Advisory Committee on Credit and Access (SACCA) are working on an on-line database showing the range of opportunities to learners in respect of progression and credit transfer between Higher National Qualifications (HNQs) and Degrees.

All of Scotland's Universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have provided information on their current agreements regarding progression and articulation from Access, HNC and HND qualifications, into degree level programmes. This information will soon be available as a fully searchable online database.

Although developed for Scottish students, this tool will be ideal for international students looking to get a degree but who want to save money, or who don't have the entry level qualifications to get into a university directly or who need more supported learning.

Watch this space for details of when the database goes live!!



Scholarships highlight



Napier University offers two music scholarships of £10 000 plus a contribution to living expenses. The scholarships are available to students in financial need from Hong Kong and the deadline for applications is 30th April. For further information on this and other scholarships from Napier University please contact Natasa Vukadinovic at the university's International office at : n.vukadinovic@napier.ac.uk

Glasgow Caledonian University

The Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development offers scholarships to undergraduate and postgraduate students studying travel and tourism in the Business School of Glasgow Caledonian University. Scholarships are awarded annually on the following criteria: academic ability, economic need, motivation to undertake a career in the industry. Each scholarship is worth up to £3000.00 per annum and successful students are required to reapply on an annual basis.

In 2001, 15 Glasgow Caledonian Students were awarded £3,000 each in the form of scholarship funding by the Moffat Centre from consultancy surpluses.

For more information see : www.moffatcentre.com/scholarships.htm

Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF)

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework - the **Framework** - is a new way of making sense of the large and varied number of Scottish qualifications/training programmes. It will change and expand over the next few years as the framework is rolled out across Scotland's education and training sectors. The SCQF is managed in partnership by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) through its Scottish office, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and Universities Scotland (US), and is supported by the Scottish Executive through the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department.

The Framework shows you at a glance how different types of learning compare with each other [see diagram]. It has 12 levels. At any level some qualifications cover a wide range of skills and knowledge. Others can focus on a specialised area. But they can be just as hard to achieve and demand the same level of skill or understanding. So various kinds of qualification covering all types of learning and assessment styles can be positioned at any one level in the Framework.

Some qualifications take longer than others to do and you may need to acquire more knowledge or skill/competence. So the amount of work you need to do to gain each qualification is awarded SCOTCAT credit points. The number of points gives you an idea of how much learning has to take place. As a guide 1 credit point represents the amount of learning achieved through a notional 10 hours of learning time which includes everything a learner has to do to achieve the outcomes in a qualification including assessment procedures. Most mainstream qualifications in Scotland have been allocated a number of SCQF credit points. For example an Honours Degree has a total of 480 credits with at least 90 at level 10.

The framework also shows how credits gained from one qualification can be used towards gaining another. Credits gained from one qualification can be used towards gaining another. When you've gained one qualification, it's possible that you won't need to spend time repeating that learning when you're studying for another related qualification. As you progress you may be able to move from one area of learning to another, such as progressing from an SVQ in Food Preparation and Cooking to a Scottish Group Award in Hospitality: Professional Cookery or, from an HND in Engineering to the third year of a Degree in Engineering. Case studies on the SCQF website show more examples. It will however be up to the SQA or individual universities and colleges to decide on how much credit is given.

See www.scqf.org.uk for more information on the framework.

To request copies of any of our materials, please e-mail educationukscotland@britishcouncil.org

SCQF level	SQA National Units, Courses and Group Awards	Higher Education	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12		Doctorates	
11		Masters	SVQ 5
10		Honours degree Graduate diploma	
9		Ordinary degree Graduate certificate	
8		Higher National Diploma Diploma in Higher Education	SVQ 4
7	Advanced Higher	Higher National Certificate Certificate in Higher Education	
6	Higher		SVQ 3
5	Intermediate 2 Credit Standard Grade		SVQ 2
4	Intermediate 1 General Standard Grade		SVQ 1
3	Access 3 Foundation Standard Grade		
2	Access 2		
1	Access 1		

Diagram and info taken from SCQF website

Education UK Scotland Calendar:

October 2003

3rd China working group meeting
6th Inward visit of education agents from Vietnam
31st Education Fair in Brazil in partnership with SNI
27th-30th 15th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Edinburgh

November 2003

11 - 15th Mark Simmons attending education fairs in Vietnam
23 - 29th Visit of Russian education agents to Scotland
tbc Inward visit of government officials from Mexico

December 2003

1st Education UK Scotland Committee meeting
5th Latin America working group meeting
8th-12th ECS annual conference
15th Russia working group meeting

NEW Marketing Materials !!!

A new postcard jointly produced by Education UK Scotland and Scottish Networks International is now available. SNI offer business networking opportunities and industrial placements for PG students in Scotland. See www.scottishni.org for details.