The SCQF
– what is it and what can it do?

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SCQF Partnership

TAICEP Conference – October 2020

The SCQF is Scotland's national qualifications framework and it

- helps people **understand** qualifications

- helps people **plan their learning**

- provides **recognition** for learning

- promotes **equality** between vocational and academic qualifications

- supports **recruitment** and **workforce development**

Framework as a tool

- 12 level descriptors underpinned by characteristics used for all sectors

- Ability to recognise both formal and non formal learning

- Ability for any employer or organisation to produce a new programme or qualification and have that placed on the framework (credit rated)

- Inclusion in the Framework is voluntary *(no legislation)*

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scottish credit and qualifications framework

The Framework is an important tool that we value; and continue to value as it allows new and different kinds of learning to continue to be assessed and equivalenced; giving learners a constantly updating road-map through the education and skills system.

John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Glasgow 2018

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Recommendation

Develop and better align schools, the third-sector, independent training providers, colleges and universities, informed by business to provide learners with meaningful choices, enabling progression and promoting the use of the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework

The SCQF partnership and practitioners have helped us all to better understand and frame our education and skills system.

John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Glasgow 2018

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THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.

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SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications				Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12					Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11					Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10					Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9				Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma			Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate			Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher					Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5					Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award			SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3					
2	National 2, Awards					
1	National 1, Awards					

Interactive version available at https://scqf.org.uk/interactive-framework/

Interactive Framework

Click or tap on the qualification for more detail. Mobile users please swipe left to open the framework and tap on qualification for information.

Or, Download a pdf version of the framework

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Professional Development Award	Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Professional Development Award	Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship, Professional Apprenticeship, SVQ
10			Professional Development Award	Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Certificate	
9			Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	
8		Higher National Diploma, Advanced Diploma	Professional Development Award	Diploma of Higher Education	
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate, Advanced Certificate	Professional Development Award	Certificate of Higher Education	
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher	National Certificate	Professional Development Award / National Progression Award		
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5	National Certificate	National Progression Award		Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award		SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3	National Certificate	National Progression Award		
2	National 2, Awards	National Certificate	National Progression Award		
1	National 1, Awards				

Apprenticeships & SVQs

A **Modern Apprenticeship** is a package of learning, training and practical work experience gained while employed.

SVQs are a means of recognising the skills and knowledge people need in employment, i.e. job competence. Successful completion of an SVQ provides clear evidence that the learner works to nationally recognised occupational standards.

Each Unit defines one aspect of a job or work-role and says what it is to be competent in that aspect of the job. To be awarded a full SVQ, learners must achieve each of the SVQ Units which make it up by demonstrating that they are competent in that aspect of the job. The Units which make up the SVQ can also be taken as freestanding awards. Some SVQs or SVQ Units are incorporated into other awards or programmes including HNCs and Modern Apprenticeships. For more information visit **www.sqa.org.uk**

https://scqf.org.uk/interactive-framework/

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The SCQF in numbers

Over **11,500** programmes

Over **850** non-formal learning programmes

Over **300** organisations own programmes on the SCQF

55 organisations able to place qualifications on the SCQF

162k users of the SCQF website last year

Over **100** SCQF Ambassador schools

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scottish credit and
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4 key principles to "admit" a piece of learning to the SCQF
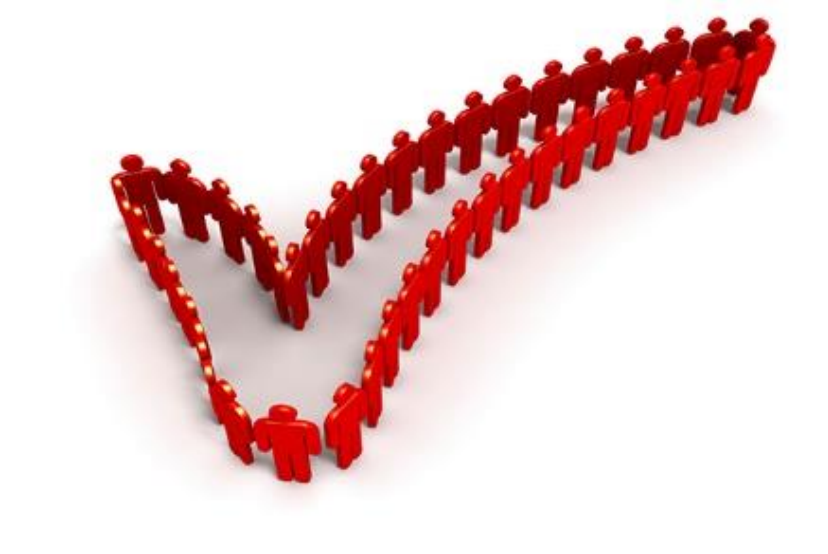
- At least 10 notional learning hours
- Based on learning outcomes
- Formally assessed
- Internally and externally quality assured

irrespective of type of learning

How does learning get on the SCQF?

Process of Credit Rating:

- A consistent process
- One set of guidance used by all Credit Rating Bodies

What do they credit rate?

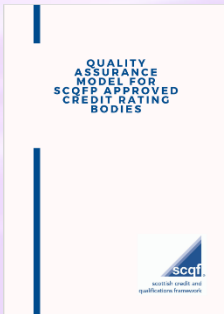Their own provision offered in schools, colleges and universities

"Third party" provision owned, developed and awarded by others e.g employers; certificating bodies; professional bodies; voluntary and community organisations

Credit Rating Bodies:

- Higher Education Institutions
- Further Education Colleges
- Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
- Chartered Institute of Bankers in Scotland
- Scottish Police College - Tulliallan
- City and Guilds
- ICAS (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland)
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - TED
- Scottish Prison Service College
- Opito (oil and gas sector)
- NOT the SCQF Partnership

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What is Credit Rating?

- It is the ***process*** used to ensure the appropriateness, quality and integrity of a learning programme

- SCQF credit points and an SCQF level are allocated to each constituent part (e.g. a module or unit) and to the programme as a whole

- Learning programmes belongs to the programme owner *(don't become government owned)*

- The programme owner determines the structure of the qualifications/learning provision

- The programme owner is responsible for delivery, quality assurance and certification

SCQF LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

QUALITY ASSURANCE MODEL FOR SCQFP APPROVED CREDIT RATING BODIES

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SCQF HANDBOOK

The SCQF can help learners…

- gain **formal recognition** for their learning and skills
- to **understand the level** of their learning
- improve **confidence and self-esteem**
- Help them to plan and progress their chosen **learning pathway**
- avoid **duplication** of learning

The SCQF can help employers…

- understand both **academic and vocational qualifications** and the level of employees' skills
- with effective recruitment – '**Degree or Equivalent'**?
- with **job evaluations** and **workforce development**
- gain **recognition** for in-house training
- understand the **level** of their training
- provide their employee with **clear development pathways**
- **compare** their training to others in the UK, Europe and beyond

Qualifications Can Cross Boundaries

https://scqf.org.uk/media/1805/qccb-web-oct-2019.pdf

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Main stages of education/employment

Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training

- Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment
- Higher education / Advanced Skills Training
- Entry to professional graduate employment
- Specialised education and training
- Qualified/Skilled worker / Entry to higher education / Completion of secondary education
- Progression to skilled employment / Continuation of secondary education
- Secondary education. Initial entry into employment or further education

Qualifications can cross boundaries – a guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland, Seventh edition published September 2019

Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (www.qaa.ac.uk) LEVEL		Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland (www.ofqual.gov.uk / www.ccea.org.uk) LEVEL		Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (www.cqfw.net) LEVEL		National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (www.qqi.ie) LEVEL		Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (www.scqf.org.uk) LEVEL	
8	Doctoral Degree	8	Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	8	Doctoral Degree, Vocational Qualifications	10	Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate	12	Doctoral Degree, Professional Apprenticeship, Professional Development Award (PDA), Award
7	Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificate	7	Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	7	Master's Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)	9	Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma	11	Master's Degree, Integrated Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
6	Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Bachelor's Degree, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	6	Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications	6	Honours Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Professional Certificate in Education	8	Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma	10	Bachelor's Degree with Honours, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Professional Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
						7	Ordinary Bachelor Degree	9	Bachelor's/Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Apprenticeship, Technical Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
5	Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diploma (HND)	5	Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)	5	Foundation Degree, Vocational Qualifications, Higher National Diploma (HND)			8	Higher National Diploma (HND), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Technical Apprenticeship, Higher Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Award
4	Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	4	Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, Higher National Certificate (HNC)	4	Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Vocational Qualifications	6	Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate	7	Higher National Certificate (HNC), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Modern Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ, Scottish Baccalaureate, Advanced Higher, Award
3	Access to HE Diploma*	3	Vocational, Technical and Professional Qualifications, GCE AS and A Level	3	Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced, Vocational Qualifications, GCE, AS and A Level, Access to HE	5	Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	6	Higher, Modern Apprenticeship, Foundation Apprenticeship, National Progression Award (NPA), National Certificate, PDA, SVQ, Award
	*The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA but is not part of the FHEQ	2	Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade A*–C and grade 9–4, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualification (NI)	2	Welsh Baccalaureate National, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade A*–C	4	Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	5	National 5, Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate, Award
	The table gives an indication of how you can compare qualifications across national boundaries. Examples of major qualifications at each level are provided. For more detail of the qualifications that are current and legacy at the time of publication in each country, you will need to consult the website given at the head of each column.	1	Vocational & Technical Qualifications, GCSE at grade D–G and grade 3–1, Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	1	Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation, Vocational Qualifications, Essential Skills Wales Qualifications, GCSE at grade D–G	3	Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate	4	National 4, SVQ, NPA, National Certificate Award
	This leaflet is designed to give some information to help you begin this process, for example, by telling you what your qualification, or qualifications you are interested in studying, are broadly comparable to in other countries.	Entry Level	Entry Level Certificate (sub levels 1–3), Functional Skills (England), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	Entry Level	Entry Level Qualifications, Essential Skills Qualifications	2	Level 2 Certificate	3	National 3, NPA, National Certificate, Award
						1	Level 1 Certificate	2	National 2, NPA, National Certificate, Award
								1	National 1, Award

scottish credit and qualifications framework

Correspondences between UK and Irish frameworks with European qualifications frameworks

Within Europe, two overarching qualifications frameworks exist to which the national qualifications frameworks of the UK and Ireland relate: The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (FQ-EHEA) also known as the Bologna Framework.

Table 1 shows the correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks and the EQF:

European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England/ Northern Ireland (FHEQ)	Regulated Qualifications Framework England/ Northern Ireland (RQF)	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW)	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE)
8	8	8	8	12	10
7	7	7	7	11	9
6	6	6	6	10/9	8/7
5	5/4	5/4	5/4	8/7	6
4		3	3	6	5
3		2	2	5	4
2		1	1	4	3
1		E3	E3	3	2/1
		E2	E2	2	
		E1	E1	1	

Table 2 shows the outcome of verifying the compatibility of higher education frameworks for Scotland (FQHEIS/SCQF), for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) and for the NFQ for Ireland (NFQ IE) with the FQ-EHEA as follows:

Typical higher education qualifications within each level	FHEQ level	FQHEIS/ SCQF level	NFQ IE level	Corresponding FQ-EHEA cycle
Doctoral degrees	8	12	10	Third cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Master's degrees (including Integrated Master's)	7	11	9	Second cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Postgraduate diplomas	7	11	9	Intermediate qualifications within the second cycle
Postgraduate certificates	7	11	9	Intermediate qualifications within the second cycle
Bachelor's degrees with honours /Honours Bachelor Degrees	6	10	8	First cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Irish Higher Diplomas	6	10	8	First cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Bachelor's degrees/ Ordinary Bachelor Degree	6	9	7	First cycle (end of cycle) qualifications
Graduate diplomas	6	9		Intermediate qualifications within the first cycle
Graduate certificates	6	9		Intermediate qualifications within the first cycle
Foundation Degrees (for example FdA, FdSc)	5	8	6	Short cycle qualifications
Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE)	5	8	6	Short cycle qualifications
Higher National Diplomas (HND)	5	8	6	Short cycle qualifications
Irish Higher Certificates	5	8	6	Short cycle qualifications
Higher National Certificates (HNC)	4	7		Intermediate qualifications within the short cycle
Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)	4	7		Intermediate qualifications within the short cycle

For more information on compatibility with these frameworks see: http://ec.europa.eu/eqf/home_en.htm and www.enic-naric.net.

WWW.SCQF.ORG.UK

scottish credit and qualifications framework

SEARCH OUR DATABASE OF PROGRAMMES >>>
Find qualifications and learning programmes across Scotland that are on the SCQF.

Search the Database

This database can help you find qualifications and learning programmes across Scotland that are on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). NB: It is not a database of all qualifications in Scotland because not all qualifications are on the SCQF.

More information about the database

Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

This database has been updated and improved with the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. This work will lead to providing users with links to the Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe Portal.

Subject
--- None Selected ---

Title or keyword of qualification/programme

Owner of qualification/programme

Credit Rating Body
--- None Selected ---

SCQF Level
SCQF level between 1 and 12

Can't find your programme? Click here to include archived programmes in your search ☐

Clear   Search

Important to note:
- Not everything delivered in Scotland is on the database
- Doesn't give details about content
- Some data is only updated periodically
- Can email us if you need help or more guidance
- info@scqf.org.uk

http://scqf.org.uk/the-framework/search-database/

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SCQF Database

scqf scottish credit and qualifications framework

Programme Title	Owner	SCQF Level	SCQF Credits	EQF Level
Advanced Diploma Business with Marketing	SQA Awarding Body	8	240	5
Advanced Diploma Financial and Business Management	SQA Awarding Body	8	240	5
Advanced Diploma Financial and Business Management	SQA Awarding Body	8	240	5
Advanced Diploma Global Trade and Business	SQA Awarding Body	8	240	5
Advanced Diploma in Business Management	London Management Qualifications (LMQ)	8	120	5
Advanced Diploma in Lending Skills	Chartered Banker Institute	10	15	6
Advanced Higher Business Management	SQA Awarding Body	7	32	5
Aegon Certificate of Professional Practice in Platform Operations	Aegon	8	20	5
Assistive Technology and Business Skills for Dyslexia	Concept Northern	5	12	3
Award in Leadership and Management at SCQF Level 7	City & Guilds	7	between 5 and 12	5

Award in Leadership and Management at SCQF Level 7

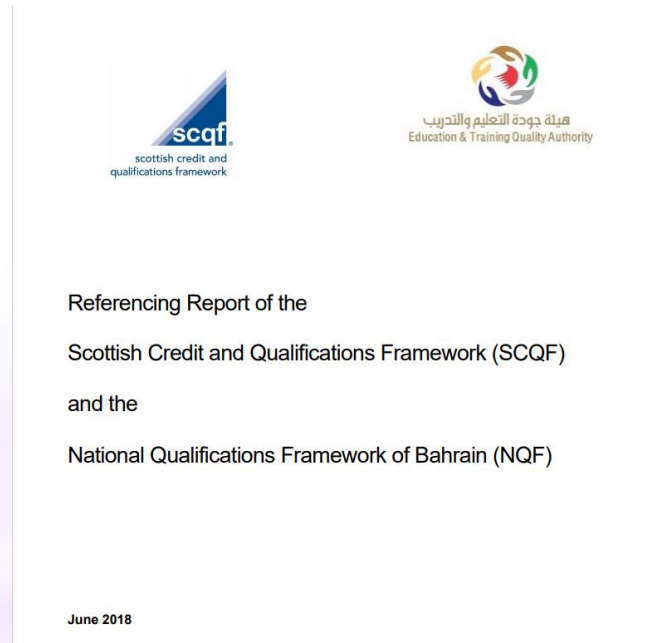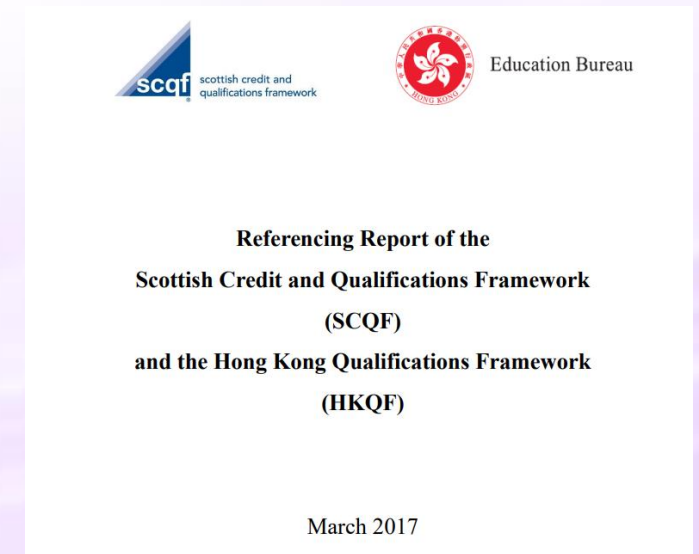|	
SCQF Level ⑦	7
SCQF Credits	between 5 and 12
Description	These qualifications help learners gain comprehensive business skills, including finance and marketing, and develop the skills needed to lead effectively at this level.
Subject Area(s)	Management, Other
Programme Owner	City & Guilds
Credit Rating Body	City & Guilds
Target Audience	New and aspiring middle managers
Approval Date	09 February 2015
EQF Level ⑦	5

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Referencing to other Frameworks

Referencing the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework (SCQF) to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

Report 2019

Referencing Report of the

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

and the

National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF)

June 2018

Referencing Report of the
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)
and the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF)

March 2017

https://scqf.org.uk/media/1695/eqf-re-referencing-report-final-may-2019.pdf

https://scqf.org.uk/media/1443/scqf-bnqf-referencing-report-final-june-2018.pdf

https://scqf.org.uk/media/1136/hkqf-scqf-referencing-report.pdf

- Direct consultancy with Malta, Bahrain and Hong Kong assisting with various aspects of NQF implementation and development
- Participation in European funded project to provide assistance to North Macedonia in building capacity for NQF implementation (along with Poland and Croatia)
- Provided feedback on UNESCO's development of World Referencing Levels
- Previous involvement as members of the EQF Advisory Group and sub groups on international qualifications
- Participant in a range of Erasmus+ projects

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- Partner for International projects
- Host International study visits (pre Covid) – moving to online
- Deliver workshops on various aspects of the SCQF credit rating, skills recognition etc.
- Provide advice and support on the development and implementation of NQFs
- Provide advice on Scottish qualifications comparisons
- Signposting to other Scottish education agencies and institutions
- Provide a wide range of resources to help comparisons and to provide information
- SCQF Database
- info@ service

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Contact us at…

| www.scqf.org.uk | info@scqf.org.uk

s.dunn@scqf.org.uk

Find us on…

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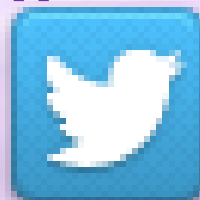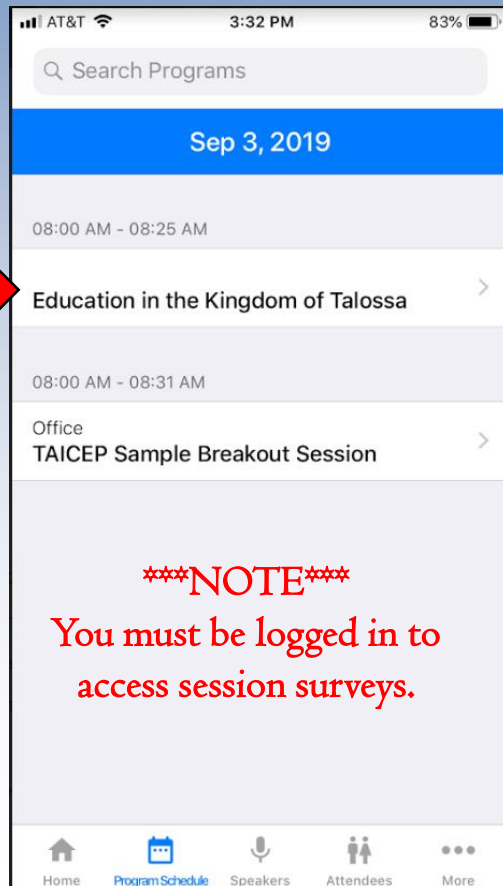
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Please Complete Session Surveys

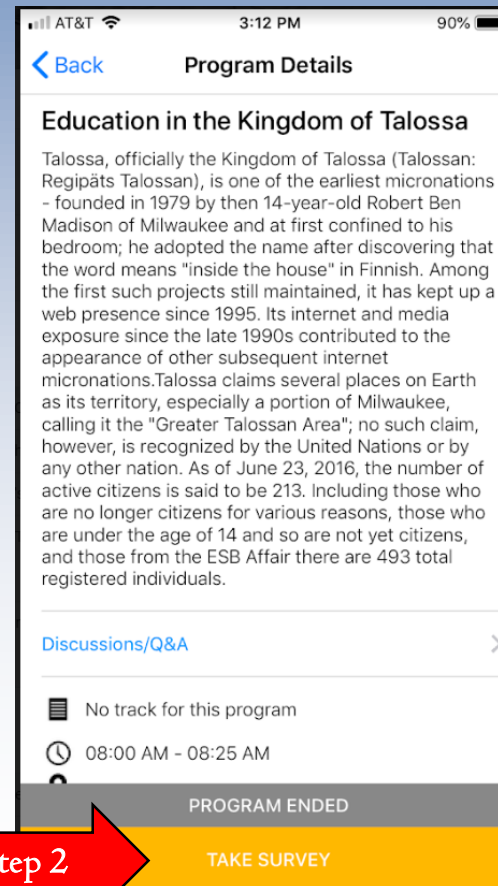Open Session Details in the Website or Mobile App Schedule

Click the "Take Survey" Button

"Submit" *(Then... go find coffee!)*

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

NOTE
You must be logged in to access session surveys.