

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CREDIT AND ACCESS

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Item 7
Paper 41-08**

Developments in the rest of the UK: Update on consultation on 'Burgess group' proposals for national credit arrangements for the use of academic credit in Higher Education in England: second stage consultation

Introduction

This paper provides a short summary of the implications for the framework for qualifications of higher education institutions (HEIs) in Scotland and the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) of the '*proposals for National Credit Arrangements for the use of academic credit in Higher Education in England: Second stage consultation*' (attached) published by the 'Measuring and Recording Student Achievement' group (The 'Burgess group').

Recommendation

SACCA members are invited to comment upon the implications for the framework for qualifications of HEIs in Scotland and the SCQF in the light of the main issue stemming from the Burgess proposals as detailed overleaf, and on any other aspects of the consultation paper they feel are pertinent.

Further information

Further information on the material covered in this paper is available from David Bottomley or Alan Runcie.

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Summary of implications

1. Most of the proposals contained in the Burgess group consultation document are compatible with the framework for qualifications of higher education institutions in Scotland and the wider SCQF.
2. However, the main outstanding issue surrounds the differences between the framework for qualifications of HEIs in Scotland (and the SCQF) and the proposals in England in the amount of credit expected at award level for the award to be made. The ‘minimum’ credit values allowing the awards listed below to be made within the framework for qualifications of HEIs in Scotland are as follows:

Graduate Certificate: Minimum of 60 at award level

Graduate Diploma: Minimum of 120 at award level

Doctorate: Minimum of 540 with minimum of 420 at award level

The ‘normal’ credit values allowing the awards to be made in the Burgess proposals are:

Graduate Certificate: 60 credits with 40 of those normally at award level

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits with 90 of those normally at award level

Doctorate: 540 credits with 360 of those normally at award level

3. The framework for qualifications of HEIs in Scotland notes that ‘at the postgraduate level, the two higher education frameworks (in Scotland and the rest of the UK) have common structures, qualification titles and qualification descriptors.’ The proposals from the Burgess group seem to indicate a departure from this alignment in relation to the award of doctorate.
4. The Burgess group have been advised of the differences between the two frameworks at postgraduate level, and discussions between QAA Scotland, Universities Scotland and the group are ongoing.