

**SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CREDIT AND ACCESS**

**13-02-07  
Item 3  
Paper 43-02**

**Work to support higher education institutions in credit-based learning**

**Introduction**

1. This paper details the main activities (in addition to normal engagement with the sector) delivered and planned to support higher education institutions (HEIs) in their use of credit-based learning and the SCQF for the first half of 2007.

**Recommendation**

2. SACCA members are invited to note the contents of the paper and comment where appropriate.

**Further information**

3. For further information on the material covered in this paper please contact Alan Runcie or David Bottomley.

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**13-02-07  
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**Work to support higher education institutions (HEIs) in credit-based learning**

**Background**

4. This paper details the main activities (in addition to normal engagement with the sector) delivered and planned to support HEIs in their use of credit-based learning and the SCQF for the first half of 2007.

**Half day workshops**

5. A series of 5 half day workshops, themed around various SCQF and credit related topics, are scheduled to be delivered between January and June 2007.
6. Topics for the half day workshops will include 'building capacity to credit rate in higher education' (scheduled for 28 March 2007); 'the recognition of prior informal learning in higher education' (scheduled for April 2007); and are likely also to include 'credit developments elsewhere in the UK' (scheduled for May 2007); and working on the SCQF with the Regional Access Fora (again scheduled for May 2007).
7. The first in the series of half day workshops was delivered at Glasgow Caledonian University on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 on the topic of 'the SCQF: future opportunities and challenges'. It aimed to explore the opportunities still to be utilised via the implementation and use of the SCQF in HE; to identify what works well and what needs to work better via and within the SCQF in HE; and to ascertain what challenges remain in HE and beyond in moving towards a lifelong learning culture. The speakers at the workshop were Professor Sam Allwinkle; Dr Andrew Eadie; Ms Rowena Kochanowska; and Professor Andrew Nash. Just under 50 delegates from a wide range of HEIs attended, and the workshop was very well received and evaluated, to the extent that there may be scope to run something similar again.

**Conference on the implications of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) for Scottish HE**

8. The possibility of staging a national one-day conference for HE in Scotland on developments in moving towards the EHEA, and the implications of those developments from Scotland, is being explored.

**Work with the College sector**

9. A joint newsletter/briefing note on SCQF is being produced for distribution to all HEIs and Colleges in Scotland. QAA, Universities Scotland, the Association of Scotland's Colleges and the Scottish Further Education Unit have all been

involved in its production. The newsletter will feature the latest SCQF developments and issues in both sectors, and will contain some case studies highlighting Colleges and HEIs working together on articulation and progression issues within the SCQF.

10. It is likely that some work will be commissioned to establish an initial baseline picture of Degree to HN articulation in Scotland e.g. how widespread currently is articulation of this nature; what are the barriers to successful articulation and how might these be overcome. The results of this study could potentially inform further work on this issue involving HE, Colleges and SQA.
11. A strategy attempting to refresh the mapping database ([www.scqf.org.uk/college2uni](http://www.scqf.org.uk/college2uni)) is being devised, and is likely to focus on: how best to communicate with Colleges and HEIs to impress upon them the need to maintain current information on the site; what resources can be utilised to improve the monitoring of the use of the site and its promotion; and how best HE and Scotland's Colleges can work with other sectors and organisations (e.g. Careers Scotland) to enhance the value of the site.

### **Recommendation**

12. SACCA members are invited to note the contents of this paper and comment where appropriate.