

Transitions between qualifications at EQF level 5 & Bachelors Degrees in Scotland: tales of credit transfer for *access & exemption* in the SCQF

CHAIN 5 4th Annual Conference

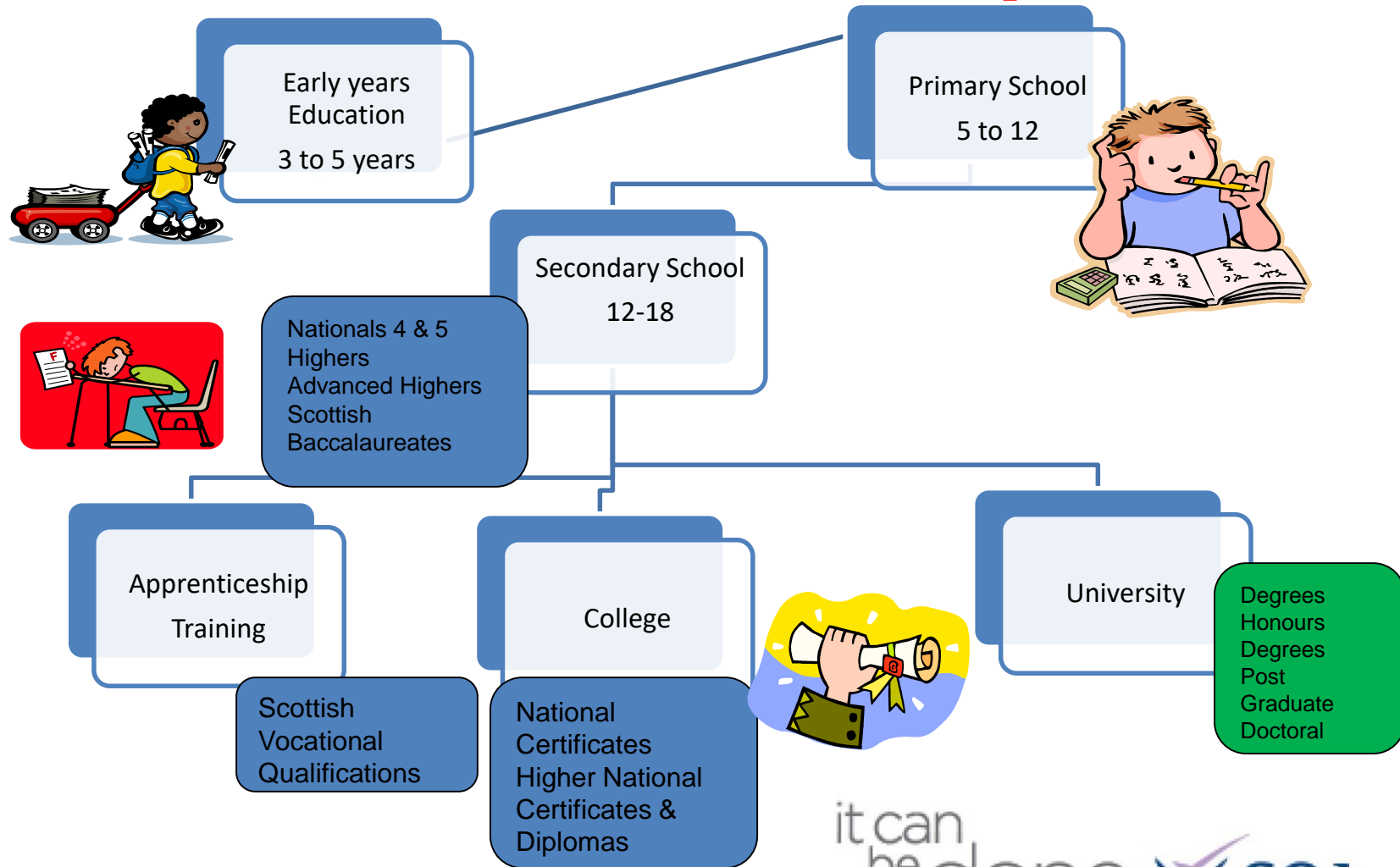
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Overview of presentation

- The Scottish education system underpinning the SCQF & background
- The SCQF – what it is, what it isn't & how it works
- Relationship of the SCQF to other frameworks
- Purposes & types of SCQF level 7/8 (EQF level 5) qualifications
- Cumulative Scottish HE & credit transfer
- Relationship to ECTS & ECVET
- Questions?

The Scottish education system



Background

- Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework (SCQF) referenced to EQF in 2010 (along with QCF (England & Northern Ireland) & CQFW (Wales))
- (Re-referencing work in 2016)
- School – HE transition level = from SCQF level 6 (EQF level 4) to SCQF level 7
- EQF level 5 = SCQF levels 7 & 8
- SCQF levels 7 = starting point of higher education (HE)
- SCQF Database – 327+ qualifications at SCQF level 7 & 275+ qualifications at SCQF level 8

The Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework – what is it? What does it do?

- SCQF brings together all mainstream qualifications in Scotland to create a single integrated framework – a **meta-framework**
- Designed to include **all forms of learning** as long as it is **outcomes based** and **subject to quality assured assessment**
- Shows how qualifications relate to each other
- Enables horizontal & vertical progression routes between qualifications
- Maximises credit transfer options
- Supports the development of clear entry/exits & progression routes
- Helps people of all ages & circumstances to access appropriate education & training over their lifetime to fulfil their personal, social & economic potential



SQA Qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework



SCQF
Levels

SCQF
Levels

12

12

11

11

10

10

9

9

8

8

7

7

6

6

5

5

4

4

3

3

2

2

1

1

Doctorate*

Masters*

Honours Degree*

Ordinary Degree*

Higher National Diploma

Higher National Certificate

Awards

Advanced Higher
Scottish Baccalaureates

Higher
Skills for Work Higher

National 5 / Intermediate 2 /
Skills for Work National 5

National 4 / Intermediate 1 /
Skills for Work National 4

National 3 / Access 3 /
Skills for Work National 3

SCQF 2 - National 2 / Access 2

SCQF 1 - National 1 / Access 1

SVQ 5

Professional
Development
Awards

SVQ 4

SVQ 3

SVQ 2

SVQ 1

National
Progression
Awards/
National
Certificates

*Benchmark qualifications of higher education institutions

Relationship of the SCQF to other frameworks & the EQF

Qualifications Can Cross Boundaries

Main stages of education/employment	Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk	Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk www.ccea.org.uk	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales www.cqfw.net	National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland www.qqi.ie	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework www.scfq.org.uk
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL	LEVEL
Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment	8 Doctoral Degrees	8 Vocational Qualifications Level 8	8 Doctoral Degrees	10 Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate	12 Doctoral Degrees, Professional Apprenticeship, Professional Development Award (PDA), Award
Higher education	7 Master's Degrees, Integrated Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificates	7 Vocational Qualifications Level 7	7 Master's Degrees, Integrated Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificates	9 Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma	11 Master's Degrees, Integrated Master's Degrees, Professional Apprenticeship, SVQ 5, PDA, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates, Award
Advanced skills training	6 Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, Bachelor's Degrees, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates	6 Vocational Qualifications Level 6	6 Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, Bachelor's Degrees, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates	8 Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma	10 Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, Professional Apprenticeship, PDA, Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates, Award
Entry to professional graduate employment	5 Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diplomas (HND)	5 Vocational Qualifications Level 5, Higher National Diplomas (HND)	5 Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diplomas (HND)	7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree	9 Bachelor's/Ordinary Degrees, Technical Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ 4, Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates, Award
Specialised education and training	4 Higher National Certificates (HNC), Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)	4 Vocational Qualifications Level 4, Higher National Certificates (HNC)	4 Higher National Certificates (HNC), Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE), Essential Skills Wales (ESW), Wider Key Skills (WKS)	6 Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate	8 Higher National Diploma (HND), Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE), Technical Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ 4, Award
Qualified/Skilled worker	3 Access to HE Diploma*	3 Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Advanced Diplomas (England)	3 ESW, WKS, Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Advanced	5 Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	7 Higher National Certificate (HNC), Modern Apprenticeship, PDA, SVQ 3, Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE), Scottish Baccalaureate, Advanced Higher, Award
Entry to higher education	<p>*The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA but is not part of the FHEQ</p> <p>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 at the time of publication in each country, you will need to consult the website given at the head of each column.</p> <p>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.</p>	2 Vocational Qualifications Level 2, GCSEs at grade A*-C, ESOL skills for life, Higher Diplomas (England), functional skills Level 2 (England) (English, mathematics & ICT), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	2 Vocational Qualifications Level 2, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Intermediate, GCSEs grade A*-C, ESW, WKS	4 Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate	6 Higher, Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ 3, PDA, National Progression Award (NPA), National Certificate, Award
Completion of secondary education		1 Vocational Qualifications Level 1, GCSEs at grade D-G, ESOL skills for life, Foundation Diplomas (England), functional skills Level 1 (England) (English, mathematics & ICT), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	1 ESW, WKS, Vocational Qualifications Level 1, GCSEs at grade D-G, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification Foundation	3 Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate	5 National 5, Intermediate 2, Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ 2, NPA, National Certificate, Award
Progression to skilled employment.	<p>Qualifications can cross boundaries</p> <p>- a guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland, September 2014</p>	Entry Level Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1-3), ESOL skills for life, functional skills Entry Level (England) (English, mathematics & ICT), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)	Entry Level Entry Level Qualifications, ESW	2 Level 2 Certificate	4 National 4, Intermediate 1, SVQ 1, NPA, National Certificate, Award
Continuation of secondary education.				1 Level 1 Certificate	3 National 3, Access 3, NPA, National Certificate, Award
Secondary education. Initial entry into employment or further education					2 National 2, Access 2, NPA, National Certificate, Award
					1 National 1, Access 1, Award



The UK Frameworks & the EQF

Scottish Highers

Advanced Higher & ScotBacc

FIGURE 1 LEVELS CORRESPONDENCES ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE UK QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS AND THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

EQF	QCF	CQFW	SCQF	EHEA (Bologna)
8	8	8	12	3rd Cycle
7	7	7	11	2nd Cycle
6	6	6	10/9	1st Cycle
5	5/4	5/4	8/7	Short Cycle
4	3	3	6	
3	2	2	5	
2	1	1	4	
1	E3	E3	3	
	E2	E2	2	
	E1	E1	1	

Purposes of SCQF level 7 / 8 (EQF level 5) qualifications

- Access to employment
- Access to vocational / professional education
- Vocational / professional training / education
- Transition to Bachelors (with advanced entry?)
- HE (short-cycle HE), including through direct entry / articulation to Bachelors – “Cumulative HE”

And:

- End of ‘senior phase’ of secondary education (for many)

Types of SCQF level 7 / 8 (EQF level 5 qualifications)

SCQF level 7:

- Advanced Highers
- Scottish Baccalaureates
- Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) (HEIs)
- Professional Development Awards (PDAs)
- Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)
- Modern Apprenticeships

SCQF level 8:

- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) (HEIs)
- Professional Development Awards (PDAs)
- Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)
- Technical Apprenticeships
- Graduate Apprenticeships

Higher National Certificates & Diplomas (HNC/Ds)

- Based on HN Units & Graded Units
- HNCs – SCQF level 7; HNDs – SCQF level 8
- Provide skills & knowledge for work & also for progression to further study
- Normally college-based; full time & part time
- Often used by those in employment
- Articulate with degrees
- Based on National Occupational Standards, where appropriate

HNC / HND is vocational and (SC)HE

- HNC/HNDs are advanced vocational qualifications in specialised areas
- Usually tertiary college based
- Cover the majority of occupations
- Aimed at middle management / technician level
- Can gain advanced entry onto a degree course
- ◆ c.25,000 candidates every year – full & part time
- ◆ c.70-80% progress to, or are already in, employment
- ◆ Need to be viable &/or serve a wider social / economic purpose
- ◆ Need to be fit-for-purpose – meet the needs of employers, HEIs, learners, the economy
- ◆ Developed in partnership – colleges, HEIs, employers, sectoral / industrial / professional bodies

Scottish Baccalaureates

Scottish Baccalaureate adds value to studies, especially in S6:

- ◆ Currently available in Science, Languages, Expressive Arts & Social Sciences
- ◆ Made up of three Courses from a list of mandatory/optional components. Two must be Advanced Higher, the other a Higher
- ◆ Value is added by an Interdisciplinary Project — a self-directed study ranging across the content of all contributory Courses

RPL / Credit transfer – Articulation
from *SCHE (in tertiary) & advanced*
***level high school* qualifications to**
Bachelors degree

“Cumulative” HE: from short-cycle HE to degree

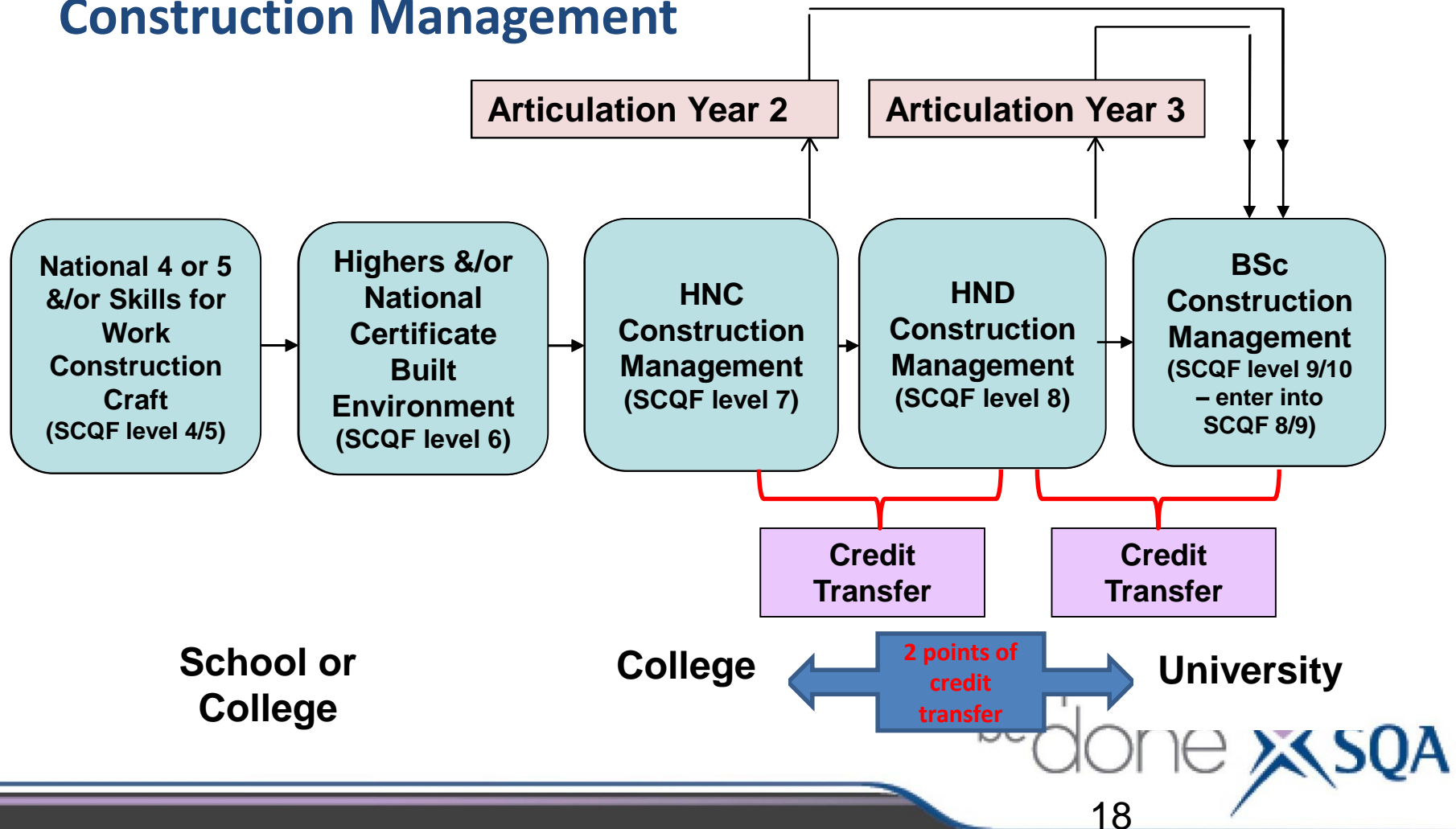
- ◆ c.25-30% progress to degree study
- ◆ c. 25-30% of Scottish HE students are on HNC or HND
- ◆ Students may go directly to an HEI or may do this at some other time – lifelong learning
- ◆ HNCs should ideally articulate with 2nd year of a Bachelors degree programme; HNDs with 3rd year
- ◆ Articulation agreements vary depending on the HNC/D & the receiving HEI
- ◆ NB: SCQF is helpful to articulation – common understanding of levels & credits; SCQF *facilitates* but does not *regulate* articulation

Scottish Government policy – Articulation

- **Efficiencies of learning at SCQF level 7 and level 8 – articulation models:**
 - **1+3** Higher National Certificates (HNCs) (SCQF level 7)
or
 - **2+2** Higher National Diplomas (HND) (SCQF level 8)
- **Advanced Higher & Scottish Baccalaureate (SCQF level 7):**
 - **1+3**
- **Widening Access Commission & appointment of Widening Access Commissioner**

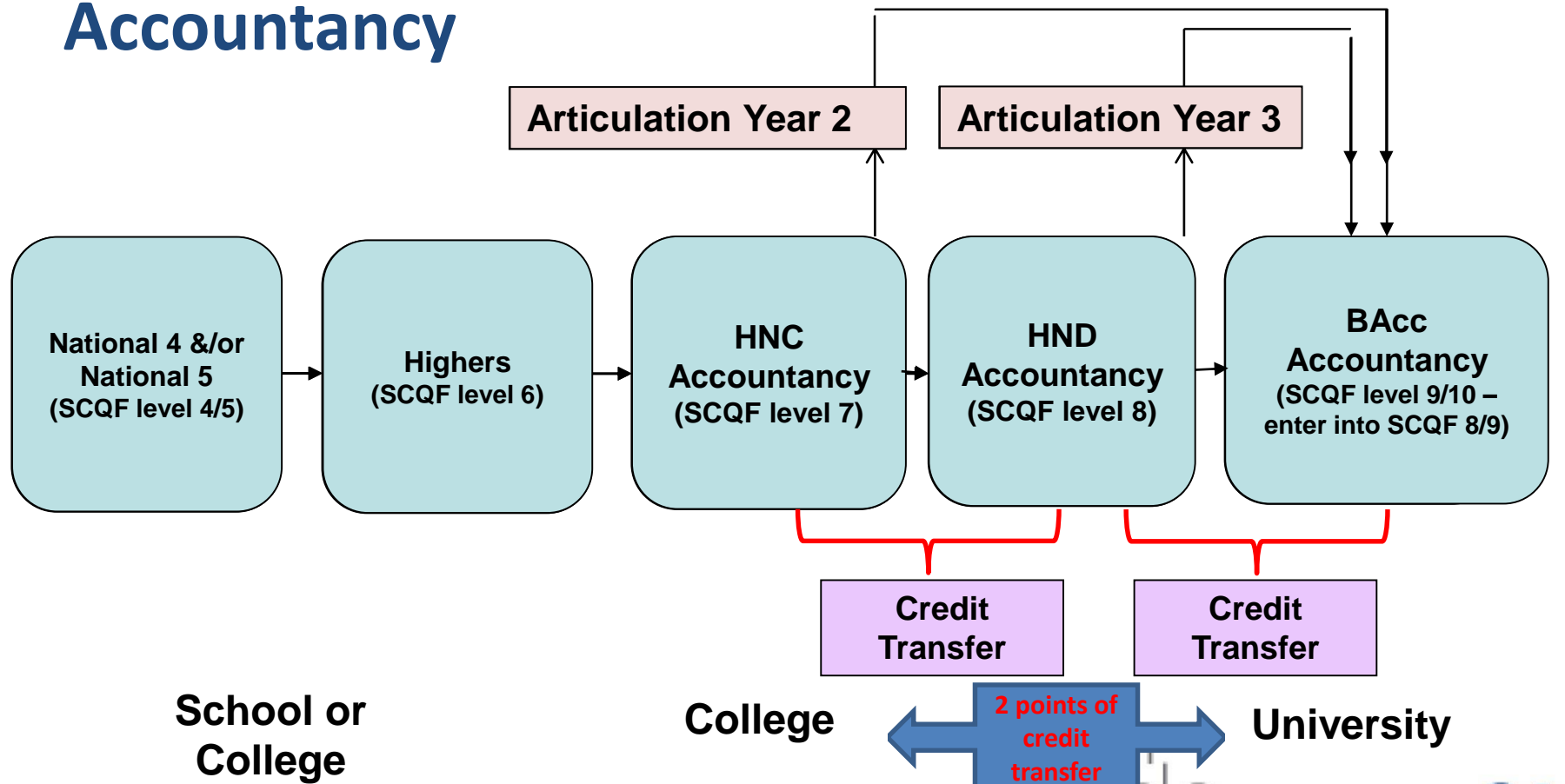
Example of credit transfer 1

Construction Management



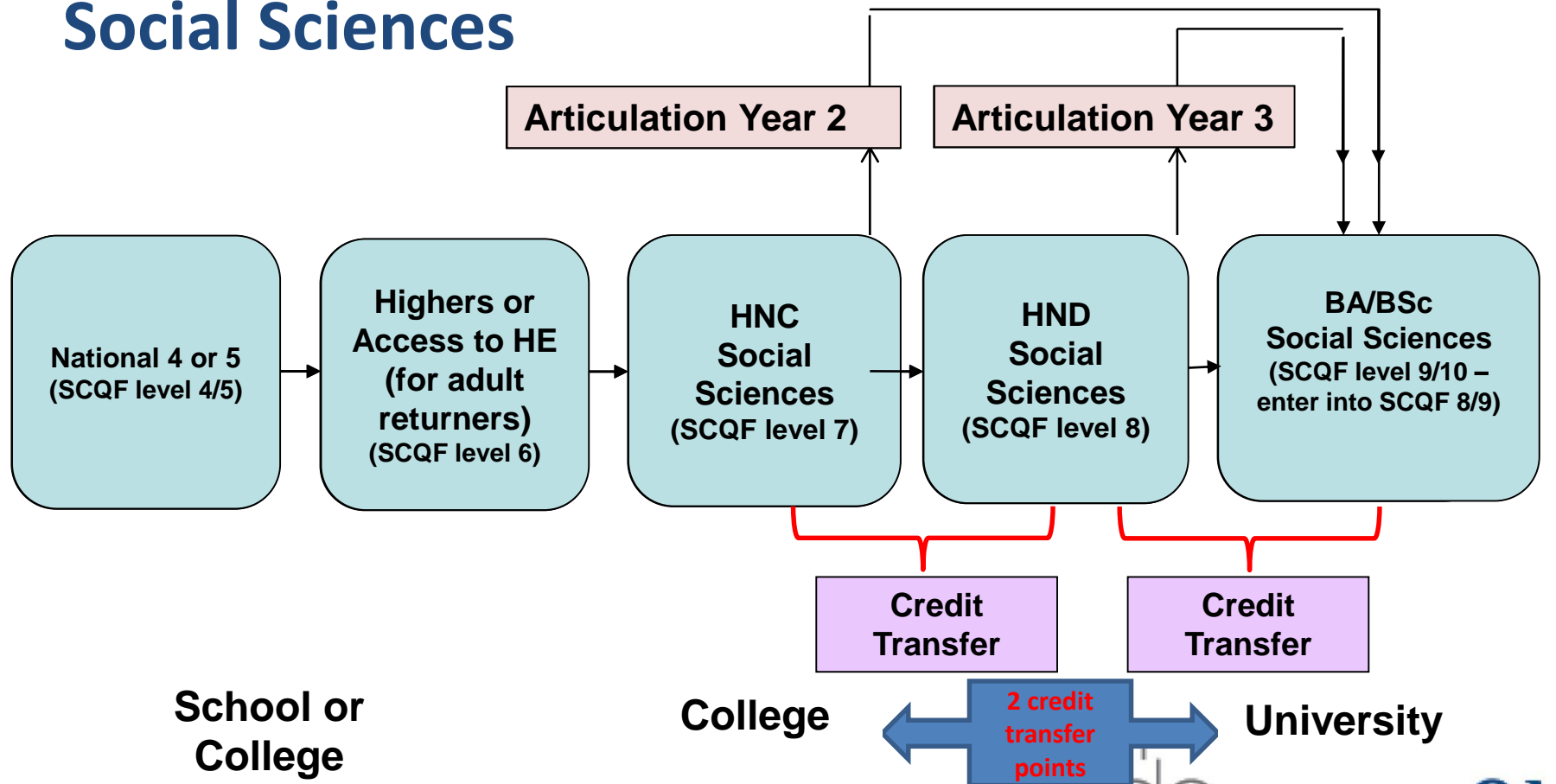
Example of credit transfer 2

Accountancy



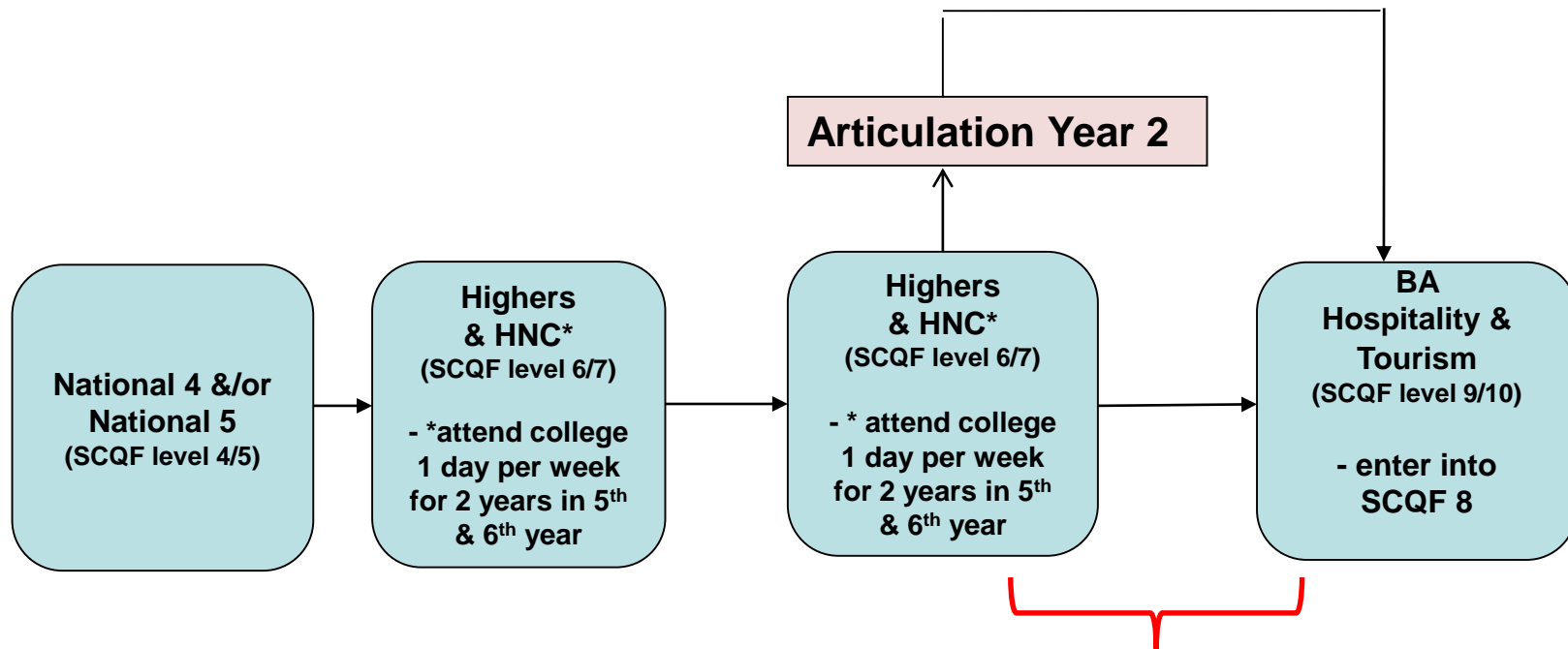
Example of credit transfer 3

Social Sciences



Example of credit transfer 4

Hospitality & Tourism Academy – Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, with City of Edinburgh College, East Lothian Council & local (& international) businesses

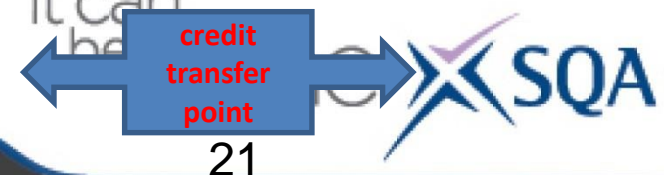


School

School & College

Credit
Transfer

University



Advanced Highers & Scottish Baccalaureates (SCQF 7)

**Adv H – Growing number of entries
from 18,854 in 2008
to 23,795 in 2016 (21% increase)**

**Intellectual challenges
& deepen higher order skills**

**Bridge between class-
based learning &
independent learning
required in HE**



**Can work on own initiative with
minimum supervision**



**Analysis Research
Critical & independent thinking**

**Mature approach
to learning**

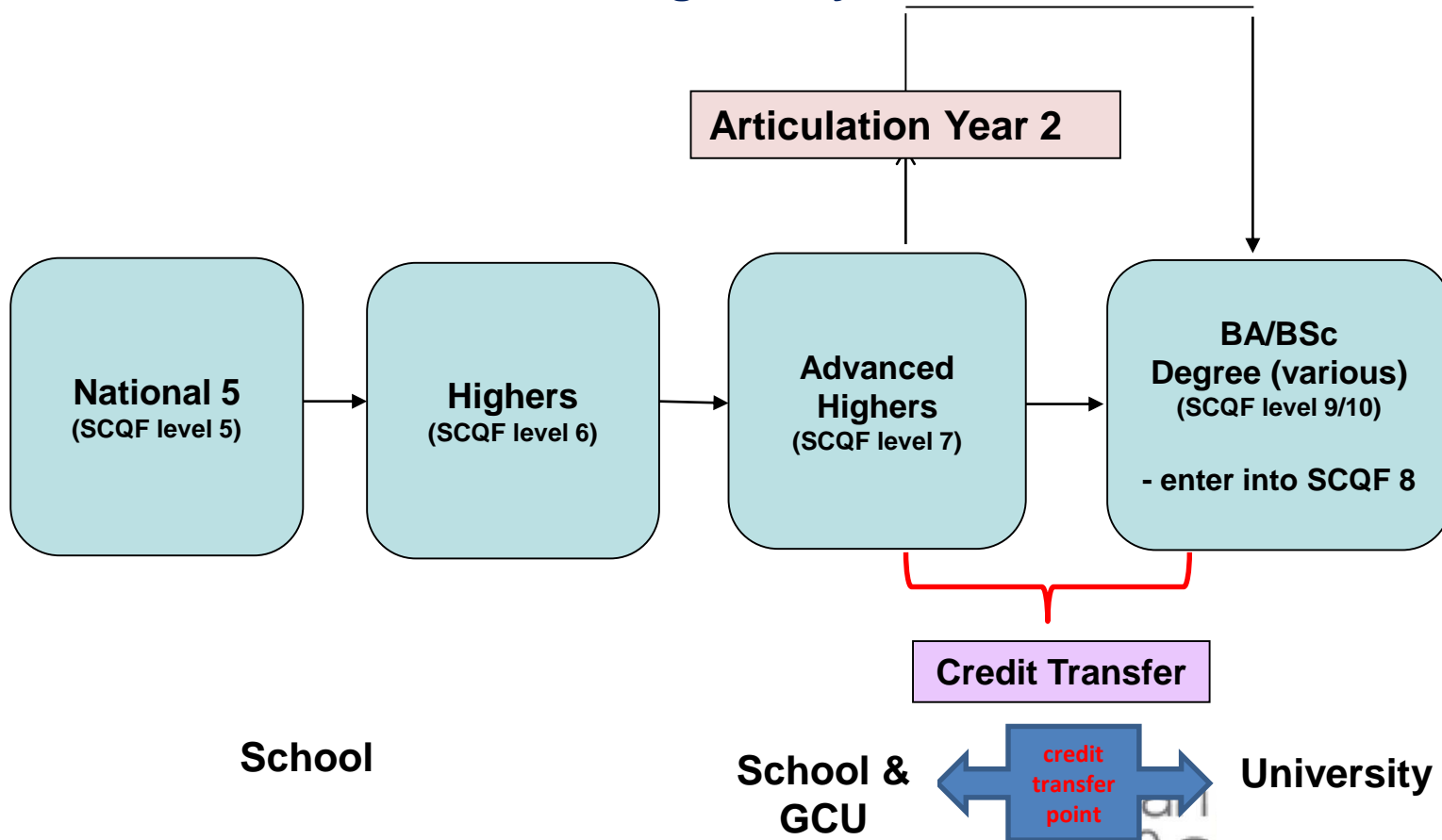


**More self directed learning
More learner autonomy**

it can
be done  SQA

Example of credit transfer 5

Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) Advanced Higher Hub, with
Glasgow City Council



Other credit transfer? Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) & Modern/Technical/Graduate Apprenticeships into HE

- SVQ 3 & SVQ 4 (broadly EQF levels 4-6)
- Work-based (with or without college attendance)
- Exploration of SVQ for *access* to HE
- SVQ for direct entry/articulation (*exemption*) into HE
 - Edinburgh Napier University's "BABEs" (BA in Business Enterprise)
- Modern/Technical/Graduate Apprenticeships **can include** HNC/Ds within their framework

SQA – progression & credit transfer

- Mainly through formal qualifications
- Credit & level in the design & build
- SCQF – a mechanism for recognising & recording learning
- Negotiation & partnership essential!



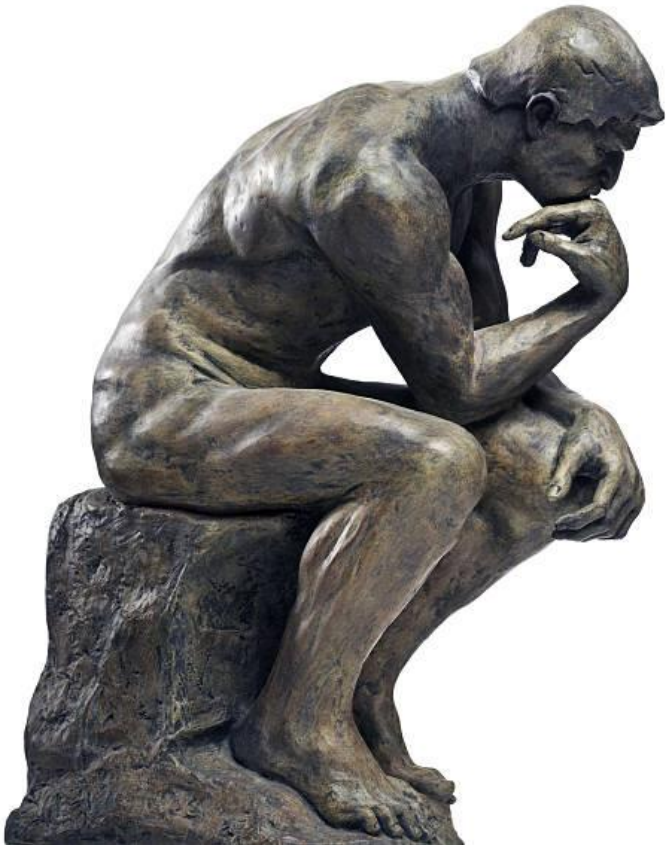
...and what about European credit? A model for HND, ECTS & ECVET...?

HND Construction Management		→ BSc (Hons) Construction Management		
	HND	BSc (Hons)	ECTS Points	ECVET Points
Year 1	120 SCQF credit points	120 SCQF credit points	60 ECTS points	60 ECVET points
Year 2	120 SCQF credit points	120 SCQF credit points	60 ECTS points	60 ECVET points
Year 3	Credit transfer	120 SCQF credit points	60 ECTS points	60 ECVET points
Year 4		120 SCQF credit points	60 ECTS points	60 ECVET points
Total credit points	240 SCQF credit points	480 SCQF credit points	240 ECTS points	240 ECVET points

Useful links & contacts

- visit the SQA website: www.sqa.org.uk
- visit the SCQF website: www.scqf.org.uk
- <http://scqf.org.uk/framework-diagram/Framework.htm> (Interactive SCQF ready reckoner)
- <http://scqf.org.uk/search/handbook> (*SCQF Handbook*, 2015)
- <http://scqf.org.uk/search/rpl+toolkit> (*Facilitating the Recognition of Prior Learning Toolkit*)
- [http://scqf.org.uk/content/files/europe/QFUK Joint Report - Updated March 2010.pdf](http://scqf.org.uk/content/files/europe/QFUK_Joint_Report_-_Updated_March_2010.pdf) (*Referencing the Qualifications Frameworks of the United Kingdom to the European Qualifications Framework*, 2010)
- http://scqf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/EQF-Level-Visibility-Reportonline_2015.pdf (*EQF Level Visibility on Qualification Certificates*, 2015)

Questions/issues for consideration



- ♦ Is the Scottish model transferable to other countries?
- ♦ What are the opportunities/benefits? For whom?
- ♦ What are the barriers? How can they be overcome?
- ♦ What are the implications for high level apprenticeships credit transfer/articulation into Bachelors in your country?
- ♦ Would the provision of ECVET credit & ECTS credit create a Quality Assurance challenge for providers? If so, how could it be overcome?

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