



Level 7

Level 6

Level 5

Level 4

Level 3

Level 2

Level 1

Qualifications Framework Overview

Launched by the Education Bureau (EDB) in 2008, the Qualifications Framework (QF) aims to facilitate citizens in pursuing continuing education and lifelong learning. All QF-recognised programmes are quality-assured and each assigned a "level" to reflect its depth of learning.



Secondary students, together with their parents, may plan their academic pursuits or chart their future career pathways with reference to the QF.



- The QF has 7 levels, where Level 1 is the lowest and Level 7 is the highest.
- The QF covers qualifications in the academic (such as degree programmes), Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) (such as higher diploma programmes) and continuing education (such as in-house training courses) sectors.
- One QF credit consists of 10 notional learning hours, which take into account the time spent on classes, tutorials, experiments, workshops, self-study and examinations.
- All QF-recognised qualifications have gone through rigorous quality assurance processes.



Level 1

Level 2



Types of Award Titles



The **Award Titles Scheme (ATS)** introduced under the QF regulates the use of permitted qualification titles for learning programmes, thus enhancing the transparency of qualifications and better reflecting their QF levels, 15 award titles are permitted under the ATS, covering qualifications of learning programmes at various levels (i.e. Level 1 to Level 7) in the academic, VPET and continuing education sectors.

The 15 permitted award titles and their corresponding QF levels are shown in the diagram below:

QF Level
資歷級別

Award Titles of Learning Programmes at Different Levels
各級別課程的資歷名銜

7	Doctor 博士				
6	Master 碩士	Postgraduate Diploma 深造文憑 Postgraduate Certificate 深造證書	Professional Diploma 專業文憑	Advanced Diploma 高等文憑	Diploma 文憑
5	Bachelor 學士		Professional Certificate 專業證書	Advanced Certificate 高等證書	
4	Associate 副學士	Higher Diploma 高級文憑 Higher Certificate 高級證書			Certificate 證書
3					
2					
1					

Getting to know the qualification levels and award titles will facilitate the choice of a suitable programme. Secondary school graduates, for example, may consider enrolling in Level 3 (such as diploma), Level 4 (such as associate degree and higher diploma) or Level 5 (such as Bachelor's degree) programmes if they pursue further studies.





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Features and Applications of Qualifications Register

To facilitate public access to qualifications recognised under the Qualifications Framework (QF), an online database called Qualifications Register (QR) has been set up alongside the implementation of the QF. It contains details of all the qualifications recognised under the QF since May 2008.



Search results generated by the QR not only indicate the QF level and quality assurance status of qualifications, but also contain other useful information, such as, for most programmes, their **QF credit values** to give students some ideas about the effort and time required to complete the programmes.



For each qualification, on top of **QF level, title and QF credit**, further information is provided with the addition of labels.

Below are some of these labels and their descriptions:

LP	Refers generally to a programme of study or training operated by an education or training provider
SCS	Indicates that the programme is designed in accordance with the Specification of Competency Standards of one or more industries
VQP	This qualification covers the competencies required for a specific job post on the "Vocational Qualifications Pathway" within an industry
PQ	Professional Qualifications under HKQF
APD	Applied Degree Programmes
CAT(I)	Indicates the availability of Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) arrangements, with CAT(I) meaning on institutional basis and CAT(P) meaning at programme level
CAT(P)	
NLP	Refers to a learning programme offered in Hong Kong by an overseas operator

List of abbreviations:

LP=Learning Programmes

PQ=Professional Qualifications

NLP=Non-local Programmes

APD=Applied Degree Programmes

SCS=Specification of Competency Standards

VQP=Vocational Qualifications Pathway

CAT=Credit Accumulation and Transfer



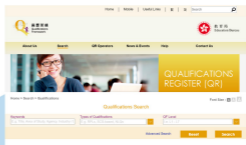
Level 1

Level 2



Finding Suitable Programmes with the Use of Qualifications Register

Similar to using a regular search engine, searching the Qualifications Register is done by entering keywords, such as the title of a learning programme or an area of study and training, into the search field. Greater precision can be achieved by specifying a QF level.



Qualifications Search



To find a specific programme or qualification even faster, please visit the Advanced Search page to narrow down the scope of search by a myriad of search parameters, such as Area of Study and Training, and Industry.



Search by Area of Study and Training



Advanced Search



Search by Industry



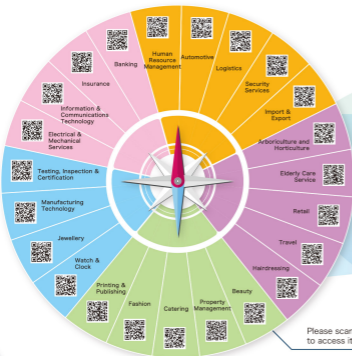
Qualifications Framework and Life Planning

What is the role of Qualifications Framework in life planning?



Life planning is an ongoing and lifelong process. To support lifelong learning, the Qualifications Framework (QF) defines a clear and accessible qualifications hierarchy for better grasp of learning and articulation opportunities at different stages of learning.

Career exploration is a key element of life planning. The QF website (www.hkqf.gov.hk) carries information on as many as 23 industries. Available information includes the progression pathways for key positions and the competency standards of different industries. You are bound to come across an industry or a position that fits your interest.



With the Government's support and facilitation, 23 industries have respectively set up an Industry Training Advisory Committee (ITAC) to develop objective competency standards and clear progression pathways, which enable the provision of higher quality and better structured training programmes, and allow prospective and in-service practitioners to gain a fuller understanding of the development prospects of their industries and the career ladders available to them.

Please scan the QR code of each industry to access its dedicated webpage.



Industry Information under Qualifications Framework



The progression pathway and Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP) of an industry comprise descriptions of the qualification and skill requirements of its job positions. They can be helpful to anyone who is deciding on the discipline in which to pursue further study or the sphere in which to start a career. In addition, the industry-specific Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) outlines, among others, the professional knowledge and skills required of practitioners as well as the criteria by which attainment of such competency is judged, which serves to promote lifelong learning and self-enhancement.



Progression Pathways of Printing industry - Prepress function

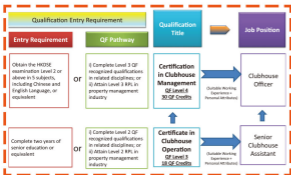


Drawn up by the Industry Training Advisory Committee, the SCS is a comprehensive set of competency standards specifying the performance requirements and outcome standards of different job functions at various levels in an industry. Companies may adopt relevant SCSs as the basis for manpower development and management while education and training providers may design SCS-based courses.



Industry Information under Qualifications Framework

Detail of Vocational Qualifications Pathway for
Clubhouse Officer and Senior Clubhouse Assistant



Vocational Qualifications Pathway for
Property Management Industry - Key Positions

Senior Aide	(1) Property Services	(2) Cleaning, Maintaining & Repairing a Property	(3) Security, Maintaining & Repairing a Property	(4) Landscaping, Maintaining & Repairing a Property	(5) Technical Maintenance, Repairing & Replacing a Property	(6) Clubhouse	(7) Tenancy Management	(8) Facility Management, Maintaining & Repairing a Property
Level 7	Senior Executive							
Level 6	Chief Property Manager				Chief Technical Maintenance Manager			Chief Facility Manager
Level 5	Property Manager		Operations Manager (Clubhouse)		Technical Manager (Clubhouse)	Clubhouse Manager	Tenancy Administration Manager	Facility Manager
QF Level 4	Property Officer	Cleaning Officer	Security Officer	Landscaping Officer	Technical Officer (Clubhouse)	Clubhouse Assistant	Tenancy Administration Assistant	Facility Officer
Level 3	Property Service Assistant	System Cleaning	Building Supervision	Facilities Landscaping	Technical Technician	Senior Clubhouse Assistant	Tenancy Administration Assistant	Facility Supervisor
Level 2	Customer Service Assistant	Senior Cleaner	Senior Building / Carpentry Assistant	Senior Gardener	Technician	Clubhouse Assistant		Customer Service Assistant, Facility Management
Level 1	Cleaner		Building / Carpentry Apprentice	Gardener	Artisan			



Major applications of the VQP:

- Occupation-based qualifications developed under the VQP provide valuable references for employers as they serve to certify that holders of these qualifications have received adequate training and have the abilities to perform specific jobs;
- It facilitates education and training providers in developing training programmes that better suit the needs of the industries, thus helping to bridge the gap between learning and work;
- It helps to attract young people to a particular industry by showing them the career ladder of practitioners and informing their plans for further studies; and
- It enables aspiring newcomers and in-service practitioners to equip themselves with the requisite competencies of different job positions and prepare for career advancement.



Support Services under Qualifications Framework



By leveraging the Qualifications Framework (QF) platform, the Industry Training Advisory Committees of various industries organise a variety of activities for secondary school students to gain first-hand experience of work with a view to better preparing them for their eventual transition from school to work.



Promotional posters for activities organised by various industries



The Qualifications Framework Secretariat (QFS) annually runs a promotional campaign targeting secondary school students, with the objectives of improving their understanding of different industries and the QF through mock-up or hands-on experiences, as well as assisting them in planning for further studies and future career.

The campaign offers a wide variety of free activities, including seminars, workshops and visits, for which students may sign up through their schools. Please scan the QR code for details and application procedures.



The QFS also holds on-site seminars for schools and parent-teacher associations to brief teachers and parents on ways to assist their students and children in life planning by leveraging the QF platform and information on different industries. Please scan the QR code for details.

