

Are all qualifications offered by an education and training provider automatically registered?

Note that even though an education and training provider may be accredited by a QC, this does not mean that all the qualifications they offer are registered on the NQF. You can check this by asking for the SAQA ID number of the specific qualification you are interested in. You can then find the qualification on the SAQA website (www.saqa.org.za). It will give details of the training providers accredited to offer it. Or call SAQA's NQF Advisory Services Helpline (0860 111 673) to ask for the accredited training providers' details. Institutions must first be accredited to offer registered qualifications.

How can I be sure an education and training provider is registered and accredited?

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) keeps a National Register of Private Colleges and a Register of Private Higher Education Institutions, which lists all education and training providers registered with DHET. Ask to see the education and training provider's certificate of registration with DHET. You may also view the 'Registers' page under 'Documents' on the DHET website: <http://www.dhet.gov.za/SitePages/DocRegisters.aspx>

Education and training providers are accredited by the QCs to offer registered national qualifications. Ask to see proof of the institution's QC accreditation.



Quality Qualifications
The key to your success

Contact the NQF Advisory Services Helpline for more information on quality qualifications:

Helpline: 0860 111 673

Email: help@nqf.org.za

Twitter: @SAQALive

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthAfricanQualificationsAuthority



What is a registered national qualification?

A registered national qualification consists of a planned combination of learning outcomes – that is knowledge, skills and values that a learner can demonstrate after completing a qualification. It has the following:

- A defined purpose or purposes;
- It is intended to provide qualifying learners with skills, knowledge and values;
- It provides a basis for further learning;
- It must have been assessed in terms of exit level outcomes – that is knowledge, skills and values that a learner should have obtained on completion of a qualification;
- It has been accredited by one of the three Quality Councils (QCs) namely the Council on Higher Education (CHE), Umalusi, and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO); and
- It is registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

What is quality in education and training?

Quality in education and training means meeting the standards of nationally agreed outcomes and performance/assessment criteria – this is in providing and monitoring education and training. So a quality qualification is one that meets these criteria.

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) oversees the further development and implementation of the NQF.

The NQF ensures that all education and training in South Africa is structured around a reliable qualifications framework. The national qualifications that you have earned through study and hard work are on record for life because of the NQF.

SAQA and the QCs work to ensure that South African qualifications are of an acceptable quality; both locally and internationally.



Genuine qualifications

Genuine qualifications can only be issued by an education and training provider if:

- The provider is accredited by a QC to offer registered qualifications;
- The provider is registered (except if it is a skills development provider); and
- The qualification is registered on the NQF.

If your qualifications are not genuine, you have wasted time, money and opportunities in your education or training.



How does SAQA ensure genuine qualifications?

- Public knowledge of the NQF and its functions ensures that fraudsters can no longer cheat the public.
- SAQA has a strict verifications process for genuine qualifications. It includes checking where the qualification is obtained and also checking the validity of the institution. This ensures that fraudsters find it difficult to forge genuine qualifications.

Here is how you can help:

- *Always check credentials of your institution* – make sure that the qualifications that they provide are genuine and that they are accredited and registered.
- *Check on the NQF* – check the registration of the qualification on the NQF. You can do this by calling the NQF Advisory Services Helpline (0860 111 673).
- *Tell everyone about the NQF* – everyone needs to know that the helpline offers information and advice on genuine qualifications.

How do I check that the qualification I want to register for is recognised in SA?

Ask to see proof that the learning programme you are interested in is accredited by the relevant QC. QCs are provided for in the NQF Act of 2008. The QCs have strict standards, and only accredit learning programmes that meet these standards.

At present there are three QCs that set standards and assure quality over the whole education and training system. These are:

- The CHE – overseeing Higher Education.
Visit: www.che.ac.za or call (012) 349 3840.
- Umalusi – overseeing General and Further Education up to Grade 12 as well as the National Certificate: Vocational (NCV) that is offered in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges.
Visit: www.umalusi.org.za or call (012) 349 1510.
- The QCTO – overseeing occupational qualifications and part-qualifications. The QCTO delegated its function to accredit providers to Assessment Quality Partners (AQPs), Quality Assurance Partners (QAPs) as well as some recognised professional bodies.

Visit: www.qcto.org.za or call (012) 003 1800

