PATHWAYS INTO FORMAL STUDY

Formal study is assessed learning that may lead to a qualification. It takes place in schools, colleges, universities and other education and training providers. It can also include distance learning, workplace training and professional qualifications.

Access modules

An Open University Access module is a good place to start if you have been out of formal education for some time or left school without qualifications. Access modules are around SCQF level 6 and take 30 weeks to complete, with nine hours study per week. You will have a personal tutor to support you by telephone.

There is a choice of three broad subject areas:

- **Arts and Languages**
- **People, Work and Society**
- **Science, Maths and Technology**

www.open.ac.uk/courses/do-it/access

Making your learning count

Making your learning count is a new Open University module that lets you gain credit for informal study you've already done on OpenLearn or other online platforms. The module is worth 30 credits and counts towards the OU's Open qualifications. If you have 150 hours of informal learning under your belt, this could be an option for you.

www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/yxm130

Law making in Scotland

There are four badged courses on OpenLearn covering different aspects of the law in Scotland. If you complete all four, you can register for the *Law making in Scotland* module, which is worth 10 credits towards an OU qualification.
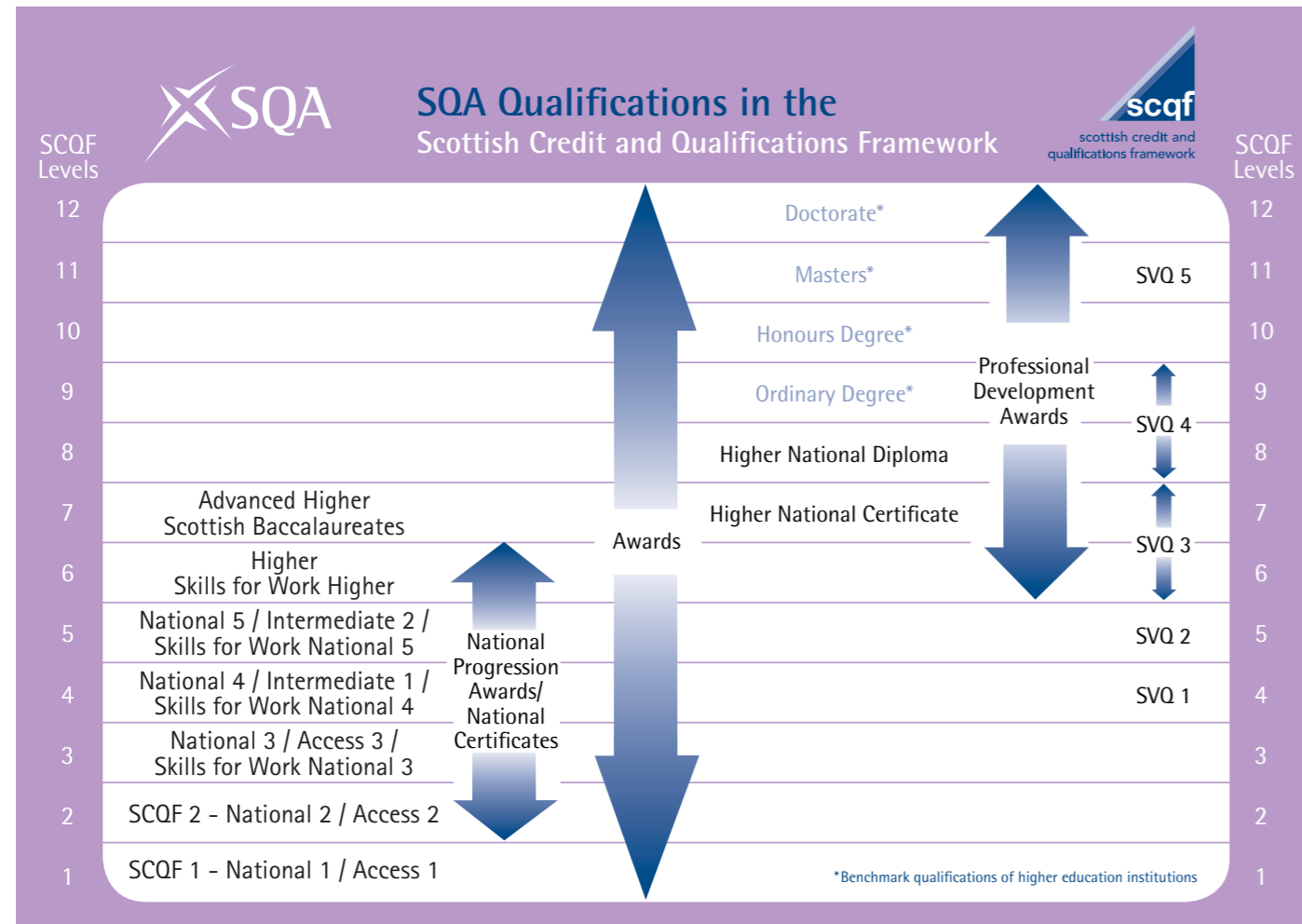
- **Scottish courts and the law**
- **Legal skills and debates in Scotland**
- **Law and change: Scottish law heroes**
- **The Scottish Parliament and law making**

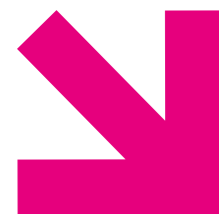**www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/wxm151**

Mapping Scottish qualifications

Formal learning is also called accredited learning, as it counts towards a credit-rated qualification. Have a look at the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) table to see where any qualifications you already have sit within the framework so you can decide the level you choose to study at next.

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework		SCQF Levels
12	Doctorate*		12
11	Masters*	SVQ 5	11
10	Honours Degree*		10
9	Ordinary Degree*	Professional Development Awards	9
8	Higher National Diploma	SVQ 4	8
7	Advanced Higher / Scottish Baccalaureates — Higher National Certificate	SVQ 3	7
6	Higher / Skills for Work Higher		6
5	National 5 / Intermediate 2 / Skills for Work National 5	SVQ 2	5
4	National 4 / Intermediate 1 / Skills for Work National 4	SVQ 1	4
3	National 3 / Access 3 / Skills for Work National 3		3
2	SCQF 2 – National 2 / Access 2		2
1	SCQF 1 – National 1 / Access 1		1

Awards — National Progression Awards / National Certificates

*Benchmark qualifications of higher education institutions

SCQF framework

There is no limit to the amount of time you can spend on OpenLearn or the number of courses you can take.

www.open.edu/openlearn/ get-started/badges-come-openlearn

Get credit for previous study

If you have studied at SCQF Level 7 or above in the last 16 years, you may be able to count it towards an Open University qualification. SCQF level 7 includes a HNC or HND at college, previous study at University or qualifications gained through your job. Transferring credit will reduce some of the time you have to study with the OU to get a degree or other qualification.

How much credit you can be awarded will depend on the qualification that you wish to study for. Our Open degree allows you to transfer credit and tailor your degree content to meet your current needs, regardless of the subject you previously studied. For example, you may be able to transfer up to 240 credits from a HND or 120 credits from a HNC to an Open qualification. Degrees in a named subject may allow different credits, depending on the relevance and level of your previous study.

www.open.ac.uk/study/credit-transfer/

Graduate apprenticeships

If you would like to work towards a degree that's related to your job, a graduate apprenticeship may be an option for you. The Open University offers Graduate Apprenticeships in:

- **Cyber Security (undergraduate and postgraduate level)**

- **IT: Management for Business**

- **Software Development**

Our Graduate Apprenticeships are available to employees aged 16 years and over, who live and work in Scotland and are in a relevant role. Through tutor-supported online learning, you can flex learning around your work schedule, reducing time away from the workplace. As you learn, you can embed your new skills in the workplace.

www.open.ac.uk/business/apprenticeships/degree-and-higher/cyber-security-and-software-development-graduate-apprenticeships

> "I was able to pursue my work and my family commitments and after two years I would come out with an Honours degree. The Open University gave me the opportunity to just follow straight on from my HND.
> **OU STUDENT**