Foreign qualification assessment

The extract indicates what a foreign qualification is comparable to in the Swedish qualification system. The information can be used when applying for a job or planning for further studies. Decisions regarding employment, admission or formal professional recognition are made by the employer, education provider or competent authority.

Qualification from United Kingdom (Scotland)



Higher National Certificate (HNC)

Swedish comparison



Yrkeshögskoleexamen

Higher Vocational Education Diploma

About the qualification comparison

UHR assesses the foreign qualification as comparable to a Swedish Higher Vocational Education Diploma.

The figure below shows the assigned level of the Swedish qualification in the Swedish National Qualifications Framework (SeQF) and how it relates to the European qualifications frameworks.

This assessment is provided as guidance by UHR. It is based on our knowledge of the country's education system and not on the individual's education documents. UHR applies the principles of the international recognition convention Lisbon Recognition Convention and assumes the foreign qualification is recognised in the country of study.

Find out more about higher education in Sweden and the admission process at Universityadmissions.se

About the Swedish Council for Higher Education

The Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR) is Sweden's ENIC-NARIC centre. We have a national task to inform about and evaluate foreign education.

Go to the Qualifications Assessment Tool: www.uhr.se/en/start/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications/qualifications-assessment-tool/united-kingdom/higher-national-certificate-hnc-257/.

To employers

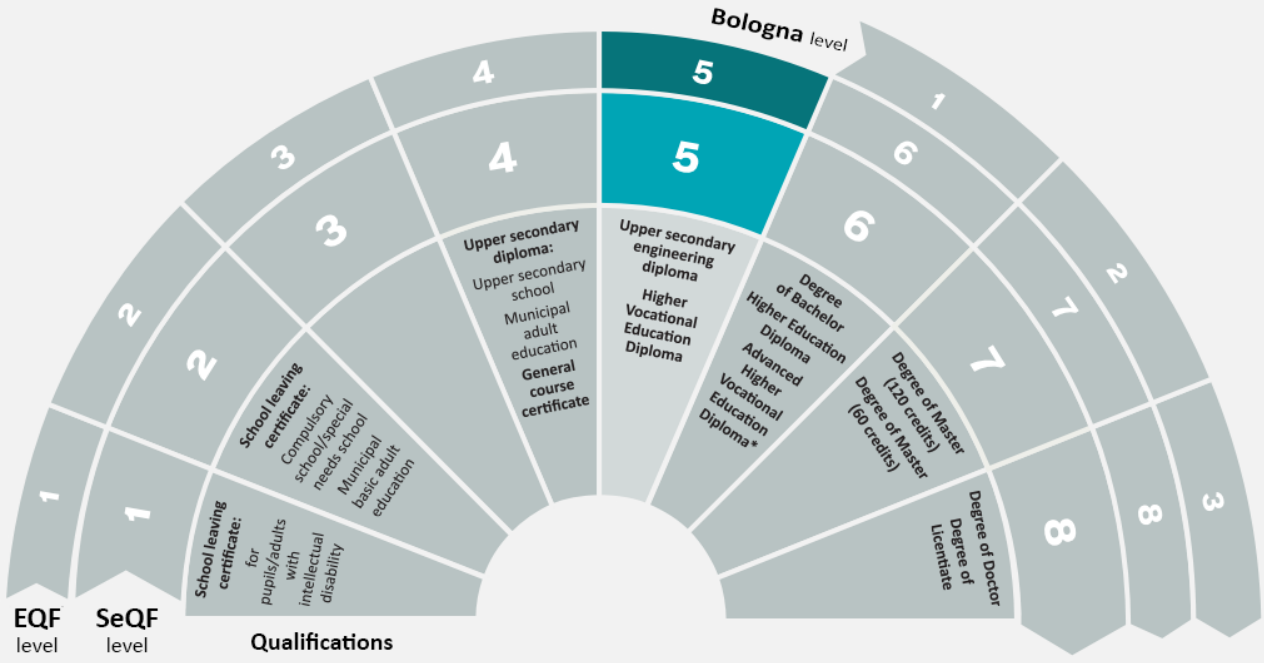
This extract should be used together with an individual's education documents. If you as an employer have questions about foreign education or a job applicant's education documents, you are welcome to contact UHR. E-mail: utbildningsbedomning@uhr.se

Facts about Higher National Certificate (HNC)

Duration	1 year
Credits	120 SCQF credit points
Information about the qualification	The qualification is a post-secondary vocational qualification in The United Kingdom. The qualification may have different specialisations.
National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland (RQF) The national qualifications framework for England, Northern Ireland and Wales (RQF och CQFW) has 8 levels, where 1 is the lowest and 8 is the highest. The national qualifications framework for Scotland (SCQF) has 12 levels, where 1 is the lowest and 12 is the highest.
NQF level	7 (SCQF)
EQF level	5
Country information	The United Kingdom consists of four parts, Scotland has its own education system and qualification framework that is separate from the one set for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The level of Swedish qualifications and degrees

Swedish degrees and final grades are placed within reference frameworks that show different levels of learning outcomes. In the figure, the Swedish reference framework SeQF is shown as well as the European reference frameworks that facilitate comparison to other countries. Please note the figure does not contain all Swedish qualifications.



Not all qualifications are included in the figure.
*Please note that the Advanced Higher Vocational Education Diploma is included in EQF och SeQF level 6, but not in Bologna level 1.

What do the abbreviations mean?

- SeQF – The Swedish National Qualifications Framework
- EQF – European Qualifications Framework
- Bologna Framework – Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QF- EHEA)