

**Qualifications
and
Awards
in
Dubai**

Know Your Awarding Body in Dubai (Qualifications and Awards in Dubai)

In 2014, National Qualifications Authority (NQA) and the Vocational Education and Training Awards Council (VETAC) of the UAE authorized the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) as the sole awarding body for Dubai. KHDA has since established the Qualifications and Awards in Dubai (QAD) to undertake as part of its mandate, the role of Awarding Body.

What is an Awarding Body?

An Awarding Body is an entity recognized by the Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Council (VETAC). An Awarding Body licenses and evaluates the TVET service providers under its umbrella. An Awarding Body monitors TVET providers and ensures compliance with VETAC criteria, regulations. An Awarding Body manages the process of developing, awarding and issuing qualifications based on national occupational skills standards.

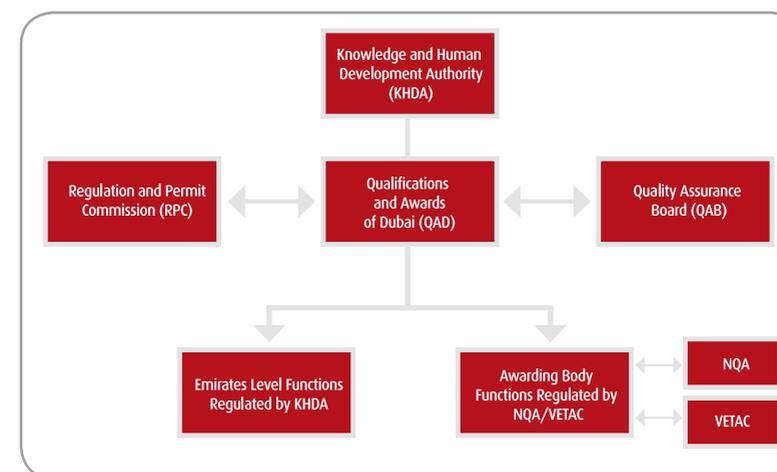
The Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Council (VETAC) has approved two awarding bodies in the UAE:

- Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) for Dubai
- Abu Dhabi Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ACTVET) for Abu Dhabi and Northern Emirates.

How does QAD operate?

QAD operates under the rules and regulations of KHDA, NQA and VETAC and it works in close association with the industry and TVET sector in Dubai. It is integrated with the rest of KHDA divisions and units. It operates through the common service platform used by other divisions and relies on KHDA shared service and other departments to support its stakeholders. QAD works very closely with the Permits and Regulation Commission (RPC) at KHDA to make recommendations on accepting or rejecting applications, along with reasons to support the recommendation.

QAD is supported by the Quality Assurance Board for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (QAB). The purpose of QAB is to provide QAD with reputable, independent and national and international input and guidance on the quality of TVET provided in Dubai. QAB reviews all new TVET applications and renewal applications, and make appropriate recommendations. QAB also validate that TVET international Qualification provide a learning context and standard equivalent to that at the country of origin of the qualification.



Who is the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA)?

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) is a regulatory authority in the Government of Dubai. KHDA is responsible for the future growth, direction and quality of education and learning in Dubai. KHDA aims to support the people of Dubai to achieve their potential from birth and through life's journey as KHDA works towards achieving the goals set out in the Dubai Strategic Plan 2021 and the UAE National Agenda 2021.

Who is the National Qualifications Authority (NQA)?

The National Qualifications Authority (NQA) is the principal federal authority for accrediting all qualifications in the UAE. On the 23rd of August 2010, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan issued Federal Decree No. 1 'Establish and Maintain the National Qualifications Authority'. The key functions of the NQA are:

- coordinating, with related entities, the establishment and implementation of an internationally-recognised education and training system for the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- developing and implementing the National Qualifications Framework (QFEmirates), which is a singular integrated structure covering all qualifications in the UAE
- facilitating the transfer, shift and continuity of learning of individuals between different education and training pathways
- contributing to the enhancement of vocational education and training quality in the country

NQA delivers outcomes that assist the UAE to keep pace with scientific and technological progress, and to meet the country's economic and social development needs.

Who is the Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Council (VETAC)?

The Vocational Education and Training Awards Council (VETAC) is the operational body of the National Qualification Authority (NQA) which manages and coordinates UAE's technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and assures the quality of TVET outcomes. VETAC role involves setting and maintaining standards for the development, administration, registration, endorsement and delivery of national vocational qualifications and awards developed by or on behalf of industry.

Under the auspices of the NQA, VETAC is responsible for approving and inspecting the operations of Awarding Bodies to deliver the qualification process and facilitate delivery and certification.

The functions of Awarding Bodies in the UAE are set out in the VETAC Classification System for Awarding Bodies guidelines, which are available from www.nqa.gov.ae

What are the functions of QAD?

QAD is pioneering the evolution of TVET in the region. It works with all stakeholders to safeguard the quality and integrity of TVET and to meet targets for skills development across Dubai and the UAE. Stakeholders include learners, employers, TVET providers and government. QAD's functions are based on KHDA regulations as well as NQA/VETAC regulations.

QAD functions related to KHDA's role as regulator of TVET providers and qualifications for the Emirate of Dubai are:

- enabling industry to develop Emirate-recognised qualifications that are fit for their purpose
- regulating international awarding bodies offering qualifications in Dubai and issue statements of recognition for international qualifications in the Emirate
- encouraging TVET providers to offer standardized and benchmarked qualifications
- assuring quality of TVET provisions and qualifications
- licensing assessors, internal verifiers, and external verifiers who provide assessment services that lead to Emirate-recognised qualifications
- recognizing the achievements of learners facilitating their employment and progression
- promoting the value of TVET to society

QAD works, with all stakeholders, on credit-bearing national and nationally recognised vocational qualifications from Level 1 to Level 9 of the Qualifications Framework for the UAE, the QF Emirates. It also quality assures non-credit-bearing short courses and programmes offered by training centres in Dubai.

QAD Vision

Excellence in technical and vocational qualifications to support economic and social development in Dubai.

QAD Mission

To ensure learners accessibility to relevant and quality-assured technical and vocational education and training (TVET) that has been developed through on-going engagement with TVET stakeholders.

What are Awarding Body functions and services of QAD?

The Awarding Body functions of QAD set out in the VETAC Classification System for Awarding Bodies guidelines are:

- operating legally and ethically in the design, development, delivery, assessment, and internal verification of qualification processes and delivery
- following the standards for qualifications and issuance of certification for fair and equitable services to learners
- reliably and consistently operating the administration and delivery of qualifications by Registered Training Providers for integrity of certificates awarded and issued by all stakeholders within the qualification process

QAD undertakes these Awarding Body functions through a range of services, which include:

- facilitating industry-led development of National Qualifications based on National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS) for specific sectors (Q+NOSS) as set out in the VETAC Q+NOSS System guidelines.
- securing NQA endorsement of National Qualifications (NQ) and Nationally Recognised Qualifications (NRQ) that have been developed by Recognised National Development Committees
- licensing organisations as Registered Training Providers to deliver national and nationally recognised TVET qualifications and monitoring their compliance with the VETAC Quality Assurance Standards (QASR) of Training Provider guidelines
- assuring quality of delivery and assessment of qualifications by Registered Training Providers
- following the standards for the issuance of certification

What added value will QAD provide?

QAD is a TVET change agent that works towards a new paradigm in which:

Government will:

- assure consistency and alignment with national skills strategy and targets
- increase human capital across strategic economic sectors

Graduates will:

- gain competencies for successful employment and progression to further and higher education
- receive nationally and internationally recognised certification
- enhance their market value

Employers will:

- participate in the development of qualifications
- recruit employees with the skills and abilities they need
- be able to offer professional development programmes that are approved and quality assured
- have the assurance that qualifications and TVET providers are approved by Government and are quality assured

In addition, QAD's Awarding Body functions will:

- lead to employers driving the development of national and nationally recognised qualifications.

TVET providers will:

- have official quality rating for their provisions and services
- benefit from best TVET practices and innovations
- contribute effectively to the national skills agenda
- enhance their marketability and reputation
- have access to a portfolio of accredited qualifications
- have consistency in, and protection for, qualification titles
- benefit from capacity building training offered by QAD
- benefits from QAD guidance in administering the accredited qualifications
- License organisations as Registered Training Provider to deliver national and nationally recognised qualifications.

Trainers will:

- benefit from continuous professional development offered by QAD

Learners will:

- benefit from the protection inherent within the accreditation and quality assurance processes
- have the opportunity to accumulate and transfer credits
- attain recognition for prior learning and achievements
- be able to plan their careers

International awarding bodies will:

- benefit from national recognition of their qualifications
- enhance their competitiveness and marketability

How to get more information about QAD?

For more information, please contact us at:

Tel: +971 4 364 0000 or 800 KHDA (5432);

Email: KHDAQAD@khda.gov.ae; www.khda.gov.ae