

**What
are
Accredited
TVET
Qualifications**

What are accredited TVET qualifications?

Accredited TVET qualifications are credit-bearing technical and vocational education and training qualifications that are endorsed by the National Qualification Authority (NQA) and are recognised throughout the UAE. They are qualifications at Levels 1 to 9 of the National Qualification Framework for the United Arab Emirates (QF*Emirates*). Each individual level in the framework represents a hierarchy of relative difficulty, complexity and depth. It indicates the achievement required to gain a particular qualification recognised at that specific level. They meet the quality standards laid down by the National Qualification Authority (NQA) and the Vocational Education and Training Awards Council (VETAC) and are benchmarked to accepted international standards. These nationally recognised and accredited TVET Qualifications in Dubai are awarded by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) through Qualifications and Awards in Dubai (QAD).

There are two kinds of TVET qualifications that are recognised across the UAE. They are aimed at stimulating, opening up and promoting multiple pathways for learners seeking or undertaking TVET qualifications:

- **Knowledge and Skills Based Qualifications:** They are comprised of knowledge and skills unit standards and are used as a pathway for those preparing for work, those seeking advance standing in higher education programmes or seeking more advanced knowledge and skills in preparation for career advances.
- **Application Based Qualifications:** They are comprised of a combination of application unit standards interrelated with the respective pre-requisite knowledge and skills unit standards. The Application based qualification thus, reflects that a learner has demonstrated the acquisition of respective knowledge and skills and applied such to the standard of performance required in the workplace.

These two kinds of qualifications aim to meet the needs of the UAE labour market. They provide learners with an opportunity to choose the kind of qualification that will lead to employment in their preferred occupation in the future.

What are the categories of accredited TVET qualifications?

There are three categories for accredited TVET qualifications:

National Qualifications (NQ): These are qualifications issued by a registered training provider are recognised within the *QFEmirates*, confirming that an individual has achieved the specified learning outcomes for a qualification at a particular QF level. NQs are based on National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS) that have been developed by Recognised National Development Committees (RNDC). Such committees are formed from stakeholders and experts representing the relevant industry sector. NOSS are industry-determined and NQA-endorsed specification of performance. They set out the skills, knowledge and aspects of competences required by individuals to perform effectively in employment in the UAE. NQs are offered by nationally-approved Registered Training Providers (RTPs) in the UAE.

Nationally Recognised Qualifications (NRQ): They are accredited qualifications placed on the National Qualification Framework (*QFEmirates*). Placement is the process whereby a qualification developed before the establishment of the *QFEmirates*, even if not described in terms of learning outcomes or may not completely conform to the awards currently included in the *QFEmirates*, is placed at the relevant level of the Framework when satisfying the relevant level qualifications standards. Similar to NQs, NRQs are specific purpose qualifications based on industry consultation and engagement which identified the need for the qualification in the UAE labour market. NRQs are offered by TVET providers licensed in the emirate of issue.

All National Qualifications (NQ) and Nationally Recognised Qualifications (NRQ) delivered in Dubai are internally assessed and subject to internal verification by their TVET provider and external quality assurance by QAD. Certification of learners is subject to approval by an external verifier appointed by QAD. Such qualifications may also attain international accreditation where the qualifications are quality assured by both QAD and a recognized international accreditation body.

Internationally Accredited Qualifications recognised in the UAE: These are international qualifications accredited in the country of origin. Internationally Accredited Qualifications are nationally recognised in the UAE through the alignment process. This process involves the alignment of a qualification of a professional/awarding body from another country to a relevant level of the *QFEmirates*.

Internationally Accredited Qualifications delivered in Dubai are assessed in accordance to the assessment method specified by their International Awarding Body (IAB) and are subject to internal verification by their TVET provider and external quality assurance by their international awarding body and QAD. Certification of learners is subject to approval by an external verifier appointed by the IAB and statement of recognition will be issued by QAD. Such qualifications may also attain Nationally Recognised Qualifications (NRQ) status when they meet the quality standards of the NQA and VETAC.

What are Knowledge and Skills units?

Knowledge and Skills Units address the underpinning knowledge and skills needed for a particular work-related function or occupational area. The content of each unit is broken into elements (learning outcomes) and subdivided into assessable performance or assessment criteria. Learning outcomes define the learning that an individual has to do to achieve a particular qualification. Learning outcomes are expressed in terms of 5 strands - knowledge, skills and aspects of competence (autonomy and responsibility, role in context and self-development). The assessment criteria define what learners have to demonstrate to show that they have achieved the learning outcome.

A unit is graded as either Pass or Fail where there is a specific risk (e.g. health and safety, personal care) or as a percentile (mark) out of 100% or equivalent alphabetical grades. The smallest Knowledge and Skill unit has a credit value of one.

What are Application units?

Application Units address an individual's competence in the application of the knowledge and skills for a particular work-related function or occupational area. The content of a unit is broken down into work process outcomes such as 'Plan', 'Do' and 'Complete' and sub-divided into assessable performance criteria as agreed by industry. Application units are graded either Competent or Not Yet Competent. The smallest Application unit has a credit value of one.

What is a credit?

To gain a qualification, it is necessary to successfully complete the appropriate number of credits required for that qualification. The QF*Emirates* awards one credit for every 15 hours of learning. This is comprised notionally of 11 hours formal instruction and 4 hours of skills development for knowledge and skills based unit standards. For application based unit standards, one credit or 15 hours is awarded for unstructured work performance and/or workplace development. The time allocated for each credit covers the assessment arrangements and processes used over time (formative and normative evidence) to gather, review, discuss and make judgements of the learner's/candidate's performance.

What are the different types of TVET Qualifications?

The National Qualification Framework for the United Arab Emirates (QF*Emirates*) recognises three qualification types, based primarily on the volume of learning required and the coverage of learning outcomes at any given level.

Principal Qualifications - The major qualification type with formal recognition at each level of QF*Emirates* that captures the typical achievements for the level, including all five strands of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and aspects of competence). Examples include, at Level 4, Certificate 4 in Business and at Level 7, Applied Bachelor degree.

Composite Awards - An award for formal recognition of learners who achieve a cohesive set of learning outcomes encompassing, in varying combinations, all five strands of learning outcomes, but not the full combination of learning outcomes required for a Principal Qualification.

Component Awards - The smallest parcel of cohesive learning outcomes that can be achieved by learners for formal recognition purposes within the Framework. It may relate to all or only some of the five strands of learning outcomes defining the level.

Awards constitute part of a Principal qualification.

What are the number of credits required to achieve the different types of TVET Qualifications?

The minimum number of cumulative credit values required for each type of qualification will depend on its level on the QFEmirates and the type of units within the qualification as can be seen in Tables 1 and 2. For example a Level 5 Principle Qualification is called a “Diploma” and it requires a total of 80 credits to be complete as Knowledge and Skills (K&S) based diploma or 90 credits to be completed as application based diploma. Similarly a Level 6 Composite Award requires a total of 60 credits to be completed as a Knowledge and Skills award and an additional 6 credits would be required to convert it to an Application award. For an Application award at level 6 at least 20 Knowledge and Skills credits and 1 Application credit must be at level 6.

Table 1: Principal Qualifications Credit Matrix

QFEmirates level	General Education Commission (GEC) General Education (GE) sector	Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) Higher Education (HE) sector			
	Qualification title - General Education	Qualification title - Academic/ Institutional ¹ HE	CAA Unique Credit value(s) assigned to each QFEmirates level ^{**}	Minimum cumulative credit value	Total nominal cumulative contact hours
Level 10		Doctorate	54 or more	204	3,060
Level 9		Master	6 to 12	150 - 156	2,250 – 2,340
Level 8		Postgraduate Diploma*	24	144	2,160
Level 7		Bachelor	30	120**	1,800
Level 6		Higher Diploma	30	90	1,350
Level 5		Associate Degree	60	60	900
Level 4		Secondary School Certificate (G 12)^			
Level 3	TBA				
Level 2					
Level 1					

Footnote: The Notes detailed over the page form an integral part of this Principal Qualifications – Indicative Qualifications Credit Matrix and are to be read in conjunction with it

Vocational Education and Training Awards Council (VETAC)							
Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector							
Qualification title - VET	Based on the use of two (2) kinds of interrelated VET2 qualifications^^						
	^Minimum cumulative VET credit value# for				Total notional VET cumulative hours		
	K&S Unique credits/ level3	Cumulative	Application	Total credit value of KSA	Contact Hours K&S	Application hours	Total KSA hours
No qualification available at this level							
Applied Master	10	200	18	218	3,000	270	3,270
Applied Graduate Diploma	30	190	16	206	2,850	240	3,090
Applied Bachelor	40	160	14	174	2,400	210	2,610
Advanced Diploma	40	120	12	132	1,800	180	1,980
Diploma	20	80	10	90	1,200	150	1,350
Certificate 4	20	60	8	68	900	120	1,020
Certificate 3	20	40	6	46	600	90	690
Certificate 2	10	20	4	24	300	60	360
Certificate 1	10	10	3	13	150	45	195

Table 2: Composite Awards and Component Awards Credit Matrix - VET Qualifications

QFEmirates	Composite Awards					
	C K&S	C A	Total KSA	U K&S	U A	Total U KSA
Level 10						
Level 9	100	9	109	14	1	15
Level 8	96	8	104	16	1	17
Level 7	80	7	87	20	1	21
Level 6	60	6	66	20	1	21
Level 5	40	5	45	10	1	11
Level 4	30	4	34	10	1	11
Level 3	20	3	23	10	1	11
Level 2	10	2	12	6	1	7
Level 1	4	1	5	4	1	5

Legend: to Composite and Component Awards Credit Matrix:

1. C = Cumulative and
U = Unique to the level and are comprised of a recognisable parcel of learning outcomes only at the level
2. The Notes on this page and the following pages form an integral part of this Composite and Component Awards Credit Matrix and are to be read in conjunction with it.

Component Awards

C K&S	C A	Total KSA	U K&S	U A	Total U KSA
48	4	52	18	2	20
40	3	43	10	2	12
30	3	33	10	1	11
20	2	22	4	1	5
16	2	18	6	1	7
10	1	11	5	1	6
5	1	6	4	1	5
1	1	2	1	1	2

3. Legend for predominately VET based Component and Composite Awards:

K&S = Knowledge and skills

A = Application

KSA = Knowledge, skills and application

What are the advantages of accredited TVET qualifications?

Accredited qualifications:

- are quality assured by their awarding body
- are nationally recognised by NQA
- are fit for their purpose (relevance, appropriateness)
- provide clear progression routes to further and higher education
- enhance employment opportunities
- enhance local, national and international mobility

How to get more information about accredited TVET qualification in Dubai?

For more information, please contact Qualification and Awards in Dubai (QAD) at:

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

Email: qualificationsandawards@KHDA.gov.ae

Website: www.KHDA.gov.ae