



資歷架構  
Qualifications  
Framework

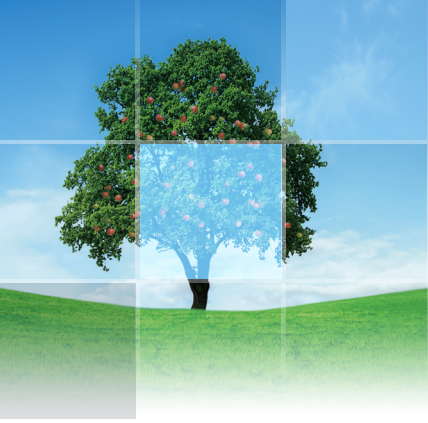
# A Platform for Lifelong Learning



Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) covers qualifications in the academic, vocational and professional, as well as continuing education and training sectors. It provides a platform for articulation among qualifications. Each qualification is assigned a level from 1 (the most basic) to 7 (the highest). HKQF has been established since May 2008 by the Education Bureau of HKSAR Government, which sets the policy direction and development strategy, with the Qualifications Framework Secretariat (QFS) as its executive arm in implementation.

## Objectives of HKQF

- Defining objective standards for qualifications, and assuring their quality
- Enhancing relevance of learning outcomes to industry needs
- Providing a platform for lifelong learning, and encouraging continuing education with a view to enhancing the skills and competitiveness of the local workforce



## How are QF Levels determined?

Under HKQF, each qualification is assigned a level according to the Generic Level Descriptors (GLD) from Level 1 the most basic to Level 7 the highest. GLD describes the outcome standards expected of each level in four domains:

- (a) Knowledge and intellectual skills;
- (b) Processes;
- (c) Autonomy and accountability; and
- (d) Communications, ICT and numeracy.

## Quality Assurance

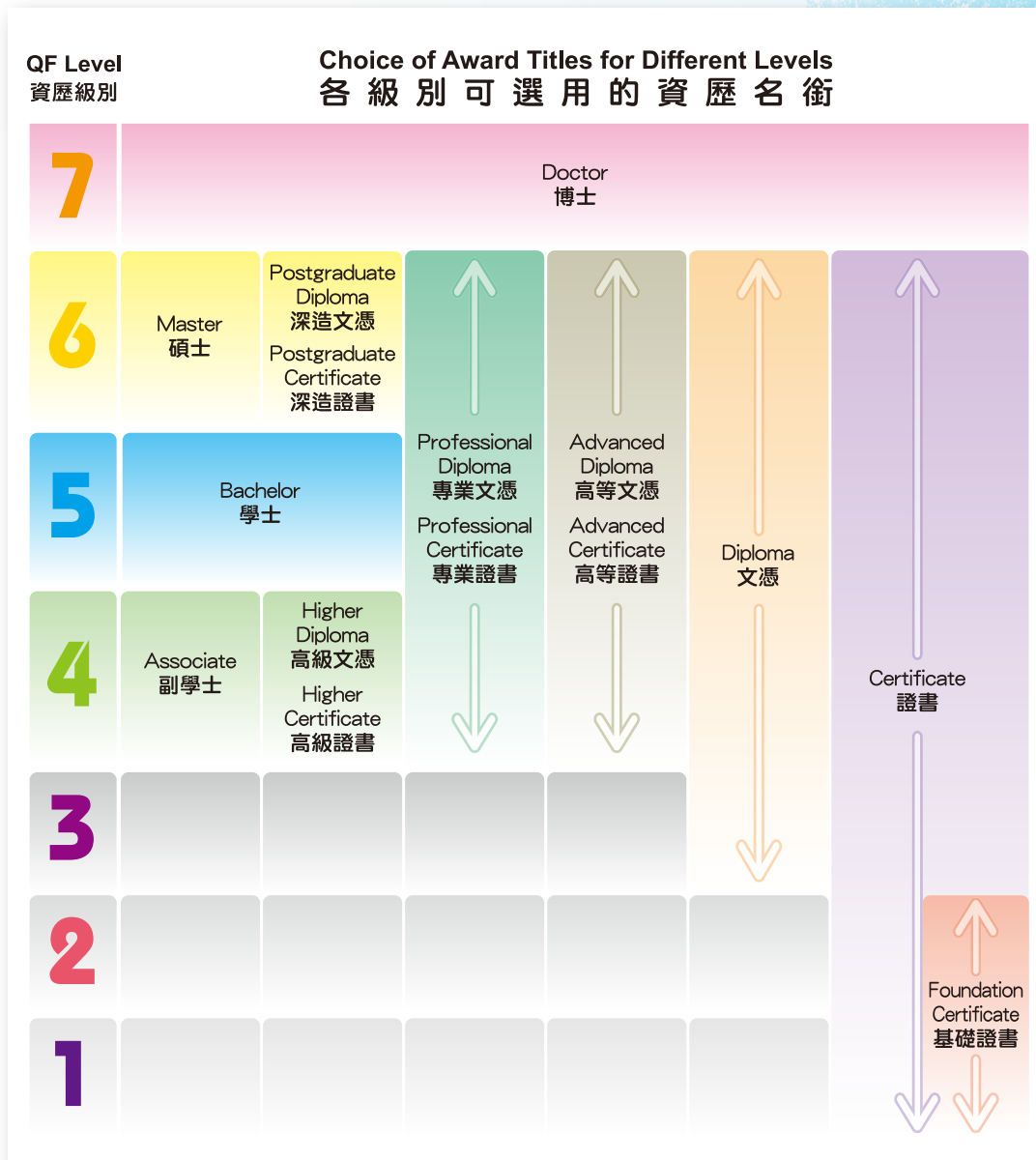
HKQF is underpinned by a robust quality assurance mechanism to ensure that qualifications recognised are of good quality and can meet the expected standards at the level specified. With the exception of institutions with self-accrediting status, all qualifications and their providers have to be accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) before they can be recognised under HKQF and listed in the Qualifications Register.

## What is Qualifications Register?

Qualifications Register (website: [www.hkqr.gov.hk](http://www.hkqr.gov.hk)) is an online database open to the public for free access. It contains information on qualifications and the corresponding learning programmes recognised under HKQF.

## Award Titles

To ensure that the title awarded on attainment of a qualification reflects its level appropriately, the titles of qualifications recognised under HKQF have to comply with the Award Titles Scheme.



## QF Credits

QF Credit indicates the volume of learning required to attain a qualification. One QF Credit represents 10 notional learning hours, which include the time spent by an average learner on different modes of learning, including classes, tutorials, experiments, workshops, self-study, assessments, examinations, or other learning activities. From the QF Credit, a learner can tell how much time and efforts would be needed to complete the learning programme and attain the qualification.

## Promoting manpower development in industries

HKQF is of significance to promoting manpower development in industries. With the support and facilitation by the Government, stakeholders in various industries, including representatives of employers, employees, professional bodies and regulatory bodies, have formed Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs) to promote the implementation of HKQF in the respective industries. As at January 2022, a total of 22 ITACs<sup>1</sup> have been set up for different industries with the assistance of the Education Bureau.

The main roles of an ITAC include compilation of Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) for the industry concerned, implementation of RPL mechanism, and development of clear progression pathway in the industry. The progression pathway assists understanding of practitioners and people who are interested in the trade about career advancement and prospects in the industry, thereby enabling them to plan for further study and career development. It also helps in attracting more youngsters to join the industry.

## What is Recognition of Prior Learning?

Through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism, practitioners in the industries may obtain qualifications recognised under HKQF through assessments of the work experience, knowledge and skills they have gained over the years. RPL, as an alternative route to acquire recognised qualifications other than studying, helps practitioners establish their individual starting points for further learning, so as to avoid duplication in training for the same skills. This helps them plan for their own career pathway. As at January 2022, RPL mechanism has been implemented in 18 industries<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Printing & Publishing, Watch & Clock, Catering, Property Management, Electrical & Mechanical Services, Jewellery, Information & Communications Technology, Automotive, Logistics, Banking, Import & Export, Testing, Inspection & Certification, Retail, Insurance, Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals and Plastics), Elderly Care Service, Security Services, Human Resource Management, Beauty & Hairdressing, Fashion, Arboriculture and Horticulture and Travel.

<sup>2</sup> Printing & Publishing, Watch & Clock, Hairdressing, Property Management, Automotive, Jewellery, Logistics, Catering (Chinese Cuisine), Beauty, Retail, Import & Export, Elderly Care Service, Testing, Inspection & Certification, Electrical & Mechanical Services, Manufacturing Technology (Tooling, Metals and Plastics), Information & Communications Technology, Security Services and Fashion.



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Qualifications Framework Secretariat  
Email: [hkqf@edb.gov.hk](mailto:hkqf@edb.gov.hk)

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