



QUALIFICATIONS WALES

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST AND FORWARD LOOK

This document contains the Priority Qualifications List, which is jointly prepared by Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Government. It also contains Qualifications Wales' Forward Look.

The Priority Qualifications List is reviewed regularly by Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Ministers and is updated as necessary to include qualifications for which there are new approval criteria, and/or restrictions imposed (or under consideration for restriction) and to reflect the end of any priority approval periods. Those qualifications whose priority approval period end date has expired will be moved to the unrestricted qualifications with expired priority approval periods section of this document.

The Forward Look is also reviewed regularly by Qualifications Wales to ensure it continues to give awarding bodies notice of possible future priorities. The Forward Look is published within this document appearing below (but not as part of) the Priority Qualifications List.

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST

Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Ministers have prepared the Priority Qualifications List in exercise of their powers under section 13 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 (duty to prepare list of priority qualifications).

Qualifications Wales may approve qualifications that have been designed to meet the needs of learners in Wales. The Priority Qualifications List is a list of the qualifications for which Qualifications Wales has published approval criteria. Under section 18 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, Qualifications Wales must consider any applications for approval of unrestricted qualifications on the Priority Qualifications List from appropriately recognised awarding bodies. The Priority Qualifications List also includes qualifications which are under consideration for restriction, or have been restricted to a limited number of forms. Qualifications on the Priority Qualifications List will only be approved if they meet the published approval criteria. Approved status is not an indicator of the relative importance of a qualification.

Qualifications Wales will consider for approval qualifications that are not on the Priority Qualifications List if there are published approval criteria, however the approval of qualifications that are on the Priority Qualifications List will be of higher priority.



Qualifications Wales may also designate qualifications. Both approved and designated qualifications are provided by recognised awarding bodies and are eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19. Designated qualifications are not necessarily unique to Wales and are usually available to learners in other countries of the UK. Qualifications Wales will work with recognised bodies in relation to applications for the designation of qualifications not on the Priority Qualifications List.

Qualifications Wales has published the [Priority Qualifications List policy](#), which provides more detail of how the Priority Qualifications List is managed.

Qualifications with current priority approval periods

There are currently no unrestricted qualifications with current approval periods.

Following the end of the priority approval period of a qualification in this section of the List, it will be moved to the 'Unrestricted qualifications with priority approval periods that have expired' section. Awarding bodies may still submit applications for approval of qualifications included within the expired section of the List, however, the approval of qualifications with current priority approval periods will be of higher priority.

Qualifications Wales will communicate timescales to awarding bodies upon submission of applications for approval.

Restricted priority qualifications

Qualifications Wales may apply a restriction to limit the number of forms of a qualification that may be approved at any time. This section contains two parts. Part 1 relates to those qualifications where Qualifications Wales has an intention to restrict. Representations in response to the notification to restrict will be considered before any determination to restrict is published. Determinations to restrict are indicated in Part 2.

Part 1 - Intentions to restrict

At present, Qualifications Wales does not propose to restrict any qualifications in addition to those identified in Part 2 below.



Part 2 - Determinations to restrict

On 31 March 2017, Qualifications Wales restricted the following descriptions of qualifications, with effect from 1 September 2019¹. Qualifications Wales has determined that it will approve no more than **one** form of each of these qualifications:

Level 1/2: Introduction to Health, Social Care and Child Care

Level 2: Health and Social Care - Core

Level 2: Children's Care, Learning, Development and Play - Core

Level 2: Health and Social Care - Principles and Contexts (Adults, Children and Young People)

Level 2: Health and Social Care Practice (Adults)

Level 2: Children's Care, Learning and Development – Principles and Contexts

Level 2: Children's Care, Learning, Development and Play – Practice

Level 3: Health and Social Care - Principles, Theories and Contexts (Adults, Children and Young People)

Level 3: Health and Social Care Practice (Adults)

Level 3: Health and Social Care Practice (Children and Young People)

Level 3: Children's Care, Learning, Development and Play – Principles, Theories and Practice

Level 3: Children's Care, Learning and Development – Practice

Level 4: Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care – Principles, Theories and Contexts

Level 4: Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Learning, Development and Play – Principles, Theories and Contexts

Level 4: Health and Social Care with specialist pathways

Level 4: Children's Care, Learning, Development and play with specialist pathway

Level 5: Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care – Practice

¹ [The Determination to restrict can be found on the Qualifications Wales website.](#)



Level 5: Leadership and Management of Children’s Care, Learning, Development and Play – Practice



Unrestricted qualifications with priority approval periods that have expired

The priority approval periods for the following unrestricted qualifications have expired. These qualifications continue to have current approval criteria and may be considered for approval.

GCSEs

Geography
French
German
Spanish
Music
Science suite
Drama
Physical Education
History
Food and Nutrition
Religious Studies
Art and Design
Business
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Media Studies
Welsh Second Language

GCE AS and A levels

Welsh (second language)
Drama
Music
Physical Education
Geography
French
German
Spanish
Religious Studies
Design and Technology
Further Mathematics
Government and Politics
Law
Mathematics
Media Studies

The qualifications listed on the Priority Qualifications List were jointly agreed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Qualifications Wales and published on 8 November 2016.

This version of the Priority Qualifications List has been updated in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Priority Qualifications List Policy and was published on 21 July 2017.



FORWARD LOOK

The Forward Look describes the qualifications that Qualifications Wales is considering for inclusion on the Priority Qualifications List in the future. The Forward Look enables Qualifications Wales to give awarding bodies notice of future priorities and to enable the development of appropriate approval criteria by Qualifications Wales.

The inclusion of qualifications or descriptions of qualifications in the Forward Look is not a guarantee that they will be included in a future Priority Qualifications List. Similarly, a qualification or description of qualification may be included in a future Priority Qualifications List without first appearing on the Forward Look.

The regulation of vocational qualifications is an important element of Qualifications Wales' work. In order to make the regulation of vocational qualifications more manageable and effective, we are adopting a sectoral approach to the review of qualifications. The next sectors to be reviewed are Construction and the Built Environment and Information and Communications Technology. One of the outcomes of these reviews may be the inclusion of Construction and the Built Environment and/or Information and Communications Technology qualifications on the Priority Qualifications List in the future.