

Regulatory Document

Special Conditions of Recognition

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Application

These Special Conditions to which an awarding body's recognition are subject, are imposed under Schedule 3, Section 4 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 ('the Act').

These Special Conditions will come into effect on the date on which any one or more of the qualifications listed below is Approved by Qualifications Wales in accordance with Part 4 of the Act.

SPCQFF1:

An awarding body must make **all** Relevant GCSE qualifications available to Learners, in accordance with relevant Approval Criteria and any other requirements which Qualifications Wales has communicated to it in writing under this Condition.

SPCQFF2:

For the purposes of Condition SPCQFF1, the Relevant GCSE qualifications are as follows¹:

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE British Sign Language
- GCSE Built Environment
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Core Cymraeg
- GCSE Cymraeg Language and Literature (Single Award)
- GCSE Cymraeg Language and Literature (Double Award)
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Design and Technology
- GCSE Digital Media and Film
- GCSE Digital Technology
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Engineering
- GCSE English Language and Literature (Single Award)
- GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award)

¹ This list may be subject to change. Such changes may include variation in the number of forms of the GCSE qualifications listed. The titles of these GCSE qualifications may also be subject to change as part of the development and Approval process.

- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Single Award)
- GCSE History
- GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Physical Education and Health
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE The Sciences (Single Award)
- GCSE The Sciences (Double Award)
- GCSE Social Studies
- GCSE Spanish

SPCQFF3:

An awarding body must not change the status of, or withdraw any of the Relevant GCSE qualifications, until:

- (a) the Approval Period in respect of the qualification has expired, or
- (b) it has obtained explicit written permission from Qualifications Wales to change the status of, or withdraw any of the Relevant GCSE qualifications, and it does so in a way that complies with Condition D6 of the Standard Conditions of Recognition, or
- (c) such date as is specified in a notice published by Qualifications Wales for the purposes of this Condition;

whichever is earliest.

SPCQFF4:

Any such notice published by Qualifications Wales under Condition SPCQFF3 may –

- (a) be issued in respect of one or more of the Relevant GCSE qualifications;

- (b) be varied or withdrawn by Qualifications Wales at any time prior to the date specified in or determined under it, and
- (c) contain any transitional and saving provisions that Qualifications Wales considers appropriate.

SPCQFF5:

An awarding body must comply with the requirements of any transitional and saving provisions contained in a notice published by Qualifications Wales under Condition SPCQFF3.

Interpretation and definitions

SPCQFF6:

Unless alternative provision has been made in Conditions SPCQFF1-5, the following shall apply –

- (a) the rules of interpretation and definitions outlined in Standard Condition J1;
- (b) the definitions outlined in the Qualification Level Conditions.

SPCQFF7:

Except in the circumstances described in Condition SPCQFF6, the requirements imposed by these Special Conditions apply in addition to the requirements imposed by the Standard Conditions of Recognition, Qualification Level Conditions, and any relevant Approval Criteria or Regulatory Document.

SPCQFF8:

To the extent that there is any inconsistency between –

- (a) the requirements imposed by these Special Conditions, and
- (b) a requirement of a Standard Condition of Recognition, a Qualification Level Condition, and any relevant Approval Criteria or Regulatory Document,

such that an awarding body could not comply with both such requirements, an awarding body must comply with the requirements of these Special Conditions and is not obliged to comply with the requirement of the relevant Standard Condition of Recognition, Qualification Level Condition, Approval Criteria, or other Regulatory Document.

An awarding body should inform Qualification Wales as soon as practicable if there is a need to rely on this Condition.

SPCQFF9:

In these Conditions the following words shall have the meaning given to them below (and cognate expressions should be construed accordingly) –

Approval Period - The time between the Designation/Approval Start Date and the Typical Designation/Approval Final Start Date, as specified on QiW.

However, for the purposes of Learners who commenced a qualification during the Approval Period (as defined above) the qualification is deemed to be Approved until the Designation/Approval Certification End Date.

Qualification Level Conditions – Qualification Level Conditions which have been published by Qualifications Wales in accordance with Schedule 3, Paragraph 2 (3)(b) of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015.