

Awarding Bodies/Organisations for Courses explained

ABC Awards, City and Guilds, ITEC, are all awarding bodies - organisations. They are government recognised and have the ability to provide nationally and internationally recognised qualifications.

The course will have a level e.g. level 3, which demonstrates the depth of the qualification. They will also have 'credits' (hence QCF – Qualifications and *Credit* Framework) and this shows how much learning is involved to achieve the qualification. This procedure was developed for a number of important reasons:

- It allows employers such as the NHS and clients to clearly understand both the level of training and the volume of study carried out. If you study a course without a level and credits, this is especially tricky if you trying to demonstrate to potential employers the level and depth of the qualification that you hold.
- Membership bodies will understand the level and depth of training you have studied and be able to make an informed judgment whether to allow you to have the opportunity to become a full member. You can have your pick of complementary therapy membership bodies and not only be assigned to one membership body related to the course provider.
- Insurance companies again will understand the level and depth of your training and this will enable you to access competitive quotes.
- Graduates can use the credits against future qualifications and it makes it easier to transfer credits between different learning programmes. For example, if you would like to go to university, these credits can be used towards part of your degree or can be used as entry requirements.
- Courses can be recognised internationally as most countries follow a similar framework.
- Graduates will be given formal recognition of their work and you will study a nationally recognised qualification.

- The awarding bodies moderate training providers, which ensures both the public and the students that standards are being met and the information given is accurate.
- **The European Qualifications Framework (EQF)** compares the level of qualifications across Europe making it easier to understand their value. This is useful if you need to explain your qualifications to others, or to understand qualifications awarded in other European countries.

See Ofqual website for more information on how the Credits work.

www.ofqual.gov.uk/qualifications-and-assessments/qualification-frameworks/

Ofqual :

“It’s our job to maintain standards and confidence in qualifications. We look after GCSEs and A levels in England, and a wide range of vocational qualifications both in England and Northern Ireland. We also regulate the National Curriculum Assessments in England.

We are independent of Government ministers and we report directly to Parliament in Westminster and the Northern Ireland Assembly. While we are independent, we give advice to Government on qualifications and assessment based on our research into these areas.

We regulate by recognising and monitoring organisations that deliver qualifications and assessments as set out in the [Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act \(2009\)](#) and [Education Act \(2011\)](#).”