



‘Qualifying a Skilled and Capable Workforce’

OVERVIEW

I About the QCTO

Established under the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No. 97 of 1998, as amended), the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) is the national governing body for the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF). The QCTO plays a critical role in ensuring the quality and relevance of occupational qualifications, and in this way supports the development of a skilled and capable workforce to meet the evolving needs of the nation's economy.

The QCTO is managing a gradual shift from historically registered (legacy) qualifications, many of which date back to the 1990s, to modern occupational programmes that better meet current industry needs. As outlined in Government Gazette No. 50742, most older qualifications expired as of June 2023, with final enrolments and completions scheduled for 2027 and 2029, depending on the specific qualification. While the QCTO has granted limited extensions to ensure fairness and allow learners to complete their studies, the council remains committed to its strategic direction. The future of training in South Africa is occupational, and while no learner will be left behind, outdated qualifications must be phased out to make way for programmes that add real value.



QCTO VISION, MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENTS



Vision

The QCTO vision is to qualify a skilled and capable workforce.



Mission

The QCTO mission is to effectively and efficiently manage the OQSF in order to set standards for, develop and quality assure national occupational qualifications, part-qualifications and skills programmes for all who want a trade or occupation and, where appropriate, professions.



Values

Innovation and Excellence

We rise to opportunities and challenges, we continuously learn, we are innovative, and we consistently produce work of distinction and fine quality, on time and in line with our clients' needs.

Empowerment and Recognition

We enable people to make things happen, we encourage and support one another when and where needed, and we celebrate successful accomplishment of work.

Respect and Dignity

We value and show consideration for all the people we work with, treat one another with kindness and thoughtfulness, and embrace inclusivity.

Ethics and Integrity

We embrace and practise a moral code of trustworthiness, honesty and truthfulness in everything we say and do, and we honour our promises and commitments.

Ownership and Accountability

We take ownership of our responsibilities and we answer for our decisions and actions.

Authenticity

We protect the public by issuing authentic, quality qualifications.

5 QCTO Services

In summary, the QCTO is responsible for the following:



Establishment and management of the QQSF



Development and maintenance of occupational qualifications



Accreditation of Skills Development Providers (SDPs)



Accreditation of assessment centres



Assessment



Certification



Research and knowledge development




Stakeholder management and advocacy

6 The OQSF Explained

The Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) is a component of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The OQSF focuses on occupational qualifications, skills development, and vocational training related to trades and occupations. It offers a comprehensive range of qualifications (Levels 1–8) aligned with industry needs and career paths. Through partnerships with Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), the QCTO ensures these qualifications reflect the latest industry demands.

The OQSF aims to facilitate the development and registration of quality-assured occupational qualifications, part-qualifications and skills programmes.

NQF Sub-Framework/ Quality Council	NQF Level	NQF Sub-Framework and Qualification Type		NQF Sub-Framework/ Quality Council
Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF/ Council on Higher Education (CHE))	10	Doctoral Degree		Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF/ Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO))
	9	Master's Degree		
	8	Bachelor Honours Degree		
	7	Post Graduate Diploma		
	6	Bachelor's Degree	Specialised Occupational Diploma	
	5	Advanced Diploma	Advanced Occupational Diploma	
General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF/ Umalusi)	4	Diploma	Occupational Diploma	
	3	Advanced Certificate	Advanced Occupational Certificate	
	2	Higher Certificate	Higher Occupational Certificate	
	1	National Certificate	National Occupational Certificate	
	4	Intermediate Certificate	Intermediate Occupational certificate	
	3	Elementary Certificate	Elementary Occupational Certificate	
	2	General Certificate	General Occupational Certificate	
	1			

Industry Collaboration through Quality Partners

The QCTO fosters a collaborative approach by working closely with its Quality Partners (QPs), such as the SETAs. This allows industry stakeholders to participate actively in shaping the OQSF and to guarantee that qualifications accurately reflect the knowledge, skills and competencies needed in their respective sectors. This collaboration empowers industries to play a direct role in building a skilled and capable workforce.

QCTO Qualification Types

Recognising the ever-changing job market, the QCTO offers various qualification types to cater to diverse learning needs. Our qualifications equip learners, professionals, workers, the unemployed, and those not in education, employment or training (NEET) with relevant and transferable skills. We offer the following qualification types:



Occupational Qualification: A qualification associated with a trade, occupation or profession resulting from work-based learning; such a qualification is registered on the NQF



Part Qualification: An assessed unit of learning with a defined outcome that is registered as part of a qualification on the NQF

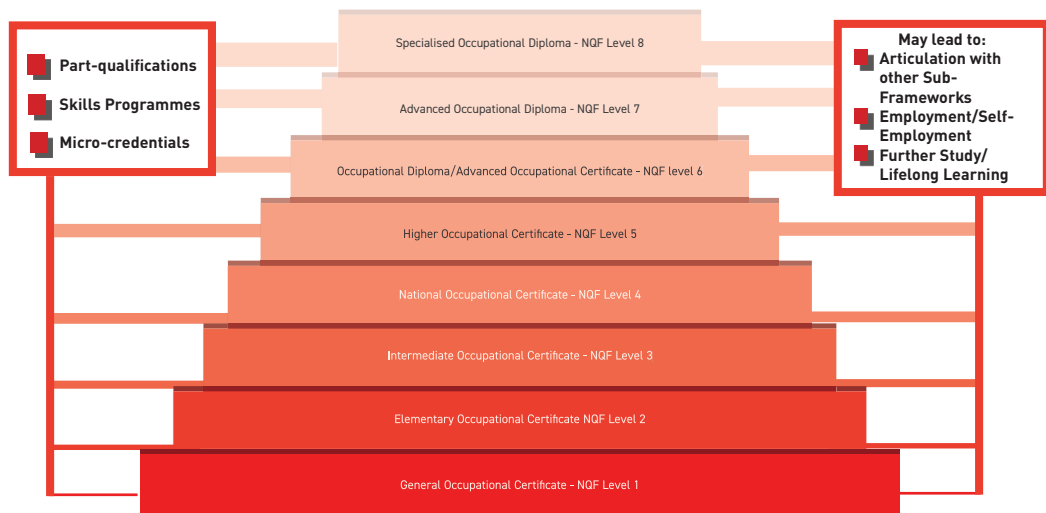


Skills Programme: An occupationally based learning programme that when completed will constitute or contribute credit/s towards a qualification or part qualification registered on the NQF



Trade Qualification: An artisan certification for skilled trades

PROMOTING ACCESS TO, AND SUCCESS IN, POST SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE WORLD OF WORK



OQSF - The Game Changer

9 Benefits of QCTO Qualifications

Benefits of the QCTO qualifications are that they promote lifelong learning and increase the employability of learners. We are committed to creating an environment that cultivates a skilled and capable workforce. OQSF qualifications prepare learners for the future of work by equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge. These qualifications are responsive to technological advances and emerging industry trends, which ensures that graduates possess the competencies required for success.

The QCTO qualifications cater to a broad range of learners.

These include:

- Existing professionals seeking to enhance their skillsets
- Unemployed individuals seeking to re-enter the workforce
- Individuals seeking initial occupational qualifications



By providing learners with portable and relevant competencies, the OQSF fosters lifelong employability and contributes to a more skilled workforce. Ultimately, a skilled workforce fuels economic growth and contributes to a brighter future for individuals and the country as a whole.

10 Who Can Be Accredited by the QCTO?

Any Skills Development Provider (SDP) that offers training under the QQSF must seek accreditation from the QCTO. The QCTO implements the accreditation process in partnership with its QPs, as outlined in signed service-level agreements. QPs include SETAs, the National Artisan Moderation Body (NAMB) and professional bodies.

The QCTO accredits SDPs for:

- Occupational qualifications
- Occupational part- qualifications
- Occupational skills programmes
- NATED 190/191 (N4-N6)



For details on the accreditation process and forms, visit the QCTO website: <https://www.qcto.org.za/>.

11 Is There Funding to Study for QCTO Qualifications?

Yes. Funding is available through various mechanisms, including those associated with the National Skills Fund. Funding mechanisms include:



SETA-awarded funding through learnership grants



Employer-sponsored funding mechanisms for internal employees



Self-funding



Bursaries available from various industries

12 How Can I Verify if an SDP is Accredited with the QCTO?

Information on the accreditation status of SDPs is available on the QCTO website. It is important to note that the QCTO is not the only accreditation body. Other organisations, such as Umalusi, the Council on Higher Education (CHE), SETAs and professional bodies, also accredit educational programmes or qualifications. However, all qualifications (full and part, or pre-2009) should be registered on the NQF.

13 Where Can I Study QCTO Qualifications?

QCTO qualifications offer a wide range of learning opportunities through a network of accredited SDPs across South Africa. Here are some of the places you can find them:



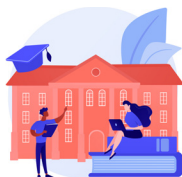
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges: Public institutions offering career-focused programmes aligned with QCTO qualifications



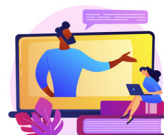
Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs): Industry-specific organisations that may offer learnerships incorporating QCTO qualifications



Private Providers: Registered institutions delivering QCTO-accredited training programmes



Private Colleges: Institutions offering various learning pathways, including QCTO qualifications



Industry Training: Companies that may provide in-house training programmes aligned with QCTO qualifications

Important Note:

It is always recommended that you verify whether a specific provider is accredited to offer the QCTO qualification you're interested in. You can do this by contacting the QCTO directly or checking the website:

<https://www.qcto.org.za/>.



Contact Information:

QCTO

256 Glyn Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0083, South Africa

012 003 1800 | info@qcto.org.za | www.qcto.org.za

Connect with Us:

 QCTOPage

 QCTOLive

 QCTO

 QCTOTV

 QCTO