

CHANGES WITH OFQUAL REGULATED QUALIFICATIONS

Ofqual has changed the way Awarding Organisations describe the size of a regulated qualification and between now and December 2017 all regulated qualifications must have the following identified:

- Total Qualification Time (TQT)
- Guided Learning (GL) – formerly known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Definitions (as provided by OFQUAL, General Conditions of Recognition, June 2016):

Guided Learning (GL)

The activity of a Learner in being taught or instructed by – or otherwise participating in education or training under the Immediate Guidance or Supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

For these purposes the activity of ‘participating in education or training’ shall be treated as including the activity of being assessed if the assessment takes place under the Immediate Guidance or Supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Immediate Guidance or Supervision

The guidance or supervision provided to a Learner by a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training:

- (a) with the simultaneous physical presence of the Learner and that person,
or
- (b) remotely by means of simultaneous electronic communication.

For these purposes, the activity of Invigilation is to be regarded as a form of guidance or supervision.

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

The number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required, in order for a Learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.

Total Qualification Time is comprised of the following two elements:

- (a) the number of hours which an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning **(GL/GLH)**
and
- (b) an estimate of the number of hours a Learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but not under the Immediate Guidance or Supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training **(OL)**

Other Learning (OL)

An estimate of the number of hours a Learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but not under the Immediate Guidance or Supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

What this means for NOCN

Like all Awarding Organisations, NOCN will be contacting centres who are actively delivering our qualifications to request information on the amount of time it takes Learners to complete a qualification.

To achieve this, we will use a form that has been developed to allow centres to indicate, for each qualification and unit within it, how much Guided Learning and Other Learning takes place to enable a Learner to complete the qualification.

External Quality Assurance Activities – NOCN External Quality Assurers (EQAs) will monitor centre attendance records to check Guided Learning for qualifications. This information will be used during qualification reviews.

What this means for Centres

All centres will be contacted by the Awarding Organisations they currently work with to request information that will be used to calculate the Guided Learning (GL) and Total Qualification Time (TQT) for regulated qualifications they currently offer. Each Awarding Organisation will probably use a different form and manage the process differently.

At NOCN, we feel it important that all our centres are given the opportunity to contribute to this process and that all these contributions should be taken into consideration when establishing the GL and TQT.

How TQT will be used

After NOCN has collected the information from centres, we will set the TQT and GL based on the average of the information provided by the centres. The TQT will then be used to set the Credit Value of a qualification.

As a result of this process there is the possibility that the size of the qualification and the Credit Value (CV) will change.

Below is an example:

Information collected from centres for a qualification shows that:

- The average Guided Learning is 12 hours
- The average for Other Learning is 15 hours
- The total time for the above is 27 hours, therefore the Total Qualification Time is 27 hours
- The Total Qualification Time is divided by 10 to calculate the Credit Value (2.7)
- Credit Values have to be whole numbers so this is rounded up to 3

The Impact of Size and Credit Value Reduction on Funding

In most instances, the funding level for qualification is set based on the size (GL) and level of a qualification.

For more details on the impact of changes in size on funding values refer to the relevant funding guides/rules available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfa-funding-rules>

Timescales

The TQT has to be set for all regulated qualifications by December 2017. NOCN will be contacting you over the next twelve months to collect the information, we will ensure centres have at least one month to collect the information from their Tutors.

Qualification Titles/Amendments

After the consultation process has been completed, NOCN will amend the qualification title to remove QCF and, if appropriate, amend the GL, TQT and Credit Value for the qualification on the Portal (OFQUAL register).

NOCN will use our bulletins to keep you aware of changes to qualifications, therefore it is important to ensure you have the correct centre contact information recorded on Quartzweb.

If you have any questions or require any further clarification on the content of this document, please email QualSupport@nocn.org.uk