



香港學術及職業資歷評審局  
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of  
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

# Guidance Notes on Upload of Records by Self-Accrediting Operators on QR

Version : September 2022

## Table of Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	
Section 1 Introduction	1
Section 2 Upload of Quality Assured Learning Programmes on QR	2
Section 3 Restriction on RVP and Requirements on Presenting QR Data by the Education Bureau	4
Section 4 Upload of Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) Arrangements on QR	5
Section 5 Upload of Collaborative Programmes in Collaboration with Local / Non Local Non-Self Accrediting Operators on QR	7
Section 6 Types of Action Codes on QR	8
Section 7 Change in Operator / Agency Reference Code	9
Section 8 Change in Title of a Learning Programme or Qualification	9
Section 9 Change in QF Level of a Learning Programme	10
Section 10 Change in SCS-based or SGC-based Status	10
Section 11 Change from a Non-Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP) Course to a VQP Course	11
Section 12 Upload of Learning Programmes on the QR with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Arrangement	12
Section 13 Requirement on Indication of Industry and Branch	12
Section 14 Upload of Learning Programmes on the QR with Third Party Approval	13
Section 15 Upload of Programmes with Partial Delivery outside HK on the QR	14

### List of Proformas / Summary Templates\*

- (1) Checklist on the Key Features for New Quality Assured Learning Programmes on the QR by Self-Accrediting Operators (*New Programme Checklist*)
- (2) Checklist for New or Existing Learning Programmes with Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) Arrangement on the QR by Self-Accrediting Operators (*CAT Arrangement Checklist*)
- (3) Declaration Statement for the Upload of Collaborative Programmes on the QR by the Self-accrediting Operators (*Declaration Statement*)
- (4) QR – Summary Template for Code Change (*Code Change Template*)
- (5) QR – Summary Template for Title Change (*Title Change Template*)
- (6) QR – Summary Template for SGC SCS-based courses (*SGC / SCS Status*)

*Change Template)*

- (7) Checklist on the Key Features of New Programme with Partial Delivery outside HK on the QR by Self-Accrediting Operators (*Programme with Partial Delivery outside HK Checklist*)

*\*Note: These proformas / summary templates could be retrieved from the Operator Interface of the QR system.*

All correspondences should be addressed to Head and Registrar, QFQR, HKCAAVQ.

## Executive Summary

Under Schedule 2 of the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap. 592), self-accrediting operators in Hong Kong include:

- City University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong Baptist University
- Hong Kong Metropolitan University
- Lingnan University
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The Education University of Hong Kong
- The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- The University of Hong Kong

Self-accrediting operators can upload the learning programmes onto the QR upon completion of its internal QA process and subject to QR vetting. To ensure accuracy and consistency of information on the QR, HKCAAVQ conducts vetting of the QR records uploaded by self-accrediting operators, making reference to the information accessed through the “programme / qualification information (web-link)” and / or relevant checklists pertinent to the programme / qualification.

This set of Guidance Notes is to provide up-to-date information about the various issues arising from the different natures of a qualification in uploading onto the QR. Self-accrediting operators need to pay attention to and take necessary action in response to the advice given in the Notes. In case of questions, operators may contact the QFQR unit of HKCAAVQ for clarification.

## Section 1

### Introduction

*HKCAAVQ conducts vetting of the QR records uploaded by self-accrediting operators<sup>1</sup> making reference to information accessed through the “programme / qualification information (web-link)” and / or through the CAT web-link for vetting of CAT arrangements (i.e. CAT (Programme) [CAT (P)], CAT (Recognition of Prior Learning Qualifications) [CAT (R)], or CAT (Institutional) [CAT(I)]) for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) where applicable. Therefore it is essential that operators provide all the required information to HKCAAVQ either through the web-link(s) or in a format that is readily accessible if the programme / CAT websites are still under construction at the time of upload.*

1.1 This set of Guidance Notes sets out advice on the approaches to uploading various types of QR records under specific circumstances including the following:

- (a) Uploading quality assured learning programmes on the QR;
- (b) Uploading learning programmes / qualifications on the QR with Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) arrangements [i.e. CAT (P), CAT (R) or CAT (I) ] in place;
- (c) Collaborative programmes in collaboration with local / non-local non-self accrediting operators on the QR;
- (d) Making changes to published QR records, including change in the CAT information on the QR;
- (e) Learning programmes in compliance with the Award Titles Scheme (ATS) and Use of QF Credit (Credit) under the QF implemented by the Education Bureau (EDB); and
- (f) Uploading learning programmes / qualifications of particular natures [i.e. with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) arrangement, with third party approval, or meeting the definition of Online Learning Programme (OLP)] on the QR.

1.2 To facilitate the timely listing of qualifications and changes on the QR, four

proformas and three templates are available to be used by the self-accrediting operators. These will serve as a vetting reference and inform HKCAAVQ of the status of both new and existing QR records before the records are being uploaded on the QR. The information in the proformas / templates shall be provided to and agreed by HKCAAVQ before the relevant learning programmes / qualifications and changes are uploaded on the QR.

## Section 2

### Upload of Quality Assured Learning Programmes on QR

- 2.1 Qualifications that may be entered into the QR are described in Schedule 3 of the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO) (Cap. 592). In this legal context, qualifications awarded by a self-accrediting operator may be entered into the QR after they have been quality assured by the institution concerned.
- 2.2 Effective from 1 November 2016 and consequent upon the cessation of QR endorsement role of Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC), Self-Financed Sub-Degree Programme Units (SSPUs) are to exercise the rights of direct QR registration of their self-financing sub-degree (SFSD) programmes in the same way as their respective self-accrediting parent institutions listed under Schedule 2 of the AAVQO (Cap. 592).
- 2.3 A proforma “Checklist on the Key Features for New Quality Assured Learning Programmes on the QR by Self-Accrediting Operators” (*New Programme Checklist*) is available to be used by self-accrediting operators to assure HKCAAVQ of the status of the quality assured learning programmes. This applies to new learning programmes uploaded on the QR for the first time and excluding all validity period extensions to existing learning programmes.
- 2.4 Key features of quality assured learning programmes include the following:
  - (a) The learning programme should carry an award (i.e. a qualification) as a formal recognition of the completion of the learning programme;
  - (b) The learning programme should include formal assessment(s) to ascertain that the learners have achieved the specified outcomes of the learning

programme;

- (c) The learning programme should be level-rated in accordance with the Generic Level Descriptors of the Qualifications Framework (QF);
- (d) The learning programme should carry its award title in accordance with the ATS under the QF (please find details of the ATS in the QF website [www.hkqf.gov.hk](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk));
- (e) The learning programme should indicate its QF credit size (please find details of the QF Credit in the QF website [www.hkqf.gov.hk](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk));
- (f) The learning programme should be accessible to learners of Hong Kong; and
- (g) The learning programme has Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) <sup>2</sup> arrangements [i.e. CAT (Institutional), CAT (Programme) or CAT (Recognition of Prior Learning Qualifications)] in place.

2.5 As a general rule, a programme registered on the QR should have the majority parts of the programme delivered in Hong Kong and the assessment of the learning programme conducted in Hong Kong. This general rule should be adhered to as far as possible.

### ***Implementation of QF Credit on QR***

2.6 All learning programmes at QF Levels 1 to 4 have been assigned QF credit on QR since 1 January 2016. For learning programmes at QF Levels 5 to 7, the indication of QF credit is voluntary for self-accrediting operators. For programmes without indication of QF credit, a remark indicating a range of QF credit will be displayed for the following two types of programmes from 1 September 2020 onwards:

- (a) Full-time, four-year bachelor's degree programmes (Range of QF credit: 480 – 600)
- (b) Full-time, one-year taught master's degree programmes (Range of QF credit: 95 – 150)

## Section 3

### Restriction on RVP and Requirements on Presenting QR Data by the Education Bureau

#### ***Restriction on Retrospective Changes on Registration Validity Period on QR***

3.1 Requests for retrospective changes of the start date / end date of the Registration Validity Period (RVP) on the QR from all self-accrediting operators should normally be rejected, i.e.:

- (a) Request for changes to the start date of a QR record with RVP not yet expired but with the original start date in the past;
- (b) Request for changes to the start date of a QR record with RVP already expired; and
- (c) Request for changes to the end date of a QR record with RVP already expired.

This is to safeguard the integrity of the QR. That is: No retrospective changes in the RVP will be allowed on the QR, unless a request is supported by sound rationales, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is also important to note that such requests should be rare.

#### ***Registration Validity Period Start Date of Local Learning Programmes***

3.2 Self-accrediting operators are advised to upload their local learning programmes onto the QR in a timely manner after the respective internal quality assurance process. As QR is a real-time public online database containing all the quality assured qualifications recognised under the QF, accuracy and consistency of information searchable and displayed on the QR is therefore one of the most fundamental and essential qualities of this web-based application system. Uploading of qualifications with back-dated RVP start date would also incur additional resources on vetting and settlement of hosting fees, it should therefore be avoided and / or minimised as far as practicable.



### ***Requirement on Presenting Different Delivery / Funding Modes of the Same Learning Programme in One QR Record***

- 3.3 Different delivery / funding modes of the same learning programme are to be presented in one QR record. If a QR record has already covered the full-time and part-time delivery modes of a learning programme, duplicated QR records to be uploaded for the same delivery modes should normally be rejected.
- 3.4 For duplicated QR records listed before 1 July 2017, they may continue to be listed on the QR until expiry of respective registration validity period. Yet, further renewal of these records is not allowed. The differences in delivery / funding modes should be clearly stated in the Special Notes of relevant QR records such that the public can differentiate between the duplicated records and make an informed choice in choosing a learning programme that suits an individual's need.

### ***Upload of Qualifications with the Same Titles of Learning Programmes or Qualifications***

- 3.5 For greater clarity of information presented on the QR, operators are encouraged to state in the Special Notes the relationship of the same group of QR records with the same programme and/or qualification titles but of different programme structures.

## **Section 4**

### **Upload of Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) Arrangements on QR**

- 4.1 On a voluntary basis, the self-accrediting operator is to inform the QFQR by indicating on the "Checklist for New or Existing Learning Programmes with Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) arrangement on the QR by Self-Accrediting Operators" (*CAT Arrangement Checklist*) that the new or existing learning programme has in place CAT arrangements that are CAT (I)<sup>3</sup>, CAT (P)<sup>3</sup> or CAT (R)<sup>3</sup>, and provide a web-link from the institution's website containing relevant details applicable or specific to that learning programme. General CAT information, Specific CAT information, and the Credit Transfer Arrangement Details are required to provide where

applicable.

4.2 To ensure the accuracy and consistency of the data provided, the display of CAT information and Credit Transfer Arrangements on the QR are to operate on the following overarching working principles and processes:

- (a) CAT data are additional information under each QR record;
- (b) CAT data on the QR are inter-related and an integral part of the quality assurance process of the respective self-accrediting institution (the participation in the indication of CAT on the QR is voluntary);
- (c) Only information from the receiving institutions is to be used for QR listing including that related to Credit Transfer Arrangements / Agreements;
- (d) The receiving institution is to ensure that all sending qualifications have been quality assured under the quality assurance arrangements of the receiving institution and are being QF-recognised.
- (e) CAT data can include other forms of learning (e.g. Informal Learning / Non-formal Learning) by including CAT arrangements for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) qualifications as sending qualifications;
- (f) Like the other data provided by operators on the QR, it should be the onus of the operators to keep the CAT data accurate and current; and
- (g) The updating of the CAT data is to be performed by self-accrediting operators on an annual and needs basis, subject to QR vetting.

4.3 The indication of CAT arrangements on the QR applies to both new and existing learning programmes. HKCAAVQ enhances the implementation measures of the indication of CAT information on the QR, as follows.

***Indication of CAT (P) / CAT (R) Arrangements with Sending Qualifications on QR from Receiving Programmes***

4.4 Only information from the receiving institutions is to be used for QR listing including that related to Credit Transfer Arrangement;

4.5 Upon the launch of the CAT centralised database on QR in October 2018, new or existing learning programmes with CAT indication will need to complete the *CAT Arrangement Checklist*. For learning programmes with indication of CAT (I), CAT(P) or CAT(R), the following information has to be provided:

- (a) Type of Credit Accumulation and Transfer;
- (b) CAT Info (web link for CAT) ;
- (c) General CAT Information (either English or Chinese); and
- (d) Specific CAT information (either English or Chinese).

where (d) is an optional field.

4.6 For receiving programmes with indication of CAT (P) and/or CAT (R), in addition to the above fields in 4.5, more information about the **Credit Transfer Arrangement of Sending Qualification / Institution** is required to be provided. This part contains the basic CAT information of the QR registered sending qualifications for each receiving programme, showing the Credit Transfer Arrangement information from the sending qualifications to the receiving programmes. Each receiving programme can indicate a maximum of 150 sending qualifications. The information of sending qualification(s) to be provided by the receiving institution includes:

- (a) Types of Credit Accumulation and Transfer;
  - (b) QR Registration Number of the Sending Qualification;
  - (c) Within Institution;
  - (d) Maximum Percentage of Transfer; and
  - (e) Types of Courses Eligible for Credit Transfer (either English or Chinese),
- where (d) and (e) are optional fields.

4.7 Any changes (i.e. addition, amendment, deletion) to CAT information made to an existing programme with CAT arrangement are required by using the *CAT Arrangement Checklist*. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes for QR Data Requirement (Applicable to Learning Programme-based Qualifications) for each field in 4.5 and 4.6.

## Section 5

### Upload of Collaborative Programmes in Collaboration with Local/ Non Local Non-Self Accrediting Operators on QR

- 5.1 The self-accrediting operator is to provide the following information about collaborative programmes in collaboration with local / non-local non-self accrediting operators, by using the proforma “Declaration Statement for the Upload of Collaborative Programmes on the QR by the Self-accrediting Operators” (*Declaration Statement*):
- (a) The nature of collaboration of the associated learning programme with the local / non-local non-self accrediting operator;
  - (b) The institution responsible for conducting the quality assurance of the associated learning programme; and
  - (c) The granting body of the qualification.

## Section 6

### Types of Action Codes on QR

- 6.1 The use of action codes (e.g. A, C, T, E and D) in the QR Upload Excel Template (provided by HKCAAVQ) is to inform the system of the intended purpose of the uploaded / submitted QR entry (i.e. to add a new entry, change, erase or discontinue an existing entry). The five action codes used for the uploading / updating of QR records are:
- (a) “**A**” is the action code to upload a new QR record or CAT information.
  - (b) “**C**” is the action code to modify the content (other than the Operator/ Agency Reference Code) of a published QR record, e.g. registration validity period, keywords, and special notes, etc. In addition, “**C**” action code is used to modify content in the two CAT information spreadsheets, e.g. addition of and/or change in CAT web-link, CAT information, and/or Credit Transfer Arrangement, etc.
  - (c) “**T**” is the action code to modify the “Operator / Agency Reference Code” of a published QR record only.

- (d) “**E**” is the action code to erase the CAT information contained in the two CAT information spreadsheets “Published QR CAT info” or “Published QR Credit Transfer Arrangement” only.
- (e) “**D**” is the action code to abridge the registration validity period of a published QR record only where no other change will be allowed.

## Section 7

### Change in Operator / Agency Reference Code on QR

7.1 For a change in reference code, please follow the process below:

- (a) The Operator / Agency Reference Code has to be unique within each intended action in the uploaded / submitted QR entry (i.e. to add a new entry, change or discontinue an existing entry). For each reference code, the system allows only a single occurrence under an operator, and the attempt to create a QR entry with a duplicated reference code will be blocked.
- (b) To facilitate the vetting process by the QFQR, operators are requested to provide details of the code change by using the summary template “QR - Summary Template for Code Change” (*Code Change Template*).
- (c) Operators can amend the Operator / Agency Reference Code of a published record, using the Interactive Mode of the QR system or the QR Upload Excel Template.

## Section 8

### Change in Title of a Learning Programme or Qualification

8.1 For a change in title, please follow the process below:

- (a) Except for error correction or minor updating, the learning programme / qualification bearing the new title shall be uploaded as a new record on the QR.
- (b) To make a title change, the validity period of the old record on the QR shall

be abridged. The qualification with the revised title shall then be assigned a new Operator / Agency Reference Code and be uploaded as a new record onto the QR. The validity period end date of the abridged record shall be one day prior to the start date of the new record. This ensures the continuity of the QF-recognition status of the learning programme / qualification.

- (c) Special Notes briefly stating the title change and the effective date shall be included on both the old and the newly uploaded records. A new QR Registration Number will be automatically generated by the QR system to the new record for identification.
- (d) Operators are requested to provide details of the title change by using the summary template “QR – Summary Template for Title Change” (*Title Change Template*) as the basis for vetting by the QFQR.

## **Section 9**

### **Change in QF Level of a Learning Programme**

9.1 For a change in the QF Level, please follow the process below:

- (a) For learning programmes / qualifications that require a change in the QF level, the old record on the QR will be abridged. The qualification with the revised QF level and new Operator / Agency Reference Code will then be uploaded as a new record onto the QR. The validity period end date of the abridged record shall be one day prior to the start date of the new record. This ensures the continuity of learning programme / qualification recognition status under the QF.
- (b) Special Notes briefly stating the QF level change and the effective date shall be included on both the old and the newly uploaded records. A new QR Registration Number will be automatically generated by the QR system to the new record for identification.

## **Section 10**

### **Change in SCS-based or SGC-based <sup>4</sup> Status**

10.1 For a change in Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based or the Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies (SGC)-based <sup>4</sup> Status of a learning programme, please follow the process below:

- (a) For learning programmes that require a change in the SCS-based or SGC-based status (e.g. from Non-SCS based to SCS-based, or from Non-SGC based to SGC-based), the old record on the QR will be abridged. The qualification with the revised status and new Operator / Agency Reference Code will then be uploaded as a new record onto the QR. The validity period end date of the abridged record shall be one day prior to the start date of the new record. This ensures the continuity of learning programme / qualification recognition status under the QF.
- (b) Special Notes briefly stating the change in SCS-based / SGC-based status and the effective date shall be included on both the old and the newly uploaded records. A new QR Registration Number will be automatically generated by the QR system to the new record for identification.
- (c) As the basis for vetting by the QFQR, operators are requested to provide details of the change in the SCS-based / SGC-based status by using the summary template “QR - Summary Template for SGC SCS-based courses” (*SGC / SCS Status Change Template*).

### ***Requirements on Indication of UoC Table for SCS-based / SGC-based Courses on the QR***

10.2 Effective from 1 November 2018, the indication of UoC table was compulsory for listing SCS-based / SGC-based courses on the QR. This also applies to changes to existing SCS-based / SGC-based courses that require a new QR record (for example, courses with a change in title of learning programme / qualification).

## **Section 11**

### **Change from a Non-Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP) <sup>5</sup> Course to a VQP Course**

11.1 For a change from a non-VQP course to a VQP course, please follow the process below:

- (a) For learning programmes / qualifications that require a change from non-VQP to VQP, the old record on the QR will be abridged. The VQP course and new Operator / Agency Reference Code will then be uploaded as a new record onto the QR. The validity period end date of the abridged record shall be one day prior to the start date of the new record. This ensures the continuity of learning programme / qualification recognition status under the QF.
- (b) Programme requirements briefly stating the relevant industry developed under VQP and the effective date shall be included in both the old and the newly uploaded records. A new QR Registration Number will be automatically generated by the QR system to the new record for identification. For all VQP courses, the requirement on the indication of UoC table on the QR will apply.

## Section 12

### Upload of Learning Programmes on the QR with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Arrangement

12.1 HKCAAVQ has been appointed by the Insurance Authority as the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Assessment Authority. A mechanism has been put in place to recognise Insurance Learning Programmes and Insurance-Related Learning Programmes (IRPLs) accredited under the Qualifications Framework (QF) as Qualified CPD Activities. This aims to encourage insurance practitioners to fulfill the CPD requirements by studying QF-accredited Learning Programmes.

12.2 QF accredited learning programmes categorised under the insurance industry on the QR will be directly recognised as Type 3 Qualified CPD Activities. QF accredited learning programmes NOT categorised under the insurance industry on the QR can be recognised as Type 4 qualified CPD activities if they are approved by HKCAAVQ after going through a vetting procedure. For details of the vetting service of recognising QF-accredited IRPLs as Type 4 Qualified CPD Activities, please refer to the HKCAAVQ website: <https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/services/assessment/cpd-ia-programmes>.



## Section 13

### Requirement on Indication of Industry and Branch on QR

13.1 “Industry<sup>7</sup>” and “Branch<sup>7</sup>” are two essential and inter-related data fields with a search facility on the QR, and are of particular relevance to vocational and professional qualifications and their associated learning programmes.

13.2 To promulgate further the relevant information on “Industry” and “Branch” with an aim to enhance the usability of the QR as an information source for quality assured qualifications under the QF, effective from 1 July 2017, all learning programmes, including both existing and new, are required to indicate the relevant industries and branches on the QR as far as practicable.

13.3 To address the requirement of such an indication on the QR, a two-pronged approach is adopted. For SCS-based courses, the indication of both the industry(ies) and the branch(es) remains to be compulsory. As for the non-SCS-based learning programmes, the indication of branch(es) is optional even when industry(ies) is/are specified.

## Section 14

### Upload of Learning Programmes on the QR with Third Party Approval

14.1 For upload of learning programmes with third party approval, the self-accrediting operators should obtain the approval from the responsible professional bodies or relevant authorities (if applicable) prior to uploading the concerned programme on QR. Before uploading the programme, relevant documentary proof of approval has to be provided together with the *New Programme Checklist*. Examples of such programmes include the following five types:

- (a) Early childhood related programmes require Qualified Kindergarten Teacher (QKT) approval from the EDB and approval from Social Welfare Department (SWD) as Training Course of Child Care Workers and Child Care Supervisors;

- (b) Special education related programmes require approval from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) as equivalent to the One-year In-service Course in Special Child Care Work (SCCW) for special child care workers;
- (c) Nursing related programmes require approval from The Nursing Council of Hong Kong as a nursing qualification for the purpose of registration as registered nurses;
- (d) Elderly care related programmes require approval from the Social Welfare Department as Health Worker Training Course; and
- (e) Social work related programmes require approval from the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) as a social work qualification for the purpose of registration as registered social workers.

## Section 15

### Upload of Programme with Partial Delivery outside HK on the QR

15.1 Programme with partial delivery outside Hong Kong refers to a learning programme that contains a part that is not physically takes place in Hong Kong. As a general rule, a programme registered on the QR should have the majority of the programme delivered in Hong Kong and the assessment of the programme conducted in Hong Kong

15.2 A proforma “Checklist on Key Features of New Programme with Partial Delivery out HK on the QR by Self-Accrediting Operators” (*Programme with Partial Delivery outside HK Checklist*) is available to be used by the self-accrediting operators to assure HKCAAVQ that majority of the programme is considered as delivered and assessed in Hong Kong for the purpose of HKQF recognition. This applied to new learning programmes uploaded on the QR for the first time and excluding all validity period extensions to existing learning programmes.

15.3 Key features of quality assured learning programmes with partial delivery outside Hong Kong include the following:

- (a) The learning programme should carry an award (i.e. a qualification) as a formal recognition of the completion of the learning programme;

- (b) The learning programme should cater for the learning need of people in Hong Kong;
- (c) The learning programme should be accessible to learners of Hong Kong;
- (d) The learning programme should be delivered or conducted by staff of the self-accrediting operator;
- (e) The learning programme should include formal assessment(s) that is designed or conducted by staff of the self-accrediting operator;
- (f) The quality assurance of the learning programme should be administered wholly and jointly with the self-accrediting operator;
- (g) The operation of the learning programme at location(s) outside Hong Kong should comply with the legal requirement of the location(s); and
- (h) The learning programme could be an Online Learning Programme (OLP). OLP refers to a programme delivered through a digital learning platform to provide structured teaching, learning and assessment, and the programme has more than 50% of instruction delivered online.

15.4 Self-accrediting operators are encouraged to indicate the programme as an OLP on QR if it fits the definition above, but this indication of the online nature and upload of the OLP as a new record onto the QR is voluntary. For upload of an OLP, please follow the process below:

- (a) The self-accrediting operator is to provide information about the OLP by using the *Programme with Partial Delivery outside HK Checklist*.
- (b) The self-accrediting operator can upload an OLP onto the QR upon completion of its internal QA process and subject to QR vetting.
- (c) The online nature of the programme shall be explicitly indicated in the Special Notes or relevant programme information in the OLP record.
- (d) If the OLP is uploaded as a new record, a new QR Registration Number will be automatically generated by the QR system to the new record for identification upon its QR listing.

- 
- Note <sup>1</sup>: Self-accrediting operators are listed in Schedule 2 of the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO) (Cap. 592).
- Note <sup>2</sup>: Please find details of the Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) under the QF in the HKQF website [www.hkqf.gov.hk](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk).
- Note <sup>3</sup>: Credit Accumulation and Transfer (Institutional) - The Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) arrangements are in place at an institutional level that apply across a cognate group of learning programmes offered by the institution.
- Credit Accumulation and Transfer (Programme) - The Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) arrangements are in place at the programme level for specific learning programme(s). These programme specific CAT arrangements should be underpinned by CAT arrangements at the institutional level.
- CAT (Recognition of Prior Learning Qualifications) - The CAT arrangements are in place at the programme level for specific learning programme(s). These programme specific CAT arrangements are based on the RPL qualifications obtained by the learners through the RPL mechanism under the Qualifications Framework (QF) and should be underpinned by CAT arrangements at the institutional level.
- Note <sup>4</sup>: Please find details of Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies-based Courses under the QF in the HKQF website at [www.hkqf.gov.hk](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk).
- Note <sup>5</sup>: Please find details of Vocational Qualifications Pathway Courses under the QF in the HKQF website at [www.hkqf.gov.hk](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk).
- Note <sup>6</sup>: QF-accredited Insurance-related learning programmes are those with at least 50% of course content falling within the areas of coverage specified under the CPD Information Sheet issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.
- Note <sup>7</sup>: The “Industry” in the QR has been grouped making reference to the various Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs) established by the EDB under the QF, where “Branch” refers to the major divisional functional area(s) within an industry. For details, please visit the QF website at [www.hkqf.gov.hk](http://www.hkqf.gov.hk).

QFQR / HKCAAVQ

September 2022