



HKCAAVQ QR Operators Briefing 2015

Date and Time: 16 January 2015 (Friday)
3:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Presented by: HKCAAVQ
Qualifications Framework Secretariat



QR Operators Briefing 2015

Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT)

Quality Assurance and the Qualifications Register (QR)

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What is Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT)?

- CAT facilitates the recognition of units of learning and allows learners to move from one programme to another without having to duplicate learning.
- In theory this allows learners to gain a qualification having undertaken study (and hence having been awarded credits) at different places and in different learning contexts at different time.
- This learning may have been formal, non-formal or informal.
- Provided that the learning outcomes can be properly validated and assessed they should be eligible for recognition.



Implementation of Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) under the HKQF

- A voluntary process which requires the commitment of institutions to support lifelong learning and the progression of learners.
- CAT policy under the QF is applicable to learning across the academic, vocational and continuing education sectors and all seven QF Levels.
- The CAT policy and principles draw on local and international practice and strengthen existing credit transfer arrangements. Institutions have the flexibility to develop policy, systems and procedures to suit their own needs.
- As of **16 January 2015**, there are **543** learning programmes with CAT arrangements in place on the QR.



Role of Receiving Institutions in the adoption process of CAT

Receiving Institutions

- Establish policies, systems and procedures for recognition and transfer of credit earned.
- Aim of the policy is to support effective learning pathways for the benefit of learners.
- Purpose of the policy is to minimise unnecessary duplication of learning and maximize the use of credit that learners have gained from learning already undertaken.



Role of HKCAAVQ as the Accreditation Authority in the adoption process of CAT

HKCAAVQ as the Accreditation Authority

- To ensure the systems and procedures developed by institutions to support CAT meet the intent of the policy and principles and are transparent, fair, flexible and easy to use.

(e.g. provision of clear information to learners on well-defined and agreed articulation and progression routes; institutional web-sites should provide clear, reliable and easy to use information on CAT policy and procedures)



QA Process undertaken by the HKCAAVQ for scrutinising CAT for non-self accrediting institutions

Admission Requirements and Student Selection:

- The minimum admission requirements for the learning programmes must be clearly outlined for students and staff. These requirements, including credit accumulation and transfer arrangements and the student selection processes, must ensure that students enrolling in the learning programmes have the knowledge and skills to undertake the learning activities proposed in the programmes.



QA Process undertaken by the HKCAAVQ for scrutinising CAT components

Some Essential Features

- Advanced Standing and Credit Exemption granted on the basis of previous attainment.
- Provision of the maximum percentages of credit transfer for graduates of Home Institution and Other Institution(s).
- Provision of Clear and Adequate evidence to substantiate that CAT arrangements have been instituted at the Institutional and/or Programme level(s).



Role of Self-accrediting Institutions and JQRC in the adoption process of CAT

Self-accrediting Institutions (including the Continuing Education Units Quality Assured by Joint Quality Review Committee)

Experienced providers that already have CAT systems may review and refine their existing systems with reference to the promulgated policy and principles.

To facilitate the provision of CAT information on QR, the HKCAAVQ has incorporated the selection and indication on a voluntary basis of CAT arrangements at the programme level in the Guidance Notes on Upload of QR Records by Self-accrediting Operators on the QR (including the SFSD Programmes quality assured by JQRC); and

The Checklist on the Key Features for Quality Assured Learning Programmes on the QR by Self-accrediting Operators has also been revised to take into account the inclusion of CAT arrangements in the QR. The revised Guidance Notes and the Checklist are available on the QR website (www.hkqr.gov.hk).



Role of Operators granted with Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) status

For operating units of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) with PAA status:

- The revision of the Guidance Notes and Checklist for VTC is currently in progress.



Role of HKCAAVQ as the Qualifications Register (QR) Authority in the adoption process of CAT

HKCAAVQ as the Qualifications Register (QR) Authority

To ensure the timely listing of qualifications on the QR in an accurate and consistent manner.

Since October 2014, the QR team has arranged two rounds of data uploading service for operators with existing QR programmes that have CAT arrangements in place.



CAT on QR starting 22 July 2014

- Create a CAT search field in the existing qualifications search page of the QR.
- Add a hyperlink to programmes' CAT information in the “QR Record Details” page on the QR.



CAT on QR starting 7 October 2014

- Create a CAT search field in the existing operators / assessment agencies search page of the QR.



Role of HKCAAVQ as the Qualifications Register (QR) Authority in the adoption process of CAT

The 1st upload of CAT arrangements published on QR on 6 October 2014

Operator	No. of records with CAT arrangements
SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited	21
School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong	23
Total Records	44



Role of HKCAAVQ as the Qualifications Register (QR) Authority in the adoption process of CAT (continued)

The 2nd upload of CAT arrangements published on QR on 21
November 2014

Operator	No. of records with CAT arrangements
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	297
The Open University of Hong Kong	171
Centennial College	2
Caritas Institute of Community Education	11
Caritas Bianchi College of Careers	1
Hong Yip People Development Academy	7
Caritas Institute of Higher Education	3
Total Records	492



Role of HKCAAVQ as the Qualifications Register (QR) Authority in the adoption process of CAT (continued)

For the administrative procedures for listing CAT information on QR:

- (1) For Self-accrediting operators, please contact Ms. Katherine Yung of the QR team (phone: 3658-0154 / email: katherineyung@hkcaavq.edu.hk); and
- (2) For HKCAAVQ-accredited operators with existing programme(s) listed on the QR, please contact Ms. June Tang of the QR team (phone: 3658-0161 / email: junetang@hkcaavq.edu.hk).



CAT on QR starting from 2 January 2015

- Introduction of the Two Types of CAT Information on QR: CAT (Institutional) and CAT (Programme).



Introduction of the Two Types of CAT Information on QR: CAT (Institutional) and CAT (Programme)

On 2 January 2015, new system features have been incorporated in the QR to further enhance the existing search functions of CAT by categorising CAT qualifications into two different groups: (1) Institutional Based; and (2) Programme Specific.

- (1) Credit Accumulation and Transfer (Institutional) - The CAT arrangements are in place at the institutional level that apply across a cognate group of learning programmes offered by the institution.
- (2) An **Orange CAT** icon will be used on the QR to distinguish qualifications that are CAT (Institutional).



Introduction of the Two Types of CAT Information on QR: CAT (Institutional) and CAT (Programme)

- (3) Credit Accumulation and Transfer (Programme) – The CAT arrangements are in place at the programme level that apply to specific learning programme(s). These programme specific CAT arrangements should be underpinned by CAT arrangements at the institutional level.
- (4) A **Golden CAT** icon will be used on the QR to distinguish qualifications that are CAT (Programme).



Future Developments of CAT

To move towards a dedicated and centralised repository of CAT information on the QR:

Initial Thoughts:

- To put in place an on-line computerised information repository with search facility.
- To provide a one-stop approach to searching CAT information including articulation arrangements at both the institution and programme levels.



Thank You!

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