

Your guide to credit and qualifications



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



CREDIT & QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK FOR WALES

CQFW

FFRAMWAITH CREDYDAU
A CHYMWYSTERAU CYMRU

What is credit?

Credit is a currency for learning which can be used to compare learning and qualifications.

You can build the credit you achieve toward a qualification or other learning aim.

Credit tells you how much learning you have gained within a certain amount of time, for example, from taking part in school courses, college courses or training courses. Credits can be added together to make up whole qualifications.

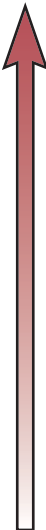
Gaining credit is dependent upon you completing certain assignments covering learning outcomes, such as practical work, essays, presentations, reports, portfolios, project work, exams or other.

Credits start from whatever level you are at and go all the way up to the top university level – Level 8 (Doctorate). The FAN diagram (at the end of the leaflet) shows the range of levels of learning and some examples of qualifications that exist within it.

Credit is used to describe an amount of learning time.

1 credit is awarded for every 10 hours of learning time.

Blocks of learning are referred to as ‘units’ or ‘modules’ and they let you compare learning between the different learning pathways and qualifications available.

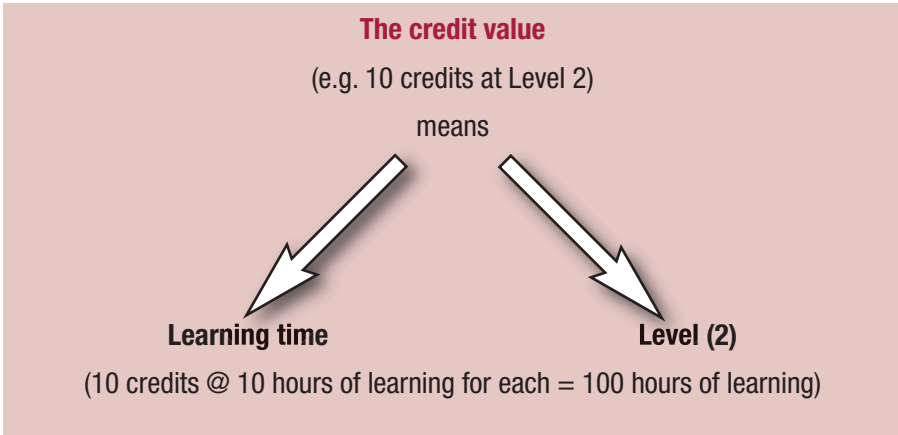


Level	Examples of qualifications The small units/modules or blocks can build into these or other qualifications
8	Doctorate
7	Masters Degree, Masters Degrees (Integrated), Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate
6	Bachelor’s Degree with Honours, Bachelor’s Degree, Graduate Diplomas/Certificate
5	Higher National Diploma, Foundation Degree, Diploma in Higher Education
4	Higher National Certificate/Certificate in Higher Education
3	NVQ 3; GCE A Level
2	NVQ 2; GCSE A*– C grades
1	NVQ 1; GCSE D – G grades
Entry	3 bands of achievement a, b, c

To find out more visit: www.cqfw.net

Credit value

The credit value given to a unit or module shows both 'how much' learning is expected and 'how hard' it is. Each module or unit has only one level for its credit (between Entry Level and Level 8).



The credit value is set before you begin your learning.

Once you have successfully achieved the required learning outcomes you can be awarded all of the credits (the credit value) for that block of learning.

Why is credit important to you?

- It could help you and other people such as potential employers, colleges and universities to understand the type of learning you have completed and what it is worth.
- Your learning is divided into small units and therefore you can build up credits when doing a specific course, programme of study, or practical learning and training.
- If you find that the course you have started on and gained some credits for is not for you then you may be able to use or transfer those credits to another course.
- A credit based system will help you follow a particular training or study path.
- Gaining credit for your learning can raise your confidence and motivate you to continue your achievements.
- Credits can be taken from one place to another such as changing schools, colleges or workplace.

When is credit awarded?

Credit is awarded to you when you have successfully completed a block of learning containing a specific set of learning outcomes.

It is the achievement of the whole unit/module or chunk of learning that is important for the award of credit, not how or where the learning took place, or how it was assessed, or how long it actually took.

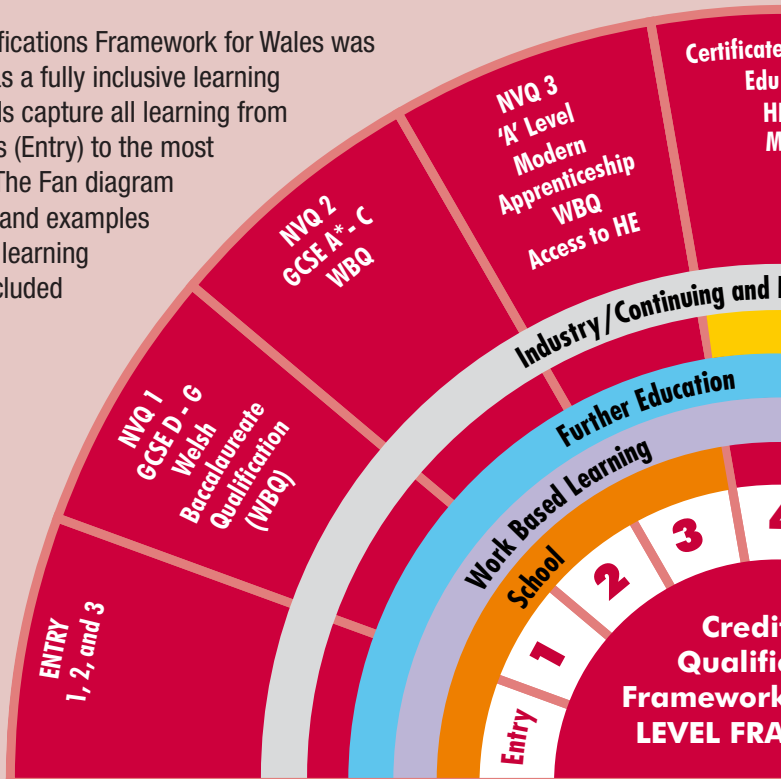
Learning time

This is the amount of learning time you need to achieve the credit or learning outcomes.

All types of learning activity are included in the estimate of learning time, such as formal learning, practical activities, relevant IT activity, information retrieval, self study, revision, exams, work-based activities or voluntary placements which lead to assessment.

Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales

The Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales was introduced in 2003 as a fully inclusive learning framework. The levels capture all learning from the very initial stages (Entry) to the most advanced (Level 8). The Fan diagram illustrates the levels and examples of qualifications and learning provision that are included in it.



If you take more or less time than estimated to complete the learning outcomes you will still be awarded the set credit value – not more or less.

If you start but do not complete any unit or module (you do not achieve all of the learning outcomes for that block of learning) you are not normally awarded the credits for that learning.

What is the Framework?

The Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) is endorsed by the Welsh Assembly Government.

There are a variety of organisations that recognise learning through credit. Awarding bodies and universities award credit, as do some work based and community based organisations.

Ask for credit when you start a learning pathway.

Wales Learning and Progression Routes

For further details contact the CQFW Secretariat:

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