

Glossary of the Consultation Document for Review of Accreditation Standards and Criteria

Term	Definition
Accreditation Authority (AA)	HKCAAVQ is specified in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO) (Cap 592) as the Accreditation Authority to accredit Operators and learning programmes for the purpose of entering their qualifications into the Qualifications Register (QR), for recognition under the Qualifications Framework (QF).
Accreditation Panel	A panel consisting of specialists with expertise in the relevant discipline / industry / quality assurance issues. It is formed to assess the Operator / learning programmes in each stage of the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under the guiding principle of 'peer review', with a HKCAAVQ staff member serving as the Panel Secretary.
Accreditation Standards	The level of competence or quality that an operator or programme has to demonstrate in an accreditation exercise.
Criteria for consideration	Important considerations for determining whether a standard has been met.
Four-stage Quality Assurance Process (the Process)	The Process is a quality assurance mechanism with four stages, i.e. Initial Evaluation (IE), Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA), Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) and Periodic Review (PR). It forms the means through which HKCAAVQ evaluates Operators and their learning programmes under the QF.
Initial Evaluation (IE)	To ascertain whether an operator is competent to operate learning programme(s) that meet QF standards up to a certain QF level.
Learning Outcome	The knowledge, skills and application ability attained by a student as a result of completing the learning programme.
Learning Programme	A programme of study or training defined by a curriculum (which may consist of one or more modules, units, subjects or courses or any combination of those elements) that includes, where the context permits, any proposed programme of such studies or training.

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Learning Programme Accreditation / Re-accreditation (LPA/Re-LPA)	<p>The purpose is twofold:</p> <p>To ascertain whether a learning programme (proposed or accredited) meets a QF standard to achieve the claimed objectives.</p> <p>To ascertain whether the operator of a learning programme is competent to continuously monitor and improve the effectiveness of its programme operation to meet the claimed programme objectives.</p>
Operator	A person, school, institution, or organisation or other body, the whole or part of the business of which includes the operation of any learning programme or any part of a learning programme.
Periodic Review (PR)	To ascertain whether an operator continues to be effective to achieve its vision and mission by systematically enhancing quality of its operation by formulating and implementing actions based on evidence.
Procedure	A well-defined sequence of operations.
Process	A set of connected or interacting activities designed to delivering the desired outputs given the inputs
Programme Area Accreditation (PAA)	To ascertain whether an operator is competent to quality assure its learning programmes within a programme area up to a certain QF level, as demonstrated from the track record of its operation of accredited learning programmes in a particular discipline or industry area, and its capacity to enhance its organisational effectiveness to meet the educational/training objectives.
Programme Objectives	Broad statements about what a learning programme would like learners to achieve, typically over a span of time, after successful completion of the programme.
Qualification	A formal award given in recognition of the skills, knowledge and experience acquired by an individual upon the satisfactory completion of a learning programme that meets specified QF standards. It is granted on the basis of formal assessment. The award title should follow the policy laid down by the EDB (http://www.hkqf.gov.hk), and should not include a Statement of Attendance.
Qualifications	A hierarchy of recognised qualifications in academic, vocational

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Framework (QF)	and continuing education as well as qualifications attained by individuals through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) scheme in Hong Kong. It is characterised by three key features: level, which reflects the depth and complexity of learning leading to the qualification; award title, which reflects the nature, area of study and hierarchy of the qualification; and credit, which indicates the volume or size of learning leading to the qualification. There are seven levels in the QF.
Qualifications Framework Level (QF Level)	Under QF, each qualification is assigned a level to indicate its position in the hierarchy relative to others. The level of a qualification is determined in accordance with a set of GLD which specifies the outcome standards expected of the qualification at each level.
Qualifications Framework Standards (QF Standards)	The skills, knowledge or experience acquired upon the completion of the learning programme that are commensurate with the requirements under the specified level of the QF.
Qualifications Register (QR)	The public face of the QF containing all qualifications that have been quality assured under the QF. HKCAAVQ is specified in Cap 592 as the QR Authority.
System	A framework of policies, processes and procedures to achieve particular purpose(s).
Threshold Standard	The minimum standards required of an Operator and learning programme in accreditation, as provided for in the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO).
Track record	A record of performance of an Operator against relevant accreditation criteria and standards.