



Skills for Work

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2023–24

Health Sector

Verification group number: 426

Skills for Work Courses

National Courses verified:

C261 74 Skills for Work: Health Sector at National 4

C261 75 Skills for Work: Health Sector at National 5

General comments

External verification took place by visits to each centre selected for external verification for academic session 2023–24.

Most centres visited had a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards for Skills for Work: Health Sector.

Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Unit specifications and SQA assessment support packs (ASPs) were used by all centres.

Most centres provided a copy of their assessment procedures and assessment materials used. Most centres had assessors that were familiar with the delivery of the course and the unit specifications.

Many centres included examples of the teaching materials when they provided evidence during external verification. Verification took place in the centres where they could showcase their learning environment.

All centres that verified for the National 5 course provided the old course and were preparing for the implementation of the revised course for the next academic session.

Evidence requirements

There was evidence of clear understanding of the evidence requirements for almost all centres. Where this was not the case, it was picked up by the centre's internal verification process. However, on one occasion this was not rectified prior to the external verification visit; therefore the centre was not accepted following external verification.

Administration of assessments

Most centres verified delivered the Health Sector courses as full courses.

The Health Sector courses do not require any prior learning and are suitable for candidates with no prior experience in the health sector. Most centres did not identify candidate's prior achievements.

Almost all centres demonstrated the effective selection and use of assessments to ensure validity and fairness in the assessment processes.

Learning and teaching

All centres had a good understanding of the learning and teaching requirements for the units, and tried as far as reasonably practical to promote and develop practical activities for the candidates to enhance their learning experience.

Overall assessment

Almost all centres were able to make accurate and consistent assessment judgements; internal verification ensured this process.

All centres had processes and procedures in place to ensure that the evidence for assessment was the candidate's own work.

Almost all centres demonstrated the effective selection and use of assessments to ensure validity and fairness in the assessment processes.

Verification

Internal verification procedures were implemented at most centres. Where this was not the case, it was highlighted during external verification and in the feedback given to the centre to rectify this in future.

Areas of good practice reported in 2023–24

- Most centres have developed and implemented many practical activities to engage the candidates across all units, some of which included: heart dissection, simulated biomedical diagnostic testing.
- All centres made use of CPR training manikins or practical skills in the delivery of the Physiology of the Cardiovascular System unit.
- Some centres worked collaboratively with other departments in their centre to allow for more realistic experiences of working in the health sector.
- All centres promoted independent learning and vocational skills through mock interviews and adapting to the needs of the candidates where required.

- Some centres worked in collaboration with other centres to enhance the course and improve the standards.
- Some centres promoted effective research skills to ensure candidates were using reliable references when carrying out the research aspects of the course.
- Some centres held a careers fair where candidates were able to explore different roles and careers in the health sector in both clinical and non-clinical roles. The professionals carried out activities with the candidates to demonstrate and allow candidates the opportunity to have a try at different medical and healthcare-related skills, such as suturing and the use of medical devices.
- Some centres held a Wellbeing Week where candidates were given the opportunity to explore alternative therapies in the health sector. They participated in stress relieving activities, meditation, yoga, music and art therapy, aromatherapy, exploring nature and the health benefits, which helped to challenge preconceptions surrounding roles.

Specific areas for improvement reported in 2023–24

- Centres should ensure that assessment templates are used consistently and fully completed.
- Centres should ensure that feedback is provided to the candidates for each unit. Documenting feedback to each candidate is important for their learning and development.
- Centres should be aware that SQA reviewed the Skills for Work: Health Sector National 5 course for implementation in session 2023–24. The old course has lapsed for session 2024–25 and should no longer be used.