



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority

Dear Colleague,

ESOL Skills for Life Qualifications

QCA met with awarding bodies on January 23rd 2008 to discuss the future of ESOL Skills for Life qualifications; thank you to all who attended for your input. As an item of other business, an issue was raised about whether an awarding body should recognise, at a given level, units of the qualification achieved with another awarding body.

I have now discussed this with colleagues in the regulatory division of QCA and I am writing to confirm that QCA's requirement is that all awarding bodies offering the ESOL Skills for Life qualifications must recognise prior achievement of the qualification at unit (mode) level where this has been completed with another awarding body.

Where a candidate is able to show evidence of having already completed a unit of this qualification, the candidate should not be disadvantaged by a requirement to complete a unit of the same title and level with another awarding body. On completion of a unit of an accredited qualification, a candidate is entitled to request and receive unit certification from the awarding body.

If there is a need for awarding bodies to meet to agree operational arrangements in relation to this, QCA can offer to facilitate this. If you would find this useful, please contact my colleague Anne Connor (connora@qca.org.uk).

If you require further clarity or if these requirements present you with any difficulties, I would be very grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Sowerbutts
Strategic Manager
Skills for Life