

Articulation: An Explanation

Articulation defined

Articulation arrangements are defined in the AQF as follows:

Articulation arrangements enable students to progress from a completed qualification to another with admission and/or credit in a defined pathway.

This is underpinned by the AQF definition of credit as follows:

Credit is the value assigned for the recognition of equivalence in content and learning outcomes between different types of learning and/or qualifications. Credit reduces the amount of learning required to achieve a qualification and may be through credit transfer, articulation, recognition of prior learning or advanced standing.

Articulation explained

Articulation arrangements broaden access into formal learning and may be a potential source of credit based on student achievement through formal learning. Articulation arrangements provide a seamless pathway with automatic admission into one qualification from another.

Articulation arrangements may include:

- clustered qualifications involving lower qualifications that are embedded completely in the next qualification with multiple exit and entry points (an articulated suite of qualifications), or
- partially clustered qualifications that include some qualification components of the lower level qualification nested into the linked qualification, or
- arrangements where two separately designed qualifications are linked to each other to form a defined qualification linkage and credit pathway.

Articulation is a process that involves qualification developers:

- linking one qualification, commonly but not always, to another higher level qualification to establish content relationships and equivalence between them
- making a judgment about any credit outcomes between the linked qualifications, and
- setting out the agreed credit outcomes and the defined pathway between the linked qualifications in a documented agreement which is publicly available.

The amount of credit as agreed by the organisations in an articulation arrangement will be applied automatically to any student on successful completion of the previous qualification in the articulation agreement.

Articulation applied

It is the responsibility of the organisations developing qualifications to develop articulation arrangements for qualifications when developing qualifications for accreditation (*AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy* section 2.2).

Professional judgement must be made to ensure that the design of the programs of learning leading to the articulated qualifications enables students to achieve the learning outcomes for each qualification and for the discipline. Decisions about design of qualifications must take into account students' likelihood of successfully achieving qualification outcomes and also must ensure that integrity of qualification outcomes is maintained. Those developing and/or accrediting qualifications should be able to provide a pedagogical rationale to justify a decision regarding the articulation of qualifications.

The *AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy* at 2.1.10 provides a guide to relativities between qualification types at level 5, 6 and 7 for developing articulation arrangements for qualifications in the same discipline at the qualification design stage. Consideration should be given as to how the relativities may be applied in developing articulation arrangements, taking into account other factors including those listed in 2.1.9 of the *Policy*.

Articulation arrangements must ensure that the *AQF Qualifications Type Specifications* for each qualification type in the arrangement are met.

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See also

- [AQF explanation on volume of learning](#)
- [AQF explanation on recognition of prior learning](#)
- [AQF explanation on credit transfer](#)
- [AQF explanation on clustered qualifications](#)