

Skills for Work FAQ

You'll find a lot of the answers to your questions on the attached Skills for Work Rationale, but here are some others that have come up at previous events:

Q: When did Skills for Work courses start?

A: The first Skills for Work courses started in August 2005. This is the pilot phase for centres – but of course not for the students who are doing a Skills for Work course as part of their full time education.

Q: Why were they introduced?

A: They were introduced to allow school pupils to develop important knowledge and skills which will be relevant for their future employment, through practical experiences in particular vocational areas.

Q: Who are Skills for Work courses aimed at?

A: Initially, they're aimed at 14 – 16 year olds in S3 and S4 who will take one of these courses in place of a Standard Grade.

Q: What courses are available and what levels are they at?

A:

- [Construction Crafts \(Int. 1 & 2\)](#)
- [Early Education and Childcare \(Int. 1 & 2\)](#)
- [Energy \(Int. 2\)](#)
- [Engineering Skills \(Int. 1 & 2\)](#)
- [Financial Services \(Int. 2\)](#)
- [Hairdressing \(Int. 1 & 2\)](#)
- [Health and Social Care \(Higher\)](#)
- [Hospitality \(Int. 1 & 2\)](#)
- [Practical Experiences: Construction and Engineering \(Access 3\)](#)
- [Retailing \(Int. 2\)](#)
- [Rural Skills \(Int. 1\)](#)
- [Sport and Recreation \(Int. 1 & 2\)](#)
- [Uniformed and Emergency Services \(Int. 1\)](#)

Q: What's different about them?

A: The main difference is the emphasis on employability skills alongside the vocational skills and knowledge. Courses are made up of four 40 hour units or in some cases a combination of 20 hour units. There is no external exam at the end and the courses aren't graded.

Q: How long do they last?

A: They're designed to be delivered over 2 years.

Q: What do they lead to?

A: Depending on the level and the subject area, successful completion can lead into employment, further training such as apprenticeships, or into further education in the chosen area.

Q: Doesn't Employability Skills just mean Core Skills?

A: No. However all Skills for Work courses will provide the opportunity to develop Core Skills but Employability Skills is much broader than this and includes attitudes to the workplace as well as the skills to operate within it. Employability Skills include: understanding the nature of the workplace and the responsibilities that come with being an employee such as punctuality, appearance, customer care, health and safety, following instructions, adapting to change, self evaluation etc. These are outlined in the Skills for Work Rationale, and are contextualised in the course specifications for each subject.

Q: What's out there to help me?

A: SFEU has produced support packs for each unit in the courses. These have been sent to every centre in the pilot and are available to download from the SFEU website. SFEU is also running Skills for Work events, focussing on teaching and learning approaches for these courses.

In addition, development visits are being carried out by SQA and a number of subject meetings will be held throughout the year to give delivering centres the opportunity to get together and share experiences and ideas

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: You can contact Elda Fleck at SFEU for general information and for details of support materials; Garry Cameron or Morag Kerr at SFEU in relation to Learning and Teaching events and advice, and you can contact the Skills for Work team at SQA for more specific information on any issues which arise during the pilot or for information on development visits, subject meetings or courses that are planned for the future.

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