



Welcome to Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority

The Solomon Islands Tertiary Education & Skills Authority is the national regulatory body, dedicated to enhancing the quality and accessibility of higher education and technical and vocational education in the Solomon Islands. SITESA strives to create a skilled workforce that can contribute effectively to the nation's development and progress.



Mandates

Creating a high quality, industry led and labour demand driven tertiary education and training system

Developing a high performing domestic tertiary and skills sector, including SINU and Rural Training Centres.

Working with the stakeholders of the tertiary and skills system to increase private sector investment and support.

Maximizing the Government's investment in tertiary education and skills development through labour market driven scholarships

<p>Responsible for the SIQF and the quality standards</p> <p>Accreditation of tertiary courses</p> <p>Registration of providers of tertiary courses</p> <p>Shall maintain a register for all accredited qualifications and registered tertiary providers.</p> <p>An addition register will be maintained for non formal learning providers</p>	<p>Development of the Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Plan for the allocation of:</p> <p>Scholarships for tertiary courses in or outside Solomon Islands</p> <p>Funding for the provision or improvement of tertiary education and skills development</p>
<p>Roles set out in SITESA Act 2017</p>	
<p>Scholarships and Funding;</p> <p>Set out process for applications/proposals</p> <p>criteria for the assessment of applications/proposals</p> <p>Set out conditions for the provision or continuation of a scholarship or funding</p> <p>Establish a complaints and review process</p> <p>Monitor and track recipients and use of funds</p>	<p>Note: Funding is not recurrent funding but based on the plan that is reviewed annually dependent on the whether it:</p> <p>Contributes to meeting the needs of local, regional and international labour markets</p> <p>Contributes to improvements in tertiary and skills development</p> <p>Improves participation and promotes fair and equitable access</p>

Quality Assurance

Building Blocks of a National Quality Assurance

1. Solomon Islands Qualifications Framework (SIQF)

- The SIQF:
 - Sets the standards for qualifications that can be issued in Solomon Islands
- Aligns to Regional frameworks (PQF) and considers other National qualification frameworks of countries such as NZ, Australia etc.
- Ensures referencing of qualifications are comparable to other qualifications in the region

Level	Qualification
10	Doctorate
9	Masters
8	Bachelor Honours, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate
7	Bachelor, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate
6	Advanced Diploma
5	Diploma
4	Certificate IV
3	Certificate III
2	Certificate II
1	Certificate I

2. Solomon Islands Quality Standards Framework (SIQSF) for the Tertiary Sector:

- Quality Standards for Tertiary Course Accreditation (Nine (9) Quality Standards)
- Quality Standards for Tertiary Provider Registration (Fourteen (14) Quality Standards)
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- quality assuring:
 - Qualifications
 - Providers and the provision of the program leading to a SIQF qualification
- Key sets of Standards:
 - Accreditation standard (Quality standard for tertiary course accreditation)
 - Registration standards (Quality standards for tertiary provider registration)
 - Formal, related to provision of an accredited SIQF qualification, and able to issue qualification/credential

3. Solomon Islands Quality Standards for Non-Formal Learning Providers

- Quality Standards for Non-formal Learning Providers not offering Accredited Qualifications
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- The purpose of this standard is to provide a stepping stone for those providers that cannot meet the Quality Standards for Tertiary Provider Registration. These providers:
 - Need to meet these Quality Standards to be registered in this category
 - Does not allow them to provide education/training services for an accredited SIQF qualification/tertiary course in their own right.
- This Quality Standard uses Standard 1 & 2 from formal Registered Tertiary Provider, and then includes a general standard (QS 3).
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The SIQF will be responsive to the ever-changing global environment and promote the development of a nation that is committed to lifelong learning. The SIQF will enhance flexible pathways to future educational opportunities, employment options or improved livelihood in the communities.

National Qualifications- Meeting National Priority needs or interests. (National Skills Packages)

Developed to meet a specific national priority need or interest

Developed with involvement from appropriate national industry, profession or community group related to the qualification outcomes

Development process must include consultation and endorsement to be termed a National Qualification

Led by an ad hoc Industry Skills Council and supported by SITESA.



National Skills Package

Accredited NSP: Accreditation of ten (12) qualifications and 1 Skill set

Package	Qualifications
Agribusiness	SIAGB30123 Certificate III in Agribusiness
Automotive	SIAUE30123 Certificate III in Automotive Engineering SIAUE40123 Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering (Light Vehicle) SIAUE40223 Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering (Heavy Vehicle)
Business	SIBUS301232 Certificate III in Office Administration SIBUS401232 Certificate IV in Business Studies
Construction	SICON30123 Certificate III in Construction SICON40123 Certificate IV in Construction SICAJ40123 Certificate IV in Carpentry and Joinery
Training and assessment	SITAA40123 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment SITAASS401 Assessor Skill Set

Trade in Services

- PACER Plus parties have made specific services commitments under the services chapter of the PACER Plus Trade Agreement.
- Movement of Natural Person chapter also contains commitments to allow temporary entry of certain categories of people.
- Qualification recognition is also important in Trade in Service.
- Reference is made in Chapter 7, Trade in Service Article 11: Recognition and Chapter 8, Movement of Natural Persons article 6: Mutual Recognition.
- It facilitates member countries with their labour migration overseas, and the support in validating foreign qualifications of migrants seeking employment.

Example 1

- Solomon Islands have made commitment under Professional Services sector(accounting, auditing and bookkeeping services). An auditor travels from home country to supply auditing service in SI.

Example 2

- Solomon Islands has made commitments in the Tourism and related services sector (e.g. Hotels and Restaurants). A person applies for a manager position at Heritage Park Hotel in SI.
- Recognition of qualification is important to enable movement of natural persons to trade services within the PACER Plus and increasing access to employment opportunities

Recognition of Prior Learning

- UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY
- The SIQF aims to support lifelong learning and therefore promote the recognition of non-formal and informal learning. Providers are required to have processes in place for the recognition of prior learning and the transfer of credit.
- The SIQF is learning outcomes-based; therefore, the emphasis is on 'what a learner knows and is able to do' as a result of a program of learning.

Qualification Recognition Referencing work- Progressing

- ❑ Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority is currently participating in the Pacific Qualifications Recognition project aims to strengthen the Pacific and national qualifications frameworks and systems that will promote the recognition of qualifications, enabling the movement of learners and skilled workers across borders.
- ❑ The five-year project is jointly implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

Recognition of Foreign Qualification Status

- Policy has been developed to guide the implementation on how Solomon Islands recognizes foreign/international qualifications.
- Processes established to ensure that all foreign qualifications are to be assessed accordingly. Applicants requesting this service will pay an administrative fee for the assessment of a qualification. This recognition service is applicable for foreigners coming to Solomon Islands for work or study and vice versa.
- The procedure on the recognition of foreign qualifications are utilised through referencing of qualifications between countries, requesting credentials from qualifications authorities abroad and utilising global conventions for use of databases. This process ensures that a foreign qualification is verified and authentic for its intended purpose.

Areas of Priorities for Implementation

1. Setting up a database for a National Register. This is a public confirmation of registered tertiary providers offering an SIQF accredited qualification.
2. A second data base system to hold data of students awarded an accredited SIQF qualification from a registered tertiary institution.
3. Gazette of two important regulations that would support the implementation of the Quality Assurance system:
 - a. Fee regulation
 - b. Protected terms regulation
4. Continue implementation of systems and processes for quality assurance, course accreditation and registration for tertiary providers.
5. Registration process to commence, with five providers working towards having their provider qualifications accredited and seeking registration as a provider.
6. Progressing preparatory arrangement towards the Ratification of the Tokyo Convention for the Recognition of Qualifications in higher Education. This is intended to ensure that all accredited SIQF qualifications are accorded the same recognition by our international qualifications agencies, as Solomon Islands would also accord the same recognition towards a foreign qualification in Solomon Islands. This process would support efficient movement of people for work and study abroad.
8. Referencing of the Solomon Islands Qualifications Framework (SIQF) to the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) through the Pacific Qualifications Recognition Project 2023-2028 conducted in partnership with EQAP and NZQA.

SINU team



CSSI Team



SINIS Team



RSIPF Police Academy Team



EP (EA) Providers



Study tour to Queensland Tafe June 2024

Thank you