



**National Council for Vocational Education and Training
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Government of India**

SOP for Development, Alignment & Implementation of Skill Based Courses / Vocational Education, Training and Skilling based Qualifications in Higher Education & School Education

1. NCvET enables integration of Vocational Education, Training and Skilling (VETS) into education to address the vision of NEP providing for holistic and multi-disciplinary education. Accordingly, a wide range of skill-based courses/ qualifications may be offered/integrated/ embedded into every stream of general education with pre-defined learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
2. There are different types of NSQF aligned and approved Vocational Education, Training & Skilling programs which can be implemented across HEIs and schools. The NSQF aligned qualifications and courses are offered for conducting both, the Short-Term training (STT) and Long-Term training (LTT). The short-term trainings are trainings with a duration of less than one year or 1200 notional learning hours. The Long-Term trainings are trainings with duration equal to or more than one year or 1200 notional learning hours.
3. All the Universities/ Higher Education Institutes (HEIs)/ School Boards are encouraged to integrate the vocational education training & skilling (VETS) based courses/ qualifications as per the guidelines. The mode of implementation of skill-based courses/qualifications must focus on enhanced curriculum and enhanced students/ learners engagement. As provided under the NCvET, the learning courses/ qualifications should be flexible wherein learners have the flexibility to choose the course/program of their interest and choice enabling them to decide their career trajectory.

Integration of VETS in Higher Education

4. It has been observed that HEIs encounter certain challenges to implement the NSQF aligned & approved qualification as part of their UG/PG curriculum. These are listed below:
 - a. The qualification selected by the HEIs for integration with the main-stream HEI curriculum may not be at the required NSQF levels of 4.5 for UG first year, 5 for UG second year, 5.5 for UG third year, 6 for UG fourth year/ PG first year, 6.5 for PG second year, and 7 for MTech 2nd year courses, resulting in the Learning Outcomes of such qualifications not matching the appropriate year in the UG/PG program.

- b. The duration of the ab-initio full skilling qualifications at level 4.5 to 8, which corresponds to the UG/PG NCrf levels, tend to be higher and may not fit into the curricular structure of UG/ PG programs appropriately unless these are offered as a full semester internship or training programs.
 - c. The NSQF qualifications are normally job market based courses/ qualifications leading to a job role. Therefore, prior experience is often a mandatory requirement under the NSQF ladder. However, while integrating such courses/ qualifications into the higher education such requirement of prior experience may not be possible to be met. Moreover, the certifications for such courses/ qualifications are done in the form of a job role which might be misleading.
5. Keeping in view of the about challenges, the Skill based courses/ qualifications can be implemented in the Higher Education in different modes. As per the provisions in the NCrf, up to 50 percent of the total credit requirements of a UG/ PG program can be fulfilled by earning credits from the Skill based courses/ qualifications of appropriate NCrf levels (4.5 to 8). As per the SOP for operationalization of NCrf in Higher Education, such skill-based courses/ qualifications may be implemented in different ways by the HEIs for their students as given below:

a. **Model 1: Skill based courses/ qualifications are integrated as part of the UG/ PG curriculum:** The skill-based courses/ qualifications are offered as part of the curricular structure in higher education.

- A. HEIs may offer such skill-based NHEQF courses/ qualifications developed by them with the approval of their highest Authorised/Academic Body. Once integrated in the curriculum with the approval of the highest academic body of HEI, any skill based course/qualification is NHEQF aligned course.
- B. HEIs may offer any NSQF aligned and approved skill-based courses/ qualifications including NOS or MC with the approval of their highest Authorised/Academic Body. Even if a NSQF aligned and approved qualification/ NOS or MC are picked up by the HEI concerned for such integration, no approval of NCVET will be required and the certification shall also be done by the HE institution concerned subject to proper assessment for such courses/ qualifications/ NOS/ MC.

Where a qualification is being developed by a recognised Awarding Body (AB) of NCVET for integration in HEIs and is brought for NSQF alignment and approval, the following shall be applicable and ensured by the developing AB:

- i. The integration will be as per the curricular design and structure of the HEI course/ program.
- ii. A NOS/MC/Qualifications/ course being designed for integration shall be in the nature of a course subject name or a skill competency and doesn't have to be with the nomenclature of a job-role which could mislead the students or the employers.

- iii. However, if a student undertakes the full NSQF aligned and approved course/ qualification with the prescribed number of hours as a 5 to 7 months project or as internship, even as a job role based certification could be issued to such student alongwith the credits which he could use as part of the UG/ PG program.
 - iv. Thus, the NSQF aligned and approved qualifications designed for integration with UG/PG programs, may span across at least one semester of study in the form of Internship Program/ Project. These qualifications/ courses must align with the overall curriculum design of the UG or PG course and be approved by the body of the higher education institution authorised by the regulator concerned. The entry requirements for such NSQF qualifications may not require any prior work experience thereby catering to the 'pursuing education' category as mentioned in NSQF parameters.
 - v. The Qualifications/ NOS/ MC shall be of appropriate level (Levels 4.5 to level 6 for a UG student and levels 6 to 7 in case of PG) depending on the field.
- b. **Model 2: Skill-based courses/ qualifications offered as an additional course/ qualification for regular enrolled students of HEIs:** Such courses may not be integrated within the curriculum of UG/ PG program but are offered as optional/ additional courses, with additional credits and certifications for the regular students enrolled in UG/PG programs.

There could be two scenarios in such cases:

- (a). Such qualifications/ courses could be NHEQF aligned- certification for such courses is to be done by the HEI concerned as per the NHEQF norms of staffing, infrastructure, nomenclature, guidelines/ regulations as may be applicable etc.
- (b). Such qualifications/ courses could also be NSQF aligned. In this case also no approval of the NCVET will be necessary for **offering such NSQF courses/ qualifications as an additional course/ qualification for regular enrolled students of HEIs**. However, the following shall be applicable:
 - i. In case the HEI concerned is not a recognised AB of NCVET and directly implements the Qualification - no NCVET certificate will be given. However, to ensure the quality standards the related guidelines of NCVET with regards to the training standards, infrastructure including the requirement of labs and workshops, qualifications of trainers and instructors delivery of the course with the practical and proper assessment of the learning outcomes will be followed by the HEI concerned.
 - ii. In case, the HEI concerned is a recognised AB of NCVET or the qualification is offered through a recognised AB of NCVET, NCVET certificate can be issued and the **qualifications offered could be of any level**.
 - iii. The nomenclature of the qualifications/ NOS/ MC offered as standalone course, will be in the nature of a course subject name or a skill competency and doesn't have to be with the nomenclature of a job-role. However, it may

be shown to be a job role if it fulfils all the requirements of an NSQF aligned and approved course/ qualifications including the entry qualifications, notional hours, previous experience or OJT, etc.

c. **Model 3: Skill-based courses/ qualifications offered as additional course/ qualification**, for students and learners **other than those enrolled for UG/PG course in the HEI, i.e.** from the open market: For this category of skilling the following shall apply:

- i. HEIs would need to seek the recognition as an Awarding body (AB) from NCVET or implement the skill qualifications through NCVET recognised ABs. It may be mentioned that a very simplified process for recognition as awarding body has already been approved by NCVET for the higher education institutions and school boards.
- ii. They may offer NSQF aligned and approved skill based courses/qualifications developed by them and got approved by National Skills Qualification Committee (NSQC).
- iii. Alternatively, the HEI concerned may adopt the qualifications from other recognised Awarding Bodies of NCVET and conduct the training by following the detailed process and methodology provided in the SOP for Operationalisation of NCeF in Vocational Education, Training & Skilling.
- iv. A national level NCVET skill competency certificate may be issued
- v. NSQF aligned courses of any level can be offered subject to their adoption of such courses/ qualifications. Also, to ensure the quality standards the related guidelines of NCVET with regards to the training standards, infrastructure including the requirement of labs and workshops, qualifications of trainers and instructors delivery of the course with the practical and proper assessment of the learning outcomes will be followed by the HEI concerned.
- vi. Registration of the institution and the students/ learners for the APAAR, in the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) shall be mandatory.
- vii. Even if the HEI is not a recognised Awarding body (AB) of NCVET, the HEI may offer its own NHEQF aligned skill-based courses which are duly approved by its highest awarding body to the students and learners **other than those enrolled for UG/PG course in the HEI, i.e.** from the open market. In such cases the HEI certification may be issued with credits. **However, in such cases the NCVET approved certificate shall not be issued by the HEI.**

5.2 The ABs developing qualifications/ NOS to be offered as standalone courses as in **Model 2 and Model 3 shall keep the above requirements in mind.**

6. **Integration of VETS in School Education:** The same principles shall apply to skill courses offered in schools by the School Boards concerned.