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National Progression Award (NPA) Food Manufacture

College Development Network is Supporting Colleges

College Development Network (CDN) believes there are opportunities for young people to enter vibrant, exciting and rewarding careers in the food and drink manufacturing sector all over Scotland. To help our colleges in Scotland get young people onto these pathways, we have developed support materials for all 4 units of the NPA and have created a collection of sign-posted teaching resources. CDN is now working on similar activities for the HNC/D in Food Science and Technology to ensure there are progression routes through education into this successful sector of the Scottish Economy.

NPA Food Manufacture

The National Progression Award in Food Manufacture consists of four mandatory Units at SCQF level 6 - each worth 6 SCQF Credit Points or 1 SQA Credit

- Fundamentals of Food Science
- Food Production
- Commercial and Social Drivers
- Sustainability

NPAs are trusted because they are developed by practitioners from industry and are supported by the relevant sector skills council (SSC). Industry has recognised that the qualification fits the job.

The NPA in Food Manufacture gives an overview of many general manufacturing techniques and practises, but can be tailored to local industries in a given geographical area. This ensures that candidates completing the NPA have the knowledge and skills relevant for employment in local food and drink industries.

The Units in this NPA could also be easily adapted to a distance learning approach. This would ideally suit individuals already in employment in the food industry who could access relevant manufacturing processes.

Who Does this Qualification Suit?

The NPA is targeted at post-16 full-time students, adult returners and employees at all levels in the food and drink industry.

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following, or equivalent qualifications or experience:

- Numeracy and Communication at SCQF level 5
- Standard Grade or Credit level or Intermediate 2 in Science or Health and Food Technology
- Similar capability through work/life experience

Progression into Work, Further or Higher Education

- This NPA gives candidates a competitive edge when seeking to gain employment in the food manufacturing and processing industry and when studied alongside relevant SVQs may influence promotion and advancement opportunities.
- Candidates who successfully complete the NPA may find opportunities to further their career in the food industry by being employed as team leaders or specialist operatives.
- The NPA can be used to offer a progression pathway to other qualifications in food manufacturing and processing such as an HNC/D in Food Science & Technology.
- There is also potential for full-time students to progress academically into further education in the fields of science, engineering, marketing or business at HNC/D level.
- The NPA in Food Manufacture coupled with work experience could provide an alternative basis for entry to study for a relevant science, engineering or business degree.
This would be at the discretion of the degree awarding institution.

This NPA is suitable for candidates who have basic IT, communication and numeracy skills

Food Processing and Food Manufacturing Defined

Processing is the conversion of raw food material into a product that may or may not be consumed directly, enhancing its shelf-life, making it safe to eat and easing its distribution. This work is carried out after foods have been harvested or animals have been slaughtered in order to prepare them for consumption or to be turned/ incorporated into other products.

Manufacture is the conversion of an intermediate product into a final product for consumption, for example, flour to bread. Secondary processing involves a series of actions that change primary products into other useful products. For example, this may include heating, cooling, smoking, drying, fermentation or the incorporation of food additives.



Summary

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Food Manufacture at SCQF level 6 develops an understanding of the principles, structure, processes and procedures used in the food and drink manufacturing industry.

Candidates in school, at college or already in work will gain knowledge and experience of modern food and drink production and its complex supply chain.

The four units will take candidates from the principles of science and food safety through developing marketable products for today's consumer to the care, legislation and processes involved in creating those products. The unit on Sustainability mirrors industry challenges of waste minimisation and balancing sustainability and environmental considerations with modern and highly technology-led manufacturing methods.

For more information on the NPA Food Manufacture (SCQF level 6) Arrangements – www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GF4N46.pdf

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