

# ENTRY ROUTES TO RURAL INDUSTRIES: SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS

Skills for Work: Rural Skills (SCQF Level 4)

Employability Award (SCQF Level 4)

NPA Rural Skills (SCQF Level 5)

Non-SQA Accredited Qualifications



Further information:

[www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/careers](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/careers)





## Skills for Work: Rural Skills (SCQF Level 4)

Skills for Work: Rural Skills is an introductory qualification, focusing on the development of general employability skills through a variety of practical experiences in the rural skills area.

Candidates begin by exploring the diverse employment prospects that exist in land-based industries through three mandatory units, before taking either a plant or animal-focused route, developing basic skills.



### Breadalbane Academy, Aberfeldy:

Breadalbane's Community Garden Project has allowed the school to show their pupils the wide variety of job roles available in rural industries. Through the Skills for Work: Rural Skills programme and visits to local industry employers, pupils are increasing their practical, social and employability skills. Breadalbane has also partnered with nurture groups from local primary schools to encourage younger pupils academic and social development in an outdoor setting.

The project has featured on Beechgrove Garden and has won numerous awards for the school, including Lantra's Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year School Award in 2012, 2015 and 2017. Breadalbane is currently looking to widen the rural industry experience available to their pupils by connecting with gamekeepers and ground maintenance staff from local estates.

Peter Butter, formerly of Breadalbane Academy,  
talks about his experience with Skills for Work: Rural Skills at:  
[www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/east-careers-event](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/east-careers-event)

## Employability Award (SCQF Level 4)

The Employability Award is an introduction for candidates to the world of work and focuses on generic employability skills, such as looking at existing skills and experience, building on them and how they may apply to the workplace.

The Employability Award is flexible, consisting of two mandatory and one optional unit and allows discretion in the way it is delivered and assessed - delivery methods and assessed activities to be tailored to the candidate's needs. Additional units at the same level can be utilised to enhance skills levels to a specific industry by working with SQA to produce a Customised Award.

### Dumfries & Galloway Employability Award:

Since 2016, Dumfries & Galloway Council DYW team have worked with local schools and farmers to offer a customised Land-based Employability Award - pupils spend one day a week for a full academic year on a local farm, gaining qualifications in Livestock Production and Animal Care, delivered and assessed by SRUC Barony, as well as general employability and core skills units.

*Louise Main, student at Castle Douglas High School, took part in the D&G Employability Award in 2017 - having sat her exams the previous year, she felt she needed guidance in pursuit of a career in farming. Gaining confidence by being assessed in a controlled working environment in the dairy sector, she has now gained entry to the HNC Agriculture course at SRUC Barony.*



DYW Dumfries & Galloway hope to extend the range of work placements to include other land-based sectors, such as forestry and horticulture in 2018-19 and develop a clear pathway for young people interested in a career in land-based industries.

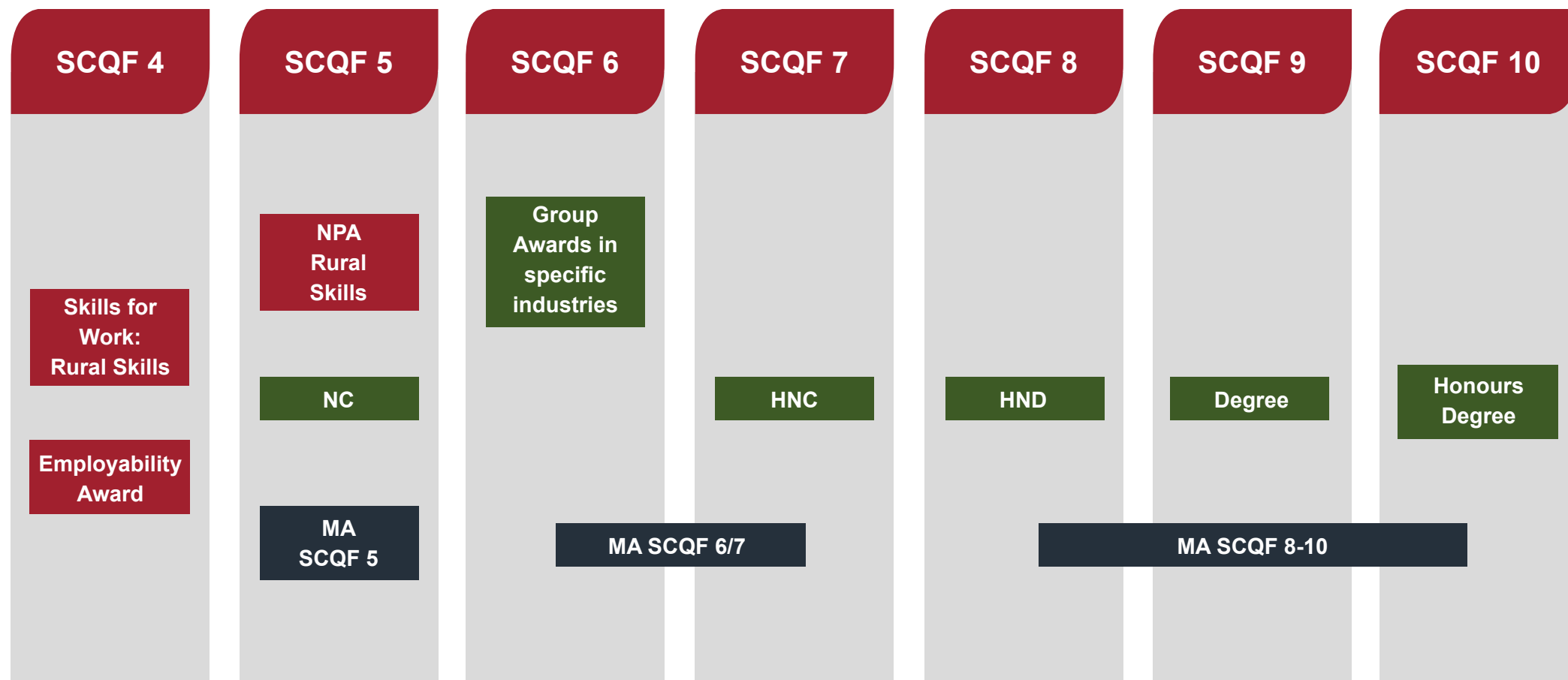
Melanie McEwen, DYW Lead for Dumfries & Galloway Council  
talks about the initiative at:  
[www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/west-careers-event](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/west-careers-event)



## Progression Routes

Successful candidates may progress to various land-based options such as academic programmes in colleges or universities, or follow vocational programmes such as Modern Apprenticeships (MA).

- Qualification delivered at school
- Academic route via college / university
- Vocational route, gained while in employment



Further information:

[www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/careers](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/careers)





## NPA Rural Skills (SCQF Level 5)

The NPA qualification allows candidates the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge relating to one area of the land-based sector and to develop knowledge and understanding of how a rural business operates.

Candidates are offered a choice of eight different study routes (Agriculture, Animal Care, Equine Studies, Estate Skills, Fisheries Management, Forestry, Gamekeeping and Horticulture) which will provide them with some of the skills and knowledge related to their chosen land-based sector route of study, whilst developing their understanding of the nature of land-based industries and the issues they face.



### Wallace Hall Academy, Thornhill:

In recognising their rural location, Wallace Hall Academy has developed a curriculum that promotes local employment opportunities in land-based industries while developing employability, inter-personal and entrepreneurial skills of the pupils.

Through connections with Queensberry Estate and 17 local agricultural businesses, the young people have benefitted from the opportunity to broaden their skills-base by pursuing a range of vocational courses, including NPA Rural Skills in Forestry and Agriculture with pupils experiencing all aspects of beef, dairy, pork and egg production on various farms. In addition, career mentoring and work experience programmes with local land-based companies provide the pupils with opportunities to build working relationships with potential employers. The pupils have also developed a social enterprise, WHApples Community Orchard. This produces fruits and products that can be sold by the pupils and has created an accessible public space, strengthening links with the local community.

## Non-SQA Accredited Courses

Alternatives to SQA qualifications are offered by The John Muir Trust (The John Muir Award), the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Awards and Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (The Caley Award):

- The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme which was set up to promote educational, social and personal development through engagement with wild areas and involvement in conservation. It is free to use, with all information and booklets being available on The John Muir website, and can be used to deliver Curriculum for Excellence outcomes through outdoor learning approaches.
- The RHS offers qualifications at various levels, however the Level 1 Awards are aimed at those with an interest in plants and gardening in full-time education, or assisted learning, aged 14 or over. There are two Level 1 awards, both providing an understanding of essential practical skills and is assessed through a range of set practical activities.
- The Caley Grow & Learn Grow and Learn is a two-level horticultural award scheme that recognises individual progress and achievement through experiential learning and personal development. The award offers the learner a structured framework to work within, but is also flexible enough to ensure a person-centred approach.



Please find further details at the following websites:

[www.johnmuirtrust.org](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org) | [www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning](http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning)  
[www.rchs.co.uk/education](http://www.rchs.co.uk/education)



## About Lantra Scotland

Lantra is the Sector Skills Council for Scotland's land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation industries.

In partnership, we promote the sector as a positive and rewarding career choice, support the development and maintenance of a skilled workforce by promoting the benefits and opportunities for investment in learning and skills development, celebrate the achievements of learners, and help to ensure that learning and training provision address industry requirements and skills gaps.

## Careers Workshop Events

To raise the profile of the land-based, aquaculture and environmental sector and support career influencers in learning more about the exciting and rewarding career opportunities, Lantra organises focused career workshops. Further details on previous events including videos can be found at [www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/previous-events](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/previous-events)

If you would like to be included in our newsletter distribution and/or receive further information on future events:

### Contact Us

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Further information:

[www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/careers](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland/careers)