



The Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Applications of ICT in Libraries are Professional Development Awards that were launched by SQA in December 2005. The Diplomas are now being offered by SQA Centres in Scotland, England, Wales. These SCQF Level 7 & Level 8 Awards have been jointly developed by SQA and the Scottish Library & Information Council (SLIC). The Diplomas provide nationally recognised certification for the People's Network ICT Training previously provided for library staff throughout the UK. They give candidates the opportunity to be certificated to Higher National standard for the level of ICT skill now required in the library and information service sector. These qualifications can also be used to develop the ICT skills needed by those interested in pursuing a career in this sector.

Interest being shown by libraries throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland is encouraging. There is a substantial potential market for existing and new SQA centres willing to offer these Diplomas.

Centres are offering these qualifications using variety of learning/delivery approaches including a mixture of traditional & workplace based, distance, and on-line.

These awards are well supported by SQA with a package which includes:

- Arrangements Document on SQA's open access website www.sqa.org.uk
- Assessment exemplars (including Log Books) on SQA's secure website www.sqa.org.uk/sqasecure (access restricted to SQA approved centres).
- The following open access support is available on the ICTL dedicated website www.ictl.org.uk :
 - A Course Guide;
 - Tuition and tutorial materials (Top Up Learning) for each unit;
 - A Wiki Book for each unit;
 - A TNA to assist centres determine skill levels and candidates training needs.
- A Yahoo based Candidate Support Group for each unit at ICTL@yahoogroups.com (Log on to www.ictl.org.uk to subscribe)
- Promotion advice & materials including brochures and publicity posters are available from SQA.

Individual Learning Account Funding is available in specific circumstances. ILA Scotland has provided the following guidance for candidates seeking ILA Scotland funding to help with candidate entry fees.

"If you meet the following requirements and earn £15,000 a year or less, you could get £200 a year towards the cost of learning. If you earn more than £15,000 a year, you could get £100 a year.

General requirements:

Learners are studying for the qualification on a part-time or distance learning basis, including on-line.

AND

The course is delivered by a registered ILA Scotland learning provider.

Learners must have opened an individual learning account, and have received their account card and account number, with ILA Scotland before booking any courses.

ILA Scotland funding would be available if in addition to the above requirements learners are:

1. *Individuals are working in a library or seeking employment in a library where this qualification was viewed by the employer as allowing an employee to demonstrate evidence of good practice within their role which could enhance promotion prospects but was not a mandatory requirement for the job or promotion.*

Or

2. *Individuals are currently employed in a particular role, and promotion is dependent on achieving this particular qualification, but continuing in their existing role does not require this qualification, then the individual would be able to undertake the course using ILA Scotland funding.*

Or

3. *Individuals are not employed in a library, or are employed and are seeking as an individual to improve their skills or employability by developing their skills through undertaking this course.*

ILA Scotland funding would be not given in the following circumstances:

1. *Individuals are working in a library and undertaking this course or achieving this qualification was a specified mandatory requirement for the job. Or Individuals are seeking employment in a library and the offer of employment was conditional on the learner using their ILA Scotland funding to undertake the course.*

Or

2. *If an individual is required to undertake the course in order to continue in their role then this would not attract ILA Scotland funding.”*

Contact ILA Scotland, Tel No 0808 100 1090, for further advice on ILAs or visit www.ilascotland.org.uk

The ICTL website www.ictl.co.uk provides detailed information on the diplomas as well as open access to online tuition / tutorial materials and is well worth a visit.

Organisations wishing to explore offering the Diplomas and/or looking for help with promotion should contact Business Development Manager Bob Marren Tel: 01698 810 840 Mob: 07770 537 401 email: bob.marren@sqa.org.uk.

Contact Tony Hamilton, Tel: 0845 213 5472 , tony.hamilton@sqa.org.uk for further information and assistance, including a list of SQA Centres offering the Diplomas.