

# Case study: Inverclyde Council SSERC Accredited Centre

Inverclyde  
council

SSERC has established an Accredited Centre programme. This has been designed to enable external bodies and organisations to deliver a range of SSERC developed, Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) Credit and Levelled, professional learning courses.

Currently there are 10 SSERC, SCQF Credit and Levelled, professional learning courses available through SSERC Accredited Centres. Whilst these courses were specifically designed to support Scottish school technicians they have proven to be of considerable value to both Design and Technology and Science teachers.

## Inverclyde Council SSERC Accredited Centre

Inverclyde Council was one of the first to achieve SSERC Accredited Centre status and be approved as a training centre. The opportunity for technician staff to access quality professional learning opportunities locally in the training centre in Norte Dame High School, Greenock has eliminated travel and subsistence costs often associated with professional learning opportunities. With the in-house trainer being a council, employee delivery costs have been also reduced significantly. An additional benefit has been collaborative working amongst the school technician community, comprised of six technical technicians, nine science technicians and two Modern Apprenticeship (Life Science) technicians, supporting a total of six secondary schools.

*“Our decision to become a training centre was brought about by not only financial advantages but also the willingness of our staff and schools to think in a solution orientated way. To take this forward we needed schools and technicians to work together across Inverclyde and our thanks go to the schools who have willingly released staff and facilities to undertake the training. Greg Cooper, the technician who drove this initiative forward and ensured its success, used this as a small test of change to improve ways of working*

*and subsequently presented the project to the Chief Executive of the Council as part of the Inverclyde leadership programme.”*

**Ruth Binks, Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council.**

As the training centre was already fitted to a high specification there were no issues in meeting SSERC facility and equipment requirements. The only cost implications have been initial accreditation and approval cost and the annual accreditation fee.

Inverclyde Council found the application process to be clear and precise with the accreditation process straightforward. Currently, the training centre is approved to offer:

- Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery (Course code: SUFWM5) SCQF Level 5; 2 Credit Points.
- Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery- Refresher (Course code: SUFWM5R) SCQF Level 5; 2 Credit Points.

To date, Inverclyde Council has trained five new technical technicians and four Design & Technology teachers. The council has saved 70% in training and associated travel costs using the accredited centre. There are plans for further local training opportunities, and the vision is to have all technician and design and technology teachers staff trained by the end of 2022.

Staff who have already completed the course have given positive feedback.



# The SSERC accredited centre programme

SCQF Professional Learning courses available to SSERC Accredited Centres



Course code	Course title	SCQF
SUFWM5	Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery	SCQF Level 5 /2 credits
SMS6	Safety in Microbiology in Schools	SCQF Level 6 /3 credits
ESPAT6	Electrical Safety and Portable Appliance Testing	SCQF Level 6 /2 credits
CHS5	Chemical Handling for Schools	SCQF Level 5 /2 credits
IC15	Introductory Chemistry	SCQF Level 5 /2 credits
INTP5	Introductory Physics	SCQF Level 5 /2 credits
MFWM6	Maintenance of Fixed Workshop Machinery	SCQF Level 6 /3 credits
IMMR5	Introduction to Microscope Maintenance and Repair	SCQF Level 5 /2 credits
INTMP5	Intermediate Physics	SCQF Level 5 /2 credits
SUFWM5R	Safe Use of Fixed Workshop Machinery (refresh)	SCQF Level 5 /2 credits



**Costs as from 1 April 2021\***

- Cost to become a SSERC Accredited centre £900.00
- Annual cost to retain accredited centre status £150.00
- Cost for each SSERC Accredited course £165.00
- Annual cost to retain course accreditation (per course) £50.00
- Assessment fee per candidate (includes certification) £40.00
- Re assessment fee £40.00

\* subject to review

For more information about our SSERC Accredited Centre programme, [click here](#) or contact [accreditation@sserc.scot](mailto:accreditation@sserc.scot).