

# What housing qualification should I study? A guide

Housing and property management qualifications help housing practitioners develop their knowledge and advance their career. The below graphic can you identify the different types of housing qualification you may wish to study at different stages of their career. This table at the supporting profiles are illustrative of the types of qualification you may wish to study. For further information please speak to your employer or contact one of the Scottish housing [learning centres](#).

Level of qualification	Types of qualification available	Learning Centre	Knowledge and skills outcomes	Who should study this qualification
CIH Level 2/Equivalent to SCQF 5	Certificate in Housing Practice	Dundee College SHARE CIH Housing Academy	Gain knowledge which will address defined housing problems. Be aware of and interpret relevant housing information Use skills to address defined housing problems Can identify the effectiveness of actions	Those that want an introduction to the housing sector. Those that are new to working in the housing sector, irrespective of role Those who can commit to 16 weeks part time study
CIH Level 3/Equivalent to SCQF 6	Certificate in Housing Practice Certificate in supporting homeless people Certificate in Letting and Managing Residential Property (PRS) Housing Maintenance and Asset Management (All quals not available at all centres)	Dundee College New Lanarkshire College SHARE CIH Housing Academy	Has factual knowledge which will address well defined but complex housing problems. Be aware of and interpret relevant housing information and ideas Has skills to address well defined but complex housing problems Can review the effectiveness of actions	Those that want to improve their understanding of the housing sector. Those that want to learn skills and knowledge to improve their frontline job performance. Those who have at least 6 months experience in housing/an existing CIH qualification Those who can commit to 11 months part time studying,

## Learner Profiles

These profiles are a guide to the type of qualification learners may choose to study. They are not exhaustive or exclusionary and as with the above table learners should speak to your employer or contact one of the Scottish housing [learning centres](#) in the first instance.

**Greig** has recently graduated from University and has secured a role with a housing association as part of their new graduate programme. This is a 2-year programme that seeks to give graduates an experience of front line housing and develop them into leaders of the future. Greig see's himself as a future leader in the sector. Grieg may consider studying a CIH level 4 in the first instance or even post graduate qualifications- given his ambition and academic background.

**Susie** has worked for NHS for 25 years, most recently in a senior post but has been recently appointed as head of housing for a leading housing association. She is a member of the housing association's SMT and is keen to enhance her understanding of strategic housing matters to support her team. As a leader in the organisation Susie should consider studying for her CIH level 5 qualification so she can better understand the strategic decision made for landlords. Susie may also wish to consider a post graduate qualification.

Level of qualification	Types of qualification available	Learning Centre	Knowledge and skills outcomes	Who should study this qualification
CIH Level 4/ Equivalent to SCQF 7	Certificate in Housing	Ayrshire College Dundee College City of Glasgow College New Lanarkshire College SHARE CIH Housing Academy	Has practical knowledge which will address well defined but complex and non-routine housing problems. Can analyse and interpret ideas and information Has an informed perspective of different approaches to work Has skills to address complex and non-routine housing problems, which may be well defined Can review effectiveness of actions and results	Those that want to gain a better understanding of the behaviours to be a more effective housing practitioner. Those that want a better understanding of housing policy and housing law and how it complements housing practice Those board members keen to add to their housing knowledge Those with an existing housing qualification at CIH level 3 or recent academic qualifications Those who can commit to 12 months part time studying.
CIH Level 5/ Equivalent to SCQF 8	Diploma in Housing	Ayrshire College Dundee College City of Glasgow College New Lanarkshire College SHARE CIH Housing Academy	Has knowledge which will address complex and non-routine housing problems. Can analyse, evaluate and interpret relevant ideas, concepts and information Understands different perspectives to work and reasons behind them Has skills to address broad complex and non-routine housing problems Can evaluate actions, methods and results	Those that want a senior management role in a housing organisation Those that want to shape their organisation's working environment, culture and strategy. Those who have studied to Level 4 or have reasonable experience in the housing sector or at senior level. Those who can commit to 12 months part time studying.

**Svetlana** works for a homelessness charity as its communication and public affairs director. She has worked in the housing charity sector for 10 years but never for a landlord has never considered herself a housing professional before but has started to think about her own career and professional development. As a senior manager in the organisation and she should consider studying a CIH level 4 qualification to give her a more reflective understanding of housing law, policy and practice.

**Alan** has just joined the council's housing department as a housing officer. He previously worked for an NGO in an administrative role but has no direct experience in housing management before this role. Alan is keen to better understand what the housing sector involves so he can do his job to the best of his ability. Alan should consider studying for a CIH level 2 qualification in the first instance but then in 12 months' time consider studying for his level 3 to improve his housing knowledge.

**Clive** is a PRS landlord who owns x2 flats in Edinburgh city centre. He manages the lets himself. He wants to improve his professional standing among his peers and customers. Clive should study for his CIH level 3 Certificate in Letting and Managing Residential Property. This will give him a grounding in relevant PRS legislation in Scotland. However once completed he should consider more senior qualifications reflecting his role as a landlord.

Level of qualification	Types of qualification available	Learning Centre	Knowledge and skills outcomes	Who should study this qualification
Post Graduate award/ Equivalent to SCQF 9, 10 or 11	PG Certificate Housing Studies (p/t 12 months) PG Diploma Housing Studies (p/t 24 months) Msc Housing Studies (p/t 36 months) MSc/PG Dip with Internship (f/t month or p/t 24 months)	University of Stirling University of Glasgow	Has knowledge that covers the principal areas, features and conventions of housing  Can apply a critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles.  Knowledge and understanding of the ways housing is developed, including research methodologies.  Can use a wide range of the professional skills, techniques and practices to address housing problems.  Can critically review, evaluate and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking.	Those that wish to become a visible, senior, strategic leader in the housing sector.  Those new to housing but holding an undergraduate degree and wishing to conduct a 50-day placement (University of Stirling).  Those that want to understand the latest in housing research and theory and how it can be applied in practice.  Those who wish to develop research skills and conduct current research.  Those that have achieved an honours degree or have equivalent experience (the CIH Level 4 Diploma is a common entry route).

**Chloe** is a new housing officer with a local housing association, having previously had the same role with a local authority. She has worked in the sector for one year. The housing association has offered her training and support as she has no existing housing qualifications. Chloe is excited to take up the opportunity to enhance her own professional development. Chloe should consider studying for a CIH level 3 qualification in the first instance and then consider more senior qualifications in the future depending on her career ambitions

**Imran** has been working at his local authority as housing officer for 3 years. He has achieved his level 3 qualification but is ambitious and one day wants to become the head of housing at the local authority. Imran is experienced writing essays and should consider studying for a level 5 or post graduate qualification. This will help highlight his commitment to ongoing professional development and help give him the skills and knowledge to secure a more senior post.

**Dave** has managed a letting agency for 15 years and has hundreds of PRS properties to look after. Dave already has a CIH level 3 Certificate in Letting and Managing Residential Property as it is a legal requirement and he is a graduate. Dave is a leader in Letting sector and keen to demonstrate the sector's commitment to customer service and professionalism. Dave should study for a PG housing qualification to demonstrate his commitment to professional standards and better understand the strategic place of his business in the housing market

**Fatima** has worked for a housing association for 15 years in the finance team. She started her career as an officer but now leads the team and is a member of the SMT. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Fatima see herself as a leader in the organisation and increasingly as housing professional too. Fatima should study for her CIH level 5 or post graduate qualification to complement her other professional qualifications.

