Scotland Excel

PDA in Strategic Leadership and Management(SCQF9)

The SQA certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership is aimed at individuals wishing to develop professional management and leadership practice. The PDA in Strategic Leadership and Management at SCQF level 9 is designed for leaders and managers who contribute to strategic development in an organisation — as well as those who wish to enhance their awareness and understanding of the strategic process. The certificate is jointly accredited by SQA and CMI and is delivered through a work-based learning methodology supported by our Moodle digital platform, the Scotland Excel Academy.

The Academy provides the opportunity for interactive learning to enhance and streamline the learner's experience.

These qualifications focus on the personal development of the individual learner's management capabilities and competencies.

Programme Structure

The Certificate consists of an induction workshop followed by 2 online workshops.
There is also an opportunity to pursue Chartered Manager (CMgr) assessment at an additional cost.

Programme Format

The programme is a blend of online facilitated delivery, work-based and online learning over a period of approximately five months. The programme will commence with an Induction workshop on 16th April 2025 with the last unit workshop being delivered on 25th June 2025.

Programme Overview

Each unit is assessed by a project where candidates will be asked to demonstrate how learning has been applied to work- based learning practice.

Formal assessment is also complemented by guided learning through the Scotland Excel Academy using online content and group discussions.
The dates and unit workshops which make up the Certificate are:

- 28th October 2026: Induction and Programme Overview
- 12th November 2026: Leadership for Managers (part 1)
- 19th November 2026: Leadership for Managers (part 2)
- 25th February 2027: Lead Change

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Essential Information

Who is the course aimed at?

Public Sector managers who are keen to build on their management and leadership skills through a recognised and accredited qualification.

How is the Programme Assessed?

Each unit is assessed by a project where candidates will be asked to demonstrate how learning has been applied to work-based learning practice.

Assessments and online programme delivery will be supported by interactive activities, online content and the opportunity to share experiences using the Scotland Excel Academy

How much does it cost?

The 2 -unit level 6 certificate, integrated with Chartered Manager assessment costs £651 per learner for public-sector learners, £596 per learner for associate members of Scotland Excel and £542 per learner for Local Authority members of Scotland Excel.

How will the Programme be delivered?

The online workshop delivery will be tailored to specific group needs. The programme will be supported by the Scotland Excel Academy, which operates from a Moodle Digital Platform and will facilitate an interactive online approach to learning.

How much time will it take me?

The certificate comprises of 2 units, totalling 31 SCQF credit points. The SCQF works on the basis that 1 credit = 10 hours of effort. Completion of the certificate programme would require a total of 310 hours of effort.

What qualification will I receive if successfully completed?

On successful completion of the programme, candidates will receive the PDA in Strategic Leadership and Management (SCQF 9).

How do book a place on the Programme?

Register your place, express an interest, or request further information by contacting laurie.campbell@scotland-excel.org.uk