

NVQs in Supply Chain Management at Levels 3 and 5

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) provide the opportunity to compare your performance at work with the relevant National Occupational Standards for your chosen vocational area.

'The NVQ nurtures a reflective, methodical and structured approach to work, and tidies up any shortcomings in communication skills.'

Assistant Supply Chain Manager,
Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust



What are NVQs in Supply Chain Management?

NVQ's in Supply Chain Management are nationally recognised qualifications derived from the Supply Chain Management and Logistics National Occupational Standards (NOS) in consultation with UK organisations and their managers in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

These NVQ's provide people who contribute to the operation and/or management of supply chain activities across the economy with a qualification that demonstrates they have the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to carry out their role to a professional standard. These qualifications demonstrate to an employer that the employee is capable and competent to do their job and confirms they have a range of flexible skills, knowledge and understanding, backed up by a nationally recognised qualification.



Level 3 Diploma in Supply Chain Management

Who is it for?

Procurement professionals who carry out a broad range of complex, non-routine, varied work activities with considerable responsibility, autonomy and collaboration with others. Examples would be senior stock controllers, assistant buyers or team leaders.

What are the entry requirements?

There are no academic requirements, but candidates must be working in a position in which they can gain the evidence necessary to prove competent performance.

What does it include?

Candidates must complete a minimum of 14 units, totalling at least 42 credits, made up from mandatory and optional units. The qualification is structured within six categories (A, B, C, D, E and F) with candidates having to choose a specific number of units from each category.

What are the progression routes?

Candidates completing the Level 3 Diploma may want to consider progressing to the Level 5 Diploma should their work role allow them to operate at a more senior level. Alternatively candidates may consider completing the Foundation Stage of the CIPS (Chartered Institute for Purchasing & Supply) professional examination route.

Level 5 Diploma in Supply Chain Management

Who is it for?

Procurement professionals carrying out a broad range of complex, technical or professional work activities with substantial personal responsibility, autonomy, responsibility for others and allocation of resources. Examples are stock managers, purchasing managers, buyers or senior buyers.

What are the entry requirements?

There are no academic requirements, but candidates must be working in a position in which they can gain the evidence necessary to prove competent performance.

What does it include?

Candidates must complete a minimum of 14 units, totalling at least 60 credits, made up of mandatory and optional units. The qualification is structured within five categories (A, B, C, D and E) with candidates having to choose a specific number of units from each category.

What are the progression routes?

This NVQ can give candidates entry to the University's MSc programmes in Supply Chain Management, subject to academic approval. Further information can be obtained through a meeting with academic staff.



Level 3 Diploma in Supply Chain Management

Qualification Structure:

To achieve this qualification students must complete 2 units from mandatory Group A, a minimum of 4 units from Group B and a minimum of 2 units from each of the Optional Groups C, D, E, and F obtaining a minimum of 42 credits

Mandatory Group A

Unit	Title	Level	Credit
3	Make an effective contribution to a business in the logistics sector	2	3
21	Develop productive working relationships with colleagues in logistics operations	3	2

Optional Group B – students must complete a minimum of 4 units from Group B (min 14 credits)

22	Ensure compliance with legal, regulatory, ethical and social requirements in logistics operations.	3	3
23	Ensure an effective organisational approach to health, safety and security in supply management or a logistics operation	5	6
24	Apply improvements to the supply chain	3	4
25	Plan the workforce in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	4
26	Respond to problems in logistics operations	3	3
27	Manage risk in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	6
28	Encourage innovation in supply chain management or a logistics operation.	5	5
29	Implement change in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	7

Optional Group C – students must complete a minimum of 2 units from Group C (min 6 credits)

17	Select suppliers in the supply chain or a logistics operation	3	3
18	Procure supplies or services in the supply chain or a logistics operation	3	3
19	Control supplies at storage locations and facilities	3	3
30	Schedule logistics operations to meet customer requirements	3	4
31	Arrange the transportation of goods using multiple transport modes	3	3
32	Plan change in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	6

Optional Group D – students must complete a minimum of 2 units from Group D (min 6 credits)

33	Manage a budget in supply chain management or a logistics operation	3	4
34	Manage contracts in supply chain management or a logistics operation	4	4
35	Manage finance for own area of responsibility in supply chain management or a logistics operation.	4	4
36	Manage business processes in supply chain management or a logistics operation	4	4
37	Manage a project in the supply chain or a logistics operation	3	3

Optional Group E – students must complete a minimum of 2 units from Group E (min 6 credits)

38	Optimise the use of logistics resources	3	3
39	Minimise the environmental impact of logistics operations	3	3
40	Map the logistics environment in which own organisation operates	5	6
41	Build own organisations understanding of its market and customers in supply chain management or a logistics operation.	4	6

Optional Group F – students must complete a minimum of 2 units from Group F (min 5 credits)

42	Provide leadership for your team in logistics operations	3	4
43	Provide leadership in own area of responsibility in supply chain management or a logistics operation	4	4
44	Recruit, select and keep colleagues in logistics operations	3	4
45	Build and manage teams in logistics operations	3	4
46	Help team members address problems affecting their performance in logistics operations	4	3
47	Manage your own professional development in logistics operations	3	2
48	Establish strategic relationships within the supply chain	5	6

Level 5 Diploma in Supply Chain Management

Qualification Structure:

To achieve this qualification students must complete 4 units from mandatory Group A, a minimum of 3 units from Optional Group B and a minimum of 2 units from Optional Group C, a minimum of 3 units from Optional Group D and a minimum of 2 units from Optional Group E. A minimum total of 60 credits is required.

Mandatory Group A – students need to complete all units in this group.

Unit	Title	Level	Credit
22	Ensure compliance with legal, regulatory, ethical and social requirements in logistics operations	3	3
23	Ensure an effective organisational approach to health, safety and security in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	6
49	Provide leadership in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	4
50	Develop productive working relationships with colleagues and stakeholders in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	6

Optional Group B – students must complete a minimum of 3 units from Group B (min 14 credits)

7	Analyse information on the supply chain	3	4
29	Implement change in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	7
32	Plan change in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	6
51	Develop a strategic business plan in supply chain management or a logistics operation	6	6
52	Implement a strategic business plan in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	5
53	Develop and implement operational plans in supply chain management or a logistics operation	6	5

Optional Group C – students must complete a minimum of 2 units from Group C (min 8 credits)

35	Manage finance for own area of responsibility in supply chain management or a logistics operation	4	4
36	Manage business processes in supply chain management or a logistics operation	4	4
54	Manage a programme in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	6
55	Manage finance for supply chain management or a logistics operation	6	6

Optional Group D – students must complete a minimum of 3 units from Group D (min 14 credits)

28	Encourage innovation in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	5
40	Map the logistics environment in which own organisation operates	5	6
41	Build own organisation's understanding of its market and customers in supply chain management or a logistics operation	4	6
56	Develop the culture of own organisation in supply chain management or a logistics operation	6	6
48	Establish strategic relationships within the supply chain	5	6
39	Minimise the environmental impact of logistics operations	3	3
27	Manage risk in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	6

Optional Group E – students must complete a minimum of 2 units from Group E (min 5 credits)

25	Plan the workforce in supply chain management or a logistics operation	5	4
44	Recruit, select and keep colleagues in logistics operations	3	4
46	Help team members address problems affecting their performance in logistics operations	4	3
47	Manage your own professional development in logistics operations	3	2





Frequently asked questions

How long does it take?

You are expected to complete your Supply Chain NVQ within no more than 18 months of making the initial enquiry. In order to do this, it is important to ensure that you are meeting your adviser/assessor every 6-8 weeks with completed units.

Where is it delivered?

Evidence is gathered at your place of work. Normally, meetings will also be held at your place of work to minimise disruption to your normal routine. If you are advised to undertake knowledge based modules, these may be delivered at the University of South Wales or delivery can be negotiated elsewhere. General workshop sessions based on the underpinning knowledge can be considered on request, but are not an integral part of the current award delivery.

When can I start?

Anytime as the NVQ programme is not governed by the academic year.

Do the NVQs link with academic programmes?

The recommended route is to progress from NVQ level 3 to NVQ level 5, possibly using some of the academic programmes as in-depth knowledge back-up if needed. However, on completion of your NVQ, you will also be awarded general credit points which can be used against academic programmes. You should note, however, that these are general credit points and may not match specific academic programmes clearly. Therefore, any exemptions for credits awarded have to be individually negotiated.

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