

What is the difference between a CPD course & a Regulated Qualification?

Both Accredited CPD Courses and Regulated Qualifications have advantages and purposes, but you should be aware of what you're buying and why.

The distinction between CPD courses and Regulated Qualifications:

- ***CPD Courses***

CPD stands for Continuing Professional Development. It is a technique to keep track of or document actions after completing your first training or certifications, both formally and informally.

On-Demand Self-Generated Certificates by the Training Provider is one of the benefits of CPD. It's acceptable if the training provider is trustworthy, knowledgeable, and follows through on their promises! The problem with CPD-accredited courses is that there is little or no internal and external quality assurance follow-up.

Promising CPD Accredited Training Providers conduct their own quality control and provide ongoing support to their students. They'll be able to tell if the student has grasped the curriculum. They'll be able to watch and document practical skills, consultation skills, and adherence to health and safety in clinical practice.

- ***Regulated Qualifications***

Unlike CPD Courses, Regulated Qualifications have several levels of competency and different sizes at each level. An Award is a shorter qualification usually consisting of one to three units and can be completed in a few days. A Certificate will include a few more learning criteria units.

For example, the Office of Qualifications and Exams Regulation (Ofqual) is an English regulatory body that oversees qualifications, examinations, and assessments. They are the governing organisation to which Awarding Organisations including VTCT, TQUK, CIBTAC, Qualifi, and FAA must report and comply. End Point Assessment Organisations, which formally assess students at the end of an apprenticeship, are likewise overseen by Ofqual.

When it comes to starting a career in your preferred field, starting with regulated certifications will provide a solid basis for the future. CPD or authorised courses should only be used as a stepping stone or to supplement your existing qualifications.