



# Singapore Standard Educational Classification 2026

**SINGAPORE STANDARD EDUCATIONAL CLASSIFICATION 2026**  
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# Preface

The Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) develops national statistical standards and promotes their adoption and use in Singapore. The adoption and use of these standards in the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics ensure consistency and comparability of data, facilitating relevant and meaningful analysis as well as data sharing.

The Singapore Standard Educational Classification (SSEC) is the national standard for classifying educational programmes and qualifications. The SSEC is used for censuses of population, household surveys and administrative databases. The SSEC makes reference to and is consistent with the basic framework and principles of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 and the ISCED Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F) 2013 developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS). It is reviewed periodically to reflect developments in the education system as well as initiatives in workforce education and upgrading.

The SSEC 2026 is the fifth edition of the SSEC and supersedes the previous editions. It consists of three components – classification of level of education attending, classification of educational qualification attained and classification of field of study.

The review of the SSEC was undertaken by a working group comprising representatives from the Singapore Department of Statistics, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Manpower and SkillsFuture Singapore. Inputs from other stakeholders have also been incorporated, where appropriate. I would like to thank all who have contributed to the review of the classification.

Dr Koh Eng Chuan  
Chief Statistician  
Singapore

April 2026

## Our Vision

National Statistical Service of Quality, Integrity and Expertise

## Our Mission

We Deliver Insightful Statistics and Trusted Statistical Services that Empower Decision Making

## Our Guiding Principles

<b>Professionalism &amp; Expertise</b>	<i>We adhere to professional ethics and develop statistical competency to produce quality statistics that comply with international concepts and best practices.</i>
<b>Relevance &amp; Reliability</b>	<i>We produce statistics that users need and trust.</i>
<b>Accessibility</b>	<i>We facilitate ease of access to our statistics through user-friendly platforms.</i>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<i>We protect the confidentiality of individual information collected by us.</i>
<b>Timeliness</b>	<i>We disseminate statistics at the earliest possible date while maintaining data quality.</i>
<b>Innovation</b>	<i>We constantly seek ways to improve our processes, leveraging new technology, to deliver better products and services to users.</i>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<i>We engage users on data needs, data providers and respondents on supply of data, and undertake the role of national statistical coordination.</i>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<i>We optimise resource utilisation, leveraging administrative and alternative data sources to ease respondent burden.</i>

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(Available on the [Statistics Singapore Website](#) in MS Excel or PDF formats and are updated when necessary.)

## List of Abbreviations

ACCA	: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
BCA	: Building and Construction Authority
BEST	: Basic Education for Skills Training
CET	: Continuing Education and Training
CFA	: Chartered Financial Analyst
DPP	: Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme
ECDC	: Early Childhood Development Centres
EQA	: Educational Qualification Attained
FOS	: Field of Study
GCE	: General Certificate of Examination
H2	: Higher 2
IP	: Integrated Programme
IHL	: Institute of Higher Learning
ITE	: Institute of Technical Education
ISC	: ITE Skills Certificate
ISSC	: ITE Skills Subject Certificate
ISCED	: International Standard Classification of Education
ISCED-F	: ISCED Fields of Education and Training
LASALLE	: LASALLE College of the Arts
LEA	: Level of Education Attending
NAFA	: Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
NEL	: Nurturing Early Learners
NFP	: NAFA Foundation Programme
NIE	: National Institute of Education
Nitec	: National ITE Certificate
NTC	: National Technical Certificate
NUS	: National University of Singapore
OTHM	: Organization For Tourism and Hospitality Management
PEI	: Private Education Institution
PFP	: Polytechnic Foundation Programme
PSEI	: Post-Secondary Education Institute
PSLE	: Primary School Leaving Examination
PSPE	: Primary School Proficiency Examination
SBB	: Subject-Based Banding
SIM	: Singapore Institute of Management
SEC	: Secondary Education Certificate
SSEC	: Singapore Standard Educational Classification
WISE	: Worker Improvement through Secondary Education
WSQ	: Workforce Skills Qualifications
WPLN	: Workplace Literacy and Numeracy



# Part I: Introduction and Methodological Notes

## 1. Introduction

1.1. The Singapore Standard Educational Classification (SSEC) is designed for use in the collection of data (e.g., via censuses, surveys, administrative records) that requires the classification of educational programmes and qualifications. It is also used in the compilation, presentation and analysis of a wide range of statistics, including demographic, social and education statistics. The SSEC is updated regularly to ensure the continuing relevance to local context and alignment to international standards.

1.2. Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS) led a multi-agency working group in the revision of the SSEC and consulted the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) on the updates to the classification. The SSEC 2026 adopts the basic framework and principles of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 and ISCED Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F) 2013. It is the fifth edition since the SSEC 2000. Besides aligning to international standards to enhance international comparability, the SSEC 2026 has been revised to take into account changes in Singapore's educational landscape to maintain relevance to the local context. Apart from changes in the education system and vocational certification system, developments in the continuing education and training (CET) programmes and qualification/certification systems to upgrade the workforce under the Skills Framework have also been taken into consideration when revising the SSEC.

## 2. Overview of Recent Changes in Singapore's Educational Landscape

2.1. There have been significant changes to Singapore's educational landscape since the previous edition of the SSEC. In this edition, the implementation of Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB)<sup>1</sup> and the new national certification, known as the Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC), which offers subjects at G1/G2/G3 levels, will result in a different SSEC classification, depending on the student's academic year.

### *Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB)*

2.2. From Academic Year (AY) 2024 intake, Secondary 1 students have been offered subjects at three levels, G1/G2/G3 (G stands for General). These levels correspond to the previous Secondary Normal (Technical) (N(T)), Normal (Academic) (N(A)) and Express standards respectively. Under Full SBB, there will no longer be separate Express, N(A) and N(T) streams. Upon completing secondary education, students will sit for a common national examination and receive a new national certification, known as the Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC)

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<sup>1</sup> The Full SBB has been fully implemented in secondary schools from 2024 onwards. More details on Full SBB are available on <https://www.moe.gov.sg/psle-fsbb/full-subject-based-banding/main>.

with subjects at G1/G2/G3 levels. Students will use the new certification to enter Junior College (JC), Millennia Institute (MI), Polytechnic or Institute of Technical Education (ITE) from AY2028 onwards.

#### *ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) and ITE Skills Subject Certificate (ISSC)*

2.3. Prior to 2021, the ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) was offered to students from Crest Secondary School, Spectra Secondary School, and the Specialised Schools (namely NorthLight School and Assumption Pathway School). From 2021 onwards, the ITE Skills Subject Certificate (ISSC)<sup>2</sup> replaced the ISC in Crest Secondary School and Spectra Secondary School, which provides students with a more broad-based curriculum, with exposure to different industries over two years in Secondary 3 and 4. Upon completing secondary education, students will receive the ISSC on top of the GCE 'Normal' ('N') Level or the Singapore-Cambridge SEC, depending on their academic year. Students from the Specialised Schools will continue to be offered and receive the ISC upon completing their education at the end of Year 4.

#### *Post-Secondary Admissions and Foundation Programmes*

2.4. Alternative progression pathways in lieu of Secondary 5 were introduced for Secondary 4 N(A) students who performed very well in the GCE N(A) Level examinations and met the eligibility requirements, namely Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) and Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) via ITE in 2013, and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Foundation Programme (NFP) in 2019. The PFP and NFP are foundation programmes conducted over a year (or two academic semesters) to prepare students for progression into Year 1 of polytechnic and NAFA respectively while the DPP prepares eligible Secondary 4 N(A) students for progression into selected polytechnic diploma courses without going through the GCE 'Ordinary' ('O') Level examinations via a two-year Higher National ITE Certificate (Nitec) programme at the ITE.

2.5. Under Full SBB from AY2028, all students taking at least five G2 subjects will be eligible for the PFP and NFP. Students taking G3 subjects will have their results mapped to G2 equivalents when assessing if they meet the eligibility criteria for these foundation programmes. With the removal of secondary school streaming, the DPP (which caters to N(A) students) will cease in AY2028. Direct admission into ITE's two-year Higher Nitec courses will remain available for students taking G2 subjects. ITE students who successfully complete their Higher Nitec course and attain the minimum qualifying Grade Point Average (GPA) are assured of a place in a polytechnic diploma course mapped to their Higher Nitec course.

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<sup>2</sup> As part of the ISSC, students can choose two of five Skills Subjects offered. More details on ISSC are available on <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/schools-offering-full-sbb/schools-with-specialised-curriculum>.

### *Enhanced Curricular Structure in ITE*

2.6. ITE has introduced a new enhanced three-year curricular structure leading directly to a Higher Nitec certification from AY2022 onwards. Since AY2026, all Nitec and Higher Nitec curricula have been restructured into a three-year programme by removing overlapping competencies between related Nitec and Higher Nitec courses.

2.7. In addition to the newly structured three-year Higher Nitec courses, ITE also has a four-year Higher Nitec with Enhanced Foundation Programme for N(T) students with zero or one GCE 'N' Level pass, and students who have taken all G1 subjects for the Singapore-Cambridge SEC. This four-year Foundation Programme essentially includes an additional preparatory year before the students progress to the core curriculum under the newly structured three-year Higher Nitec programme. Along with the phased out two-year Nitec curricular, the three-year Enhanced Nitec Foundation Programme (eNFP) has been phased out since AY2026.

### *Locally and Externally Developed Programmes by Registered Private Education Institutions (PEIs)*

2.8. Registered Private Education Institutions (PEIs)<sup>3</sup> may deliver programmes that are developed by them or by an external awarding body (e.g., Pearson and OTHM). Upon successful completion of the programmes, students will receive the qualification conferred by the awarding body (either the PEI or the external awarding body).

## **3. Overview of Scope and Structure of Classification**

3.1. The SSEC 2026 comprises three components:

- Classification of Level of Education Attending
- Classification of Educational Qualification Attained
- Classification of Field of Study

3.2. The hierarchical structure of the SSEC is defined by categories grouping various educational programmes, qualifications and fields of study in Singapore's present education and CET systems. For educational programmes offered in Singapore based on foreign education systems, and qualifications which were awarded in Singapore in the past or those awarded overseas, the proxy equivalence to the current systems and qualifications in Singapore can be used to determine the appropriate classifications. Appendix 1 shows the qualifications/certifications from key programmes in Singapore's education system as well as CET system.

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<sup>3</sup> More details on PEIs and their courses are available on [https://www.tpgateway.gov.sg/resources/information-for-private-education-institutions-\(peis\)/pei-listing](https://www.tpgateway.gov.sg/resources/information-for-private-education-institutions-(peis)/pei-listing)

3.3. Detailed descriptions of the scope and structure of the three components are given in the subsequent sections, together with examples of key changes within each component in the SSEC 2026 compared to SSEC 2020. The two-way correspondence tables between SSEC 2026 and SSEC 2020 are available on the [Statistics Singapore Website](#).

3.4. The design of SSEC 2026 has remained largely similar to SSEC 2020. One consideration in retaining the design of the SSEC is the extent of details that could be obtained from survey respondents. For example, there is no distinction between professional qualifications awarded by accredited versus non-accredited institutions as respondents are generally not able to provide sufficient information for such distinction either for themselves or on behalf of their household members.

#### 4. Classification of Level of Education Attending

4.1. The level of education attending (LEA) refers to the grade or standard of education that a student is attending.

4.2. The classification for LEA is a two-digit hierarchical structure. At the one-digit broad level, there are ten categories in the SSEC 2026 LEA. The structure remains the same as in SSEC 2020, with minor changes made to the code title of LEA code 7:

SSEC 2026 LEA		SSEC 2020 LEA	
0	Pre-Primary	0	Pre-Primary
1	Primary	1	Primary
2	Secondary	2	Secondary
3	Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary): General and Vocational	3	Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary): General and Vocational
4	Polytechnic Diploma	4	Polytechnic Diploma
5	Professional Qualification and Other Diploma	5	Professional Qualification and Other Diploma
6	Bachelor's or Equivalent	6	Bachelor's or Equivalent
7	Postgraduate Diploma (Excluding Master's and Doctorate)	7	Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate (Excluding Master's and Doctorate)
8	Master's and Doctorate or Equivalent	8	Master's and Doctorate or Equivalent
X	Not Reported	X	Not Reported

4.3. The typical entrance ages<sup>4</sup> and years of schooling for selected levels of education are shown below:

Level	Typical Age (Years) <sup>4</sup>	Years of Schooling
Pre-Primary	3 to 5	1 to 3
Primary	6 to 11	6
Secondary	12 to 15	4 to 5
Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary)	16 to 18	2 to 3
Diploma	16 to 18	2 to 3
University (First Degree)	18 to 25	3 to 5

4.4. The pre-primary level is defined to comprise nursery, kindergarten 1 and kindergarten 2 classes for children typically aged three to five years old (based on entrance age). The coverage for pre-primary in SSEC 2026 LEA is aligned with ISCED's entrance age for this level, and the Ministry of Education's Nurturing Early Learners (NEL) Framework (Revised 2022), which provides guidelines for designing and implementing quality pre-school curricula for children aged four to six years old. The pre-primary level also takes reference from the Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC) Act and Regulations which ensure consistent standards across preschools. Specifically, under the ECDC Regulations, classes conducted for children at the pre-primary level and below are:

Classes Conducted at a Centre	Typical Age <sup>5</sup>
Infant care class	2 months of age or older but below 18 months of age
Playgroup class	18 months of age or older but below 3 years of age
Pre-nursery class (also commonly known as Nursery 1)	3 years of age
Nursery class (also commonly known as Nursery 2)	4 years of age
Kindergarten 1 class	5 years of age
Kindergarten 2 class	6 years of age

<sup>4</sup> This refers to the standard age range at which students begin each level of education in Singapore.

<sup>5</sup> This refers to the age which students attain in the year the class commences.

4.5. At the finer two-digit level, there are 35 categories in the SSEC 2026 LEA, down from 36 in SSEC 2020. When classifying programmes into the two-digit categories, one of the main considerations is the educational content of the programme at a particular educational level. In practice, supplementary criteria for classifying the level of education attending also include the typical age of students attending the educational programme, the duration of education, minimum entrance requirements and the next typical educational level.

#### *Six-Year Integrated Programme (IP)*

4.6. An example to illustrate the application of the criteria is the six-year Integrated Programme (IP). While the IP does not include a national examination at the end of secondary level, a student would typically prepare for pre-university examinations in Years 5 and 6 of the IP, such as the Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Examination (GCE) 'Advanced' ('A') Level examinations to be attempted at the end of Year 6. The typical entrance ages of students in Years 5 and 6 of the IP are 16 to 18 years old. In addition, the progression and duration within an IP are similar to the conventional educational pathway with separate secondary and pre-university programmes. Therefore, Years 5 and 6 of the IP are classified as post-secondary (non-tertiary) level, specifically '31 Pre-University 1 / Junior College 1 (general) (including Year 5 of Integrated Programme)' and '32 Pre-University 2 / Junior College 2 (general) (including Year 6 of Integrated Programme)' respectively.

#### *Post-Secondary Admissions and Foundation Programmes*

4.7. The one-year PFP and NFP curriculums maintain a predominantly general and not vocational orientation, and the bulk of the programme credits/hours go into academic modules that roughly mirror what is taught in Secondary 5, albeit in a more applied, polytechnic-style pedagogy. Therefore, the LEA classification of these two foundation programmes is '28 Other secondary education or equivalent'.

4.8. Unlike the two foundation programmes conducted in polytechnics or NAFA, ITE students from the DPP (before this polytechnic admission programme via ITE ceases wef AY2028) and the Higher Nitec with Enhanced Foundation programme have to complete the Higher Nitec courses in ITE. The LEA classification of these two programmes is thus '35 Higher Nitec'. ITE students from the ITE eNFP (that is phased out in AY2026) have to complete the Nitec courses in ITE, and the LEA classification of this foundation programme is '34 National ITE Certificate (Nitec)'.

#### *Bachelor's or equivalent*

4.9. The LEA classification of a first degree programme that is typically three or four years in duration is '61 First degree or equivalent', and that of a first degree programme that requires a longer duration (i.e., beyond four years) is '62 Long first degree or equivalent'. A programme that involves a second or further Bachelor's degree in another discipline (e.g., double degree programme or graduate programme)

is considered as a first degree. Graduate law programmes, namely the Juris Doctor (JD) and Graduate Bachelor of Laws (GLB), which require at least a Bachelor’s degree in another discipline, are in essence a second Bachelor’s and hence are considered as first degree programmes. The courses currently under the long first degrees include the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme and the Doctor of Medicine (MD).

### Key Changes in SSEC 2026 LEA

#### *Enhanced Curricular Structure in ITE*

4.10. After the full implementation of ITE’s enhanced curricular structure, Nitec programmes are no longer available to the students from AY2026 onwards. The LEA code 34 ‘National ITE Certificate (Nitec)’ will no longer be in use when the last Nitec cohort graduates from the programme by AY2028.

SSEC 2026 LEA	ITE Intake Before 2026	ITE Intake From 2026
34 National ITE Certificate (Nitec)	✓	✗
35 Higher Nitec	✓	✓

#### *Diploma and Post-Diploma Qualifications or equivalent*

4.11. The code titles in SSEC 2026 LEA have been updated to better reflect the coverage of diplomas offered by the national education institutes (e.g., National Institute of Education (NIE)) and Registered PEIs (e.g., Singapore Institute of Management (SIM), LASALLE College of the Arts (LASALLE) and NAFA). Specific PEI references in the previous code titles were replaced with a broader term ‘Registered Private Education Institutions’. The titles for code ‘52’ and ‘59’ were similarly amended to ‘Other locally or externally developed diploma qualifications or equivalent (including diploma awarded by NIE or registered Private Education Institutions)’ and ‘Other locally or externally developed post-diploma qualifications or equivalent (including post-diploma awarded by registered Private Education Institutions)’ respectively.

#### *Post-Secondary Certificates*

4.12. PEI courses at post-secondary ‘certificate’ level are considered full qualifications and are coded under LEA ‘38’ or ‘39’, depending on programme orientation (general or vocational). In contrast, modular ‘certificate’ level courses offered by MOE-funded IHLs (i.e., polytechnics, ITE and autonomous universities) and short skills-based CET modular courses offered by PEIs are not considered full qualifications and should not be coded under LEA. The title for code ‘39’ has been amended to remove the mention of ‘advanced certificate’ for clarity.

### *New LEA Residual Codes*

4.13. At the two-digit level, the digits '8' and '9' that appear in the last digit position are standardised in SSEC 2026 to denote residual programmes of general and vocational orientation respectively, where applicable.

### *Other Key Changes in Code Title*

4.14. The code titles for LEA '7' and the corresponding '70' have been amended to better reflect the postgraduate diploma scope, with the removal of postgraduate 'certificate'. Additionally, the two-digit code for Master Nitec programmes has been removed from the post-secondary (non-tertiary) broad group in SSEC 2026 as these programmes are no longer available to current students.

4.15. A table comparing the LEA classification in SSEC 2026 and SSEC 2020 is given in [Appendix 2](#).

## **5. Classification of Educational Qualification Attained**

5.1. The level of educational qualification attained (EQA) refers to the grade or standard of education passed or the level of education where a vocational/skill certificate, diploma or degree has been awarded by an educational or training institution.

5.2. For SSEC 2026 EQA, there is no change in age coverage (i.e., all ages are covered). Those who are in infant care, playgroup and pre-nursery classes are categorised as never attended school, notwithstanding that these classes may have some form of early childhood educational development activities.

5.3. The classification for level of EQA is a two-digit hierarchical structure. The levels of educational qualifications are categorised into twelve broad groups, each denoted by a digit from '0' to '9', or an alphabet 'N' or 'X' at the one-digit level in the SSEC 2026 EQA.

5.4. EQA is often used to determine an individual's highest qualification attained (HQA), which refers to the highest grade or standard the individual has passed or the highest level where a vocational/skill certificate, diploma, or degree is awarded under the one-digit broad groups '0' to '9'. In other words, HQA is the highest full qualification among the EQAs of an individual. Hence besides code 'X' (which denotes non-reported), code 'N' (which denotes non-full qualifications) should not be considered when determining HQA.

5.5. As the structure of the LEA and EQA classifications are closely linked, most of the changes highlighted for the LEA classification also apply to the classification of EQA. Compared to SSEC 2020, there is no change in the number of codes at the one-digit level. Minor changes made to the code titles of selected broad groups are as follows:

SSEC 2026 EQA		SSEC 2020 EQA	
0	No Formal Qualification / Pre-Primary / Lower Primary	0	No Formal Qualification / Pre-Primary / Lower Primary
1	Primary	1	Primary
2	Lower Secondary	2	Lower Secondary
3	Secondary	3	Secondary
4	Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary): General and Vocational	4	Post-Secondary (Non-Tertiary): General and Vocational
5	Polytechnic Diploma	5	Polytechnic Diploma
6	Professional Qualification and Other Diploma	6	Professional Qualification and Other Diploma
7	Bachelor's or Equivalent	7	Bachelor's or Equivalent
8	Postgraduate Diploma (Excluding Master's and Doctorate)	8	Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate (Excluding Master's and Doctorate)
9	Master's and Doctorate or Equivalent	9	Master's and Doctorate or Equivalent
N	Non-Full Qualifications (Modular / Micro-Credential Certification)	N	Modular Certification (Non-Award Courses / Non-Full Qualifications)
X	Not Reported	X	Not Reported

5.6. Each broad EQA group contains several categories at the two-digit level based on the orientation of programme or the specific type of qualification awarded in Singapore's context. At the two-digit level, there has also been streamlining, removal and creation of codes in SSEC 2026 compared with SSEC 2020. The number of two-digit EQA codes has been reduced to 46 categories from 47 in SSEC 2020.

5.7. In defining the broad EQA groups, the certification used in Singapore's mainstream education system is used as a benchmark. This is an important consideration in identifying equivalent qualifications awarded by CET institutions. For instance, the full qualifications awarded under the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) system are classified and benchmarked to the equivalent educational qualifications in the mainstream education system. Qualifications awarded by professional bodies have to be the result of fulfilling the requirements of structured

educational programmes and meeting the appropriate standards. The levels of educational qualifications exclude certificates of course attendance and honorary qualifications not attained from structured learning and examination by an educational/training institution or professional body.

5.8. The attainment of an educational qualification usually occurs when a certain grade or standard of education is passed at the end of an educational programme. The same considerations of educational content are applicable, as in the case for LEA, when classifying the EQA. Supplementary criteria for classifying educational qualification include the duration of education, minimum entrance requirements and the next typical level of educational qualification.

#### *Six-Year Integrated Programme (IP)*

5.9. For instance, using the example of the six-year IP, the SSEC 2026 EQA of a student in the programme who has passed the relevant examination at the end of Year 4 and has been promoted to Year 5 is classified as '39 Other secondary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)' if there is a need to classify the EQA at this juncture, given that the progression and duration within an IP is similar to the conventional educational pathway with separate secondary and pre-university programmes.

#### *Modular Certification vs Full Qualification*

5.10. MOE-funded IHLs typically offer part-time courses leading up to full qualifications through CET, structured as modular programmes. Learners that complete each modular programme receive micro-credentials, which can be stacked up to the full qualifications by completion of multiple requisite modular programmes. For example, polytechnics typically offer part-time post-diploma courses, structured as modular post-diploma certificate programmes. To be conferred a full qualification of a polytechnic post-diploma under SSEC 2026 EQA code '52', students have to complete the multiple relevant post-diploma certificate programmes and be awarded with the certificates for these programmes. Students who are only awarded individual post-diploma certificates will be coded as 'N2 Micro-credential or modular certificate at diploma or post-diploma level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)'.

#### *Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) Assessments*

5.11. The Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) assessments<sup>6</sup>, developed by the SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)'s appointed assessment partner, are used to assess English literacy in five key components (Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing and Numeracy). The assessments include a range of questions designed to allow candidates to demonstrate their best ability. Different combinations of the five components of the WPLN assessments can be taken and the results, on a scale of eight proficiency levels,

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<sup>6</sup> More details on WPLN are available on <https://www.britishcouncil.sg/exam/wpln>.

are pegged to primary, lower secondary and secondary qualifications in the SSEC 2026 EQA (namely codes '12', '23' and '35').

### Key Changes in SSEC 2026 EQA

#### *Qualifications Before and After Full Subject-Based Banding*

5.12. The first Secondary 4 cohort under Full SBB will sit for the new national examination in 2027 and receive the Singapore-Cambridge SEC, followed by admission to the Post-Secondary Education Institutes (PSEIs) under the revised admissions criteria in 2028. Before 2027, the EQA of Secondary 4 cohort graduates are classified as either '31 GCE 'N' Level Certificate' or '32 GCE 'O' Level Certificate or equivalent', depending on their secondary education stream while graduates from the 2027 Secondary 4 cohort onwards are classified as '33 Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC)'. Although the GCE 'N' Level Certificate and GCE 'O' Level Certificate will no longer be offered wef 2027, the EQA codes are still used in reporting the EQAs of individuals who have attained these previous national qualifications.

SSEC 2026 EQA	Secondary 4 Cohort Before 2027	Secondary 4 Cohort From 2027
31 GCE 'N' Level Certificate	✓	✗
32 GCE 'O' Level Certificate or equivalent	✓	✗
33 Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC)	✗	✓

5.13. The ISSC offered in Crest Secondary School and Spectra Secondary School, and the ISC qualification offered in Specialised Schools have similar equivalence. Therefore, both qualifications are classified together under the SSEC 2026 code title '34 ITE Skills Subject Certificate (ISSC), ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) or equivalent' to encompass the new ISSC qualification.

5.14. For PFP, NFP and ITE Higher Nitec students who enrolled before AY2028 but have not completed the diploma or Higher Nitec programmes, their EQAs at this juncture are coded as '31 GCE 'N' Level Certificate'. After Full SBB from AY2028 onwards, the EQAs of students who completed the PFP or NFP are coded as '33 Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate'. Thereafter upon completing the diploma programme, these students will be coded as either '51 Polytechnic diploma' for PFP or '62 Other locally or externally developed diploma qualifications or equivalent (including diploma awarded by NIE or registered Private Education Institutions and international qualifications)' for NFP.

### *Non-Full Qualifications and Modular Certificates*

5.15. Titles for the one-digit and two-digit codes under 'N' have been revised to provide clarity on the scope for non-full qualifications. This encompasses certifications awarded for completion of individual modules and micro-credentials, including polytechnic post-diploma certificates and both polytechnic and ITE modular certificates. These non-full qualifications are typically shorter in duration and focus on more specific content areas, offering bite-sized learning opportunities to facilitate upskilling at work and promote life-long learning. Modular courses may be stackable towards either micro-credentials and/or full qualifications. MOE-funded IHLs' academic micro-credentials are directly stackable towards IHL full qualifications, and are intended to allow adult learners to acquire relevant skills without the necessity to pursue a full qualification, while also enabling those who wish to pursue full qualifications to do so at their own pace.

5.16. PEIs may also offer standalone foundation diploma courses that serve as preparatory programmes to equip students for their next stage of education, similar to PFP and NFP. These foundation programmes are considered as leading to non-full qualifications upon completion and will be classified under the code 'N'.

5.17. Postgraduate certificates, which are reassessed to be non-full qualifications, have been reclassified from SSEC 2020 EQA code '81 Postgraduate diploma/certificate (including NIE postgraduate diploma)' to SSEC 2026 EQA code 'N4 Micro-credential or modular certificate at postgraduate level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)'. Correspondingly, the term 'certificate' has been removed from SSEC 2026 EQA '81' code title for clarity.

### *New Residual Codes*

5.18. New residual codes have been introduced, namely codes '09', '19' and '29' to capture the remaining equivalent qualifications within the respective broad groups so that no qualification is left out of the classification scheme.

### *Reclassify Defunct Qualifications Attained*

5.19. In SSEC 2026, defunct qualifications that have ceased for a substantial period are either coded together with their equivalent current qualifications or reclassified to the residual codes. For instance, certificates in Worker Improvement through Secondary Education (WISE) which were previously coded as EQA code '22 Certificate in WISE 1-3' in SSEC 2020, have been recoded to the newly created EQA residual code '29 Other lower secondary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)' in SSEC 2026.

### *New Alphabetical Index for Educational Qualification Attained*

5.20. An alphabetical index that contains both the current and defunct qualifications, along with their corresponding EQA codes, has been introduced in SSEC 2026. Code titles used in the classification structure are labelled 'Principal Title' in the alphabetical index, distinct from other equivalent qualifications, which are labelled 'Alternative Title'. Defunct qualifications are further denoted with a 'D' in the alphabetical index. For example, the two-digit code '11 Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) certificate or equivalent' will include 'Primary School Proficiency Examination (PSPE) certificate' as an alternative title in the alphabetical index, as shown in the table below:

SSEC 2026	Alphabetical Index Description	Category	Defunct
11	Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) certificate or equivalent	Principal Title	
11	Primary School Proficiency Examination (PSPE) certificate	Alternative Title	D

5.21. The alphabetical index is a useful tool which assists users to correctly assign classification codes. It also helps to keep the code titles succinct without a long list of examples. It should, however, be noted that the alphabetical index is not exhaustive. The alphabetical index is available on the [Statistics Singapore Website](#).

5.22. A table comparing the EQA classification between SSEC 2026 and 2020 is given in [Appendix 3](#).

## **6. Classification of Field of Study**

6.1. The field of study (FOS) refers to the principal discipline, branch or subject matter of study that leads to the award of a qualification attained at polytechnic or university levels. Vocational qualifications offered by education/training institutes or professional bodies at post-secondary levels may also be classified by FOS, where applicable.

6.2. The classification for FOS in SSEC 2026 is a three-digit hierarchical structure comprising two levels, namely broad field (two-digit) and narrow field (three-digit). The broad field constitutes the highest level of aggregation in the FOS classification, with 15 categories in total, each denoted by digits from '01' to '99' or alphabets 'XX' in the SSEC 2026 FOS. At the next level, there are 60 three-digit narrow fields. The number of broad fields and narrow fields remain the same as in SSEC 2020.

6.3. The broad FOS are as follows:

SSEC 2026 FOS		SSEC 2020 FOS	
01	Education	01	Education
02	Fine and Applied Arts	02	Fine and Applied Arts
03	Humanities and Social Sciences	03	Humanities and Social Sciences
04	Mass Communication and Information Science	04	Mass Communication and Information Science
05	Business and Administration	05	Business and Administration
06	Law	06	Law
07	Natural and Mathematical Sciences	07	Natural and Mathematical Sciences
08	Health Sciences	08	Health Sciences
09	Information Technology	09	Information Technology
10	Architecture, Building and Real Estate	10	Architecture, Building and Real Estate
11	Engineering Sciences	11	Engineering Sciences
12	Engineering, Manufacturing and Related Trades	12	Engineering, Manufacturing and Related Trades
13	Services	13	Services
99	Other Fields	99	Other Fields
XX	Not Reported	XX	Not Reported

6.4. The following illustrates the hierarchical structure of the FOS classification from the broad field to the narrow field, using 'Business and Administration' as an example:

Classification	Title	Code
Broad Field	Business and Administration	05
Narrow Field	Administration and Management	051

6.5. At the two-digit level, if a given broad field is not divided into more categories at the next narrow level of classification, then the last digit of the three-digit code for the only FOS at the next narrow level would be '0'. For instance, the narrow field 'Law' is coded as '060' in the SSEC 2026 FOS as the broad field '06 Law' contains only one narrow field.

Classification	Title	Code
Broad Field	Law	06
Narrow Field	Law	060

6.6. At the three-digit level, the digit '9' that appears in the last digit position denotes residual FOS grouped at the respective level of classification. These residual categories usually comprise a range of the less common types of FOS which are not significant enough to justify a separate code. Their titles usually end with the term 'not elsewhere classified'. For example, 'Humanities and Social Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified' in the SSEC 2026 FOS is coded as '039' at the narrow FOS. There is only one exception as listed below where the digit '0' is used instead for the residual group as it is the only group in the narrow level of classification.

Narrow Field	Title
990	Other Fields Not Elsewhere Classified

6.7. In classifying an educational programme by FOS, the main consideration is the theoretical content of the programme. In the case of inter- or multi-disciplinary programme (i.e., programme which combines a few narrow or even broad FOS), the various fields are to be recorded and coded if feasible. Otherwise, the 'majority rule' is to be applied. Based on the majority rule, an inter- or multi-disciplinary programme is to be classified to the FOS with the highest share of programme hours (i.e., the leading/main FOS). In practice, the number of modular credits may be used in place of programme hours. In line with the guidelines provided by ISCED-F 2013, inter-disciplinary programmes with more than one leading field or where there is insufficient information to determine the leading subject, the 'first-listed' rule is to be applied based on the field listed first in the title (or in the curriculum or syllabus if not listed in the title) of the programme or qualification.

## Key Changes in SSEC 2026 FOS

### *Removal of Detailed Fields (four-digit)*

6.8. In SSEC 2026, the detailed fields (four-digit) have been removed to reduce the administrative burden required for coding at the four-digit level. This also serves to minimise coding errors, enhance data standardisation and improve consistency of coding across the educational institutions. The narrow fields provide sufficient granularity for reporting purposes, while producing quality statistics for meaningful analysis.

### *Amendments to Narrow Code Titles*

6.9. Some of the narrow code titles in the SSEC 2026 FOS have been revised for clarity, following the removal of the detailed fields. The title for code '042 Information Science and Curatorial Studies' has been amended to reflect both narrow fields instead of the previous title 'Information Science'. Similarly, the titles for '091 Information Systems and Technology' and '112 Civil and Environmental Engineering' have been revised for clarity on the scope.

### *Improvements to Alphabetical Index*

6.10. For comprehensiveness and ease of identifying FOS titles without the need to cross check between multiple documents, the three-digit FOS code titles have been added to the alphabetical index. They are labelled 'Principal Title' to distinguish them from the alternative titles in the alphabetical index. For example, the three-digit FOS code '071 Biological Sciences and Technologies' will include 'Applied Food Science and Nutrition' as an alternative title in the alphabetical index, as shown in the table below:

SSEC 2026	Alphabetical Index Description	Category
071	Biological Sciences and Technologies	Principal Title
071	Applied Food Science and Nutrition	Alternative Title

6.11. A table comparing the FOS classification between SSEC 2026 and 2020 is given in [Appendix 4](#). An alphabetical index of narrow field FOS and their corresponding SSEC 2026 FOS codes is available on the [Statistics Singapore Website](#).





# Part II: Classification Structure of SSEC 2026

## Classification of Level of Education Attending

SSEC 2026	Title
<b>0</b>	<b>PRE-PRIMARY</b>
00	Pre-Primary (i.e., Nursery, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2)
<b>1</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>
11	Primary 1
12	Primary 2
13	Primary 3
14	Primary 4
15	Primary 5
16	Primary 6
19	Other primary education or equivalent
<b>2</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>
21	Secondary 1
22	Secondary 2
23	Secondary 3
24	Secondary 4
25	Secondary 5
26	ITE Skills Certificate (ISC)
28	Other secondary education or equivalent
29	Other skills certificate courses or equivalent (except ISC)
<b>3</b>	<b>POST-SECONDARY (NON-TERTIARY): GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL</b>
31	Pre-University 1 / Junior College 1 (general) (including Year 5 of Integrated Programme)
32	Pre-University 2 / Junior College 2 (general) (including Year 6 of Integrated Programme)
33	Pre-University 3 (general)
34	National ITE Certificate (Nitec)
35	Higher Nitec
38	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; general) education or equivalent
39	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; vocational) education or equivalent

## Classification of Level of Education Attending

SSEC 2026	Title
<b>4</b>	<b>POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA</b>
41	Polytechnic diploma
42	Polytechnic post-diploma (including polytechnic advanced/specialist diploma, diploma (conversion))
<b>5</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND OTHER DIPLOMA</b>
51	ITE diploma
52	Other locally or externally developed diploma qualifications or equivalent (including diploma awarded by NIE or registered Private Education Institutions)
53	Qualification awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA)
59	Other locally or externally developed post-diploma qualifications or equivalent (including post-diploma awarded by registered Private Education Institutions)
<b>6</b>	<b>BACHELOR'S OR EQUIVALENT</b>
61	First degree or equivalent
62	Long first degree or equivalent
<b>7</b>	<b>POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (EXCLUDING MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE)</b>
70	Postgraduate diploma
<b>8</b>	<b>MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE OR EQUIVALENT</b>
81	Master's degree or equivalent
82	Doctoral degree or equivalent
<b>X</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>
XX	Not reported

Classification of Educational Qualification Attained

SSEC 2026	Title
<b>0</b>	<b>NO FORMAL QUALIFICATION / PRE-PRIMARY / LOWER PRIMARY</b>
01	Never attended school
02	Pre-Primary (i.e., Nursery, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2)
03	Primary education without Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) Certificate or equivalent
09	Primary education without international qualifications
<b>1</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>
11	Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) Certificate or equivalent
12	At least 3 achievements for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 1 or 2
19	Other primary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)
<b>2</b>	<b>LOWER SECONDARY</b>
21	Secondary education without GCE 'O'/'N' Level Certificate, Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate or equivalent
22	Basic vocational education without ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) or equivalent
23	At least 3 achievements for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 3 or 4
29	Other lower secondary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)
<b>3</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>
31	GCE 'N' Level Certificate
32	GCE 'O' Level Certificate or equivalent
33	Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate
34	ITE Skills Subject Certificate (ISSC), ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) or equivalent
35	At least 3 achievements for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 5 and above
39	Other secondary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)

SSEC 2026	Title
<b>4</b>	<b>POST-SECONDARY (NON-TERTIARY): GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL</b>
41	At least 1 'H2' subject pass at GCE 'A' Level or equivalent (general)
42	National ITE Certificate (Nitec) or equivalent
43	Higher Nitec or equivalent
44	Master Nitec or equivalent
45	WSQ Certificate
46	WSQ Higher Certificate
47	WSQ Advanced Certificate
48	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; general) qualifications or equivalent (including international qualifications)
49	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; vocational) certificates/qualifications or equivalent (including international qualifications)
<b>5</b>	<b>POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA</b>
51	Polytechnic diploma
52	Polytechnic post-diploma
<b>6</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND OTHER DIPLOMA</b>
61	ITE diploma
62	Other locally or externally developed diploma qualifications or equivalent (including diploma awarded by NIE or registered Private Education Institutions and international qualifications)
63	Qualification awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA)
64	WSQ diploma
65	WSQ specialist diploma
69	Other locally or externally developed post-diploma qualifications or equivalent (including diploma awarded by registered Private Education Institutions and international qualifications)
<b>7</b>	<b>BACHELOR'S OR EQUIVALENT</b>
71	First degree or equivalent
72	Long first degree or equivalent

Classification of Educational Qualification Attained

SSEC 2026	Title
<b>8</b>	<b>POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (EXCLUDING MASTER’S AND DOCTORATE)</b>
81	Postgraduate diploma
82	WSQ graduate diploma
<b>9</b>	<b>MASTER’S AND DOCTORATE OR EQUIVALENT</b>
91	Master’s degree or equivalent
92	Doctoral degree or equivalent
<b>N</b>	<b>NON-FULL QUALIFICATIONS (MODULAR / MICRO-CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATION)</b>
N1	Micro-credential or modular certificate at post-secondary level (non-tertiary) or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)
N2	Micro-credential or modular certificate at diploma or post-diploma level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)
N3	Micro-credential or modular certificate at degree level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)
N4	Micro-credential or modular certificate at postgraduate level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)
N9	Other non-full qualifications
<b>X</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>
XX	Not reported

SSEC 2026	Title
<b>01</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>
011	Teacher Training
012	Education Science
013	Trainer Training
<b>02</b>	<b>FINE AND APPLIED ARTS</b>
021	Fine and Performing Arts
022	3D Design
023	Media Design/Production
029	Fine and Applied Arts Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>03</b>	<b>HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>
031	Language and Cultural Studies
032	Behavioural Science
033	Economics
034	Social Work
039	Humanities and Social Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>04</b>	<b>MASS COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE</b>
041	Mass Communication
042	Information Science and Curatorial Studies
<b>05</b>	<b>BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION</b>
051	Administration and Management
052	Accountancy
053	Banking, Insurance and Financial Services
054	Sales and Marketing
055	Management Support Services
059	Business and Administration Not Elsewhere Classified

SSEC 2026	Title
<b>06</b>	<b>LAW</b>
060	Law
<b>07</b>	<b>NATURAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES</b>
071	Biological Sciences and Technologies
072	Physical Sciences and Technologies
073	Agriculture and Fishery
074	Veterinary Sciences
075	Mathematics and Statistics
079	Natural and Mathematical Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>08</b>	<b>HEALTH SCIENCES</b>
081	General Medical Sciences
082	Specialised Medical Sciences
083	Dentistry
084	Nursing and Health Care
085	Pharmacy
086	Therapy and Rehabilitation
087	Medical Diagnostic and Treatment Technology
089	Health Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>09</b>	<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>
091	Information Systems and Technology
092	Computer Operations/Technical Support
<b>10</b>	<b>ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE</b>
101	Architecture and Urban Planning
102	Surveying
103	Building Science and Management
104	Building Trades
109	Architecture, Building and Real Estate Not Elsewhere Classified

## Classification of Field of Study

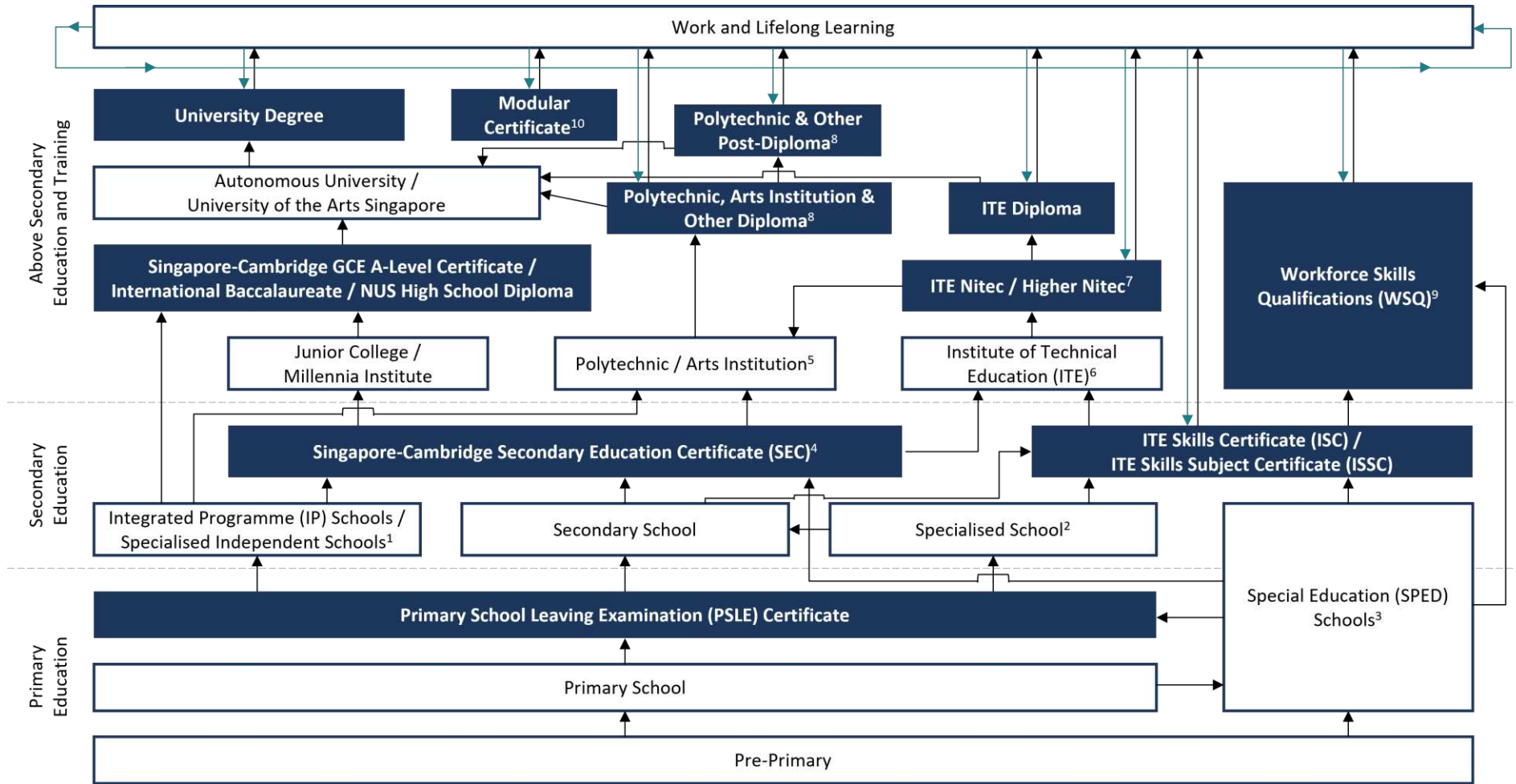
SSEC 2026	Title
<b>11</b>	<b>ENGINEERING SCIENCES</b>
111	Chemical Engineering
112	Civil and Environmental Engineering
113	Electrical and Electronics Engineering
114	Mechanical Engineering
115	Marine Engineering
116	Manufacturing and Related Engineering
119	Engineering Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>12</b>	<b>ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING AND RELATED TRADES</b>
121	Engineering Trades
122	Manufacturing Trades
129	Engineering, Manufacturing and Related Trades Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>13</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
131	Personal Services
132	Food Services
133	Hospitality Services
134	Transport Services
135	Safety and Security Services
136	Sports and Recreation Services
<b>99</b>	<b>OTHER FIELDS</b>
990	Other Fields Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>XX</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>
XXX	Not Reported





# Part III: Appendices

### Appendix 1: Singapore Education System with Continuing Education and Training System



1 Specialised independent schools refer to NUS High School, School of the Arts, School of Science and Technology, and Singapore Sports School.  
 2 This refers to NorthLight School and Assumption Pathway School, which offer an experiential and hands-on learning approach for students who do not qualify for a secondary course of education after the PSLE.  
 3 SPED schools comprise: (a) SPED schools that offer the National Curriculum, leading to national examinations like the PSLE and SEC examination; and (b) SPED schools that offer a customised curriculum, which aims to equip students with the necessary skills needed for home, community, and workplace environments. Some SPED schools offering customised curriculum offer programmes leading to ISC or WSQ.  
 4 The SEC will replace GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Certificates as the common national examination from the 2027 graduating cohort onwards.  
 5 These institutions also offer the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) and NAFA Foundation Programme (NFP), which are one-year programmes in lieu of the Secondary 5 year for eligible Secondary 4 students, preparing them for entry into the relevant diploma courses in polytechnics and NAFA respectively.  
 6 The ITE also offers the Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) for Secondary 4 graduates, which guarantees them a place in a polytechnic diploma course mapped to their Higher Nitec course. The DPP will cease from the AY2028 ITE intake.  
 7 From AY2026 intake, all Nitec courses have transitioned to the enhanced 3-year Higher Nitec structure.  
 8 This refers to diploma/post-diploma qualifications offered by polytechnics and other institutions (e.g., NIE, LASALLE and NAFA).  
 9 This refers to WSQ full qualifications and WSQ Statements of Attainment offered by WSQ training providers accredited by SkillsFuture Singapore.  
 10 This refers to modular/micro-credential courses offered at universities, polytechnics, ITE and Private Education Institutions (PEIs).

**Appendix 2: Comparison between SSEC 2026 and SSEC 2020 – Level of Education Attending**

<b>SSEC 2026 LEA</b>		<b>SSEC 2020 LEA</b>	
<b>0</b>	<b>PRE-PRIMARY</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>PRE-PRIMARY</b>
00	Pre-Primary (i.e., Nursery, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2)	01	Pre-Primary (i.e., Nursery, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2)
<b>1</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>
11	Primary 1	11	Primary 1
12	Primary 2	12	Primary 2
13	Primary 3	13	Primary 3
14	Primary 4	14	Primary 4
15	Primary 5	15	Primary 5
16	Primary 6	16	Primary 6
19	Other primary education or equivalent	19	Other primary education or equivalent
<b>2</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>
21	Secondary 1	21	Secondary 1
22	Secondary 2	22	Secondary 2
23	Secondary 3	23	Secondary 3
24	Secondary 4	24	Secondary 4
25	Secondary 5	25	Secondary 5
26	ITE Skills Certificate (ISC)	26	ITE Skills Certificate (ISC)
28	Other secondary education or equivalent	27	Other secondary education or equivalent
29	Other skills certificate courses or equivalent (except ISC)	28	Other skills certificate courses or equivalent (except ISC)

SSEC 2026 LEA		SSEC 2020 LEA	
<b>3</b>	<b>POST-SECONDARY (NON-TERTIARY): GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>POST-SECONDARY (NON-TERTIARY): GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL</b>
31	Pre-University 1 / Junior College 1 (general) (including Year 5 of Integrated Programme)	31	Pre-University 1 / Junior College 1 (general) (including Year 5 of Integrated Programme)
32	Pre-University 2 / Junior College 2 (general) (including Year 6 of Integrated Programme)	32	Pre-University 2 / Junior College 2 (general) (including Year 6 of Integrated Programme)
33	Pre-University 3 (General)	33	Pre-University 3 (General)
34	National ITE Certificate (Nitec)	34	National ITE Certificate (Nitec)
35	Higher Nitec	35	Higher Nitec
38	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; general) education or equivalent	36	Master Nitec
39	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; vocational) education or equivalent	37	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; general) education or equivalent
		38	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; vocational) education or equivalent (including advanced certificate courses)
<b>4</b>	<b>POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA</b>
41	Polytechnic diploma	41	Polytechnic diploma
42	Polytechnic post-diploma (including polytechnic advanced/specialist diploma, diploma (conversion))	42	Polytechnic post-diploma (including polytechnic advanced/specialist diploma, diploma (conversion))
<b>5</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND OTHER DIPLOMA</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND OTHER DIPLOMA</b>
51	ITE diploma	51	ITE diploma
52	Other locally or externally developed diploma qualifications or equivalent (including diploma awarded by NIE or registered Private Education Institutions)	52	Other locally or externally developed diploma (including NIE diploma, SIM diploma, LASALLE diploma, NAFA diploma)

SSEC 2026 LEA		SSEC 2020 LEA	
53	Qualification awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA)	53	Qualification awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA)
59	Other locally or externally developed post-diploma qualifications or equivalent (including post-diploma awarded by registered Private Education Institutions)	59	Other post-diploma qualifications or equivalent
<b>6</b>	<b>BACHELOR'S OR EQUIVALENT</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>BACHELOR'S OR EQUIVALENT</b>
61	First degree or equivalent	61	First degree or equivalent
62	Long first degree or equivalent	62	Long first degree or equivalent
<b>7</b>	<b>POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (EXCLUDING MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE (EXCLUDING MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE)</b>
70	Postgraduate diploma	70	Postgraduate diploma/certificate (including NIE postgraduate diploma)
<b>8</b>	<b>MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE OR EQUIVALENT</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE OR EQUIVALENT</b>
81	Master's degree or equivalent	81	Master's degree or equivalent
82	Doctoral degree or equivalent	82	Doctoral degree or equivalent
<b>X</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>
XX	Not Reported	XX	Not Reported

**Appendix 3: Comparison between SSEC 2026 and SSEC 2020 – Educational Qualification Attained**

<b>SSEC 2026 EQA</b>		<b>SSEC 2020 EQA</b>	
<b>0</b>	<b>NO FORMAL QUALIFICATION / PRE-PRIMARY / LOWER PRIMARY</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>NO FORMAL QUALIFICATION / PRE-PRIMARY / LOWER PRIMARY</b>
01	Never attended school	01	Never attended school
02	Pre-Primary (i.e., Nursery, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2)	02	Pre-Primary (i.e., Nursery, Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2)
03	Primary education without Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) Certificate or equivalent	03	Primary education without Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) / Primary School Proficiency Examination (PSPE) certificate or equivalent
09	Primary education without international qualifications	04	Certificate in BEST 1-3
<b>1</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>
11	Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) Certificate or equivalent	11	Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) / Primary School Proficiency Examination (PSPE) certificate or equivalent
12	At least 3 achievements for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 1 or 2	12	Certificate in BEST 4
19	Other primary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)	13	At least 3 achievements* for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 1 or 2
<b>2</b>	<b>LOWER SECONDARY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>LOWER SECONDARY</b>
21	Secondary education without GCE 'O'/'N' Level Certificate, Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate or equivalent	21	Secondary education without any subject pass at GCE 'O'/'N' Level or equivalent
22	Basic vocational education without ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) or equivalent	22	Certificate in WISE 1-3
23	At least 3 achievements for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 3 or 4	23	Basic vocational certificate (including ITE Basic Vocational Training)
		24	At least 3 achievements* for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 3 or 4

SSEC 2026 EQA		SSEC 2020 EQA	
29	Other lower secondary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)		
<b>3</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>
31	GCE 'N' Level Certificate	31	At least 1 subject pass at GCE 'N' Level
32	GCE 'O' Level Certificate or equivalent	32	At least 1 subject pass at GCE 'O' Level
33	Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate	33	National ITE Certificate (Intermediate) or equivalent (including National Technical Certificate (NTC) Grade 3, Certificate of Vocational Training, BCA Builder Certificate)
34	ITE Skills Subject Certificate (ISSC), ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) or equivalent	34	ITE Skills Certificate (ISC) or equivalent (including Certificate of Competency, Certificate in Service Skills)
35	At least 3 achievements for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 5 and above	35	At least 3 achievements* for different Workplace Literacy or Numeracy (WPLN) skills at Level 5 and above
39	Other secondary education/certificates or equivalent (including international qualifications)	39	Other secondary education/certificates or equivalent
<b>4</b>	<b>POST-SECONDARY (NON-TERTIARY): GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>POST-SECONDARY (NON-TERTIARY): GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL</b>
41	At least 1 'H2' subject pass at GCE 'A' Level or equivalent (general)	41	At least 1 subject pass at GCE 'A'/'H2' Level or equivalent (general)
42	National ITE Certificate (Nitec) or equivalent	42	National ITE Certificate (Nitec) or equivalent (including Post Nitec Certificate, Specialist Nitec, Certificate in Office Skills, National Technical Certificate (NTC) Grade 2, National Certificate in Nursing, BCA Advanced Builder Certificate)
43	Higher Nitec or equivalent	43	Higher Nitec or equivalent (including Certificate in Business Skills, Industrial Technician Certificate)
44	Master Nitec or equivalent	44	Master Nitec or equivalent (including NTC Grade 1)
45	WSQ Certificate	45	WSQ Certificate or equivalent
46	WSQ Higher Certificate		
47	WSQ Advanced Certificate		
48	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; general) qualifications or equivalent (including international qualifications)		

SSEC 2026 EQA		SSEC 2020 EQA	
49	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; vocational) certificates/qualifications or equivalent (including international qualifications)	46	WSQ Higher Certificate or equivalent
		47	WSQ Advanced Certificate or equivalent
		48	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; general) qualifications or equivalent (including International Baccalaureate / NUS High School Diploma)
		49	Other post-secondary (non-tertiary; vocational) certificates/qualifications or equivalent (including SIM certificate)
<b>5</b>	<b>POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA</b>
51	Polytechnic diploma	51	Polytechnic diploma
52	Polytechnic post-diploma	52	Polytechnic post-diploma (including polytechnic advanced/specialist/management/graduate diploma, diploma (conversion))
<b>6</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND OTHER DIPLOMA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND OTHER DIPLOMA</b>
61	ITE diploma	61	ITE diploma
62	Other locally or externally developed diploma qualifications or equivalent (including diploma awarded by NIE or registered Private Education Institutions and international qualifications)	62	Other locally or externally developed diploma (including NIE diploma, SIM diploma, LASALLE diploma, NAFA diploma)
63	Qualification awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA)	63	Qualification awarded by professional bodies (including ACCA, CFA)
64	WSQ diploma	64	WSQ diploma
65	WSQ specialist diploma	65	WSQ specialist diploma
		69	Other post-diploma qualifications or equivalent

SSEC 2026 EQA		SSEC 2020 EQA	
69	Other locally or externally developed post-diploma qualifications or equivalent (including post-diploma awarded by registered Private Education Institutions and international qualifications)		
<b>7</b>	<b>BACHELOR'S OR EQUIVALENT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>BACHELOR'S OR EQUIVALENT</b>
71	First degree or equivalent	71	First degree or equivalent
72	Long first degree or equivalent	72	Long first degree or equivalent
<b>8</b>	<b>POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (EXCLUDING MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE (EXCLUDING MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE)</b>
81	Postgraduate diploma	81	Postgraduate diploma/certificate (including NIE postgraduate diploma)
82	WSQ graduate diploma	82	WSQ graduate certificate
		83	WSQ graduate diploma
<b>9</b>	<b>MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE OR EQUIVALENT</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE OR EQUIVALENT</b>
91	Master's degree or equivalent	91	Master's degree or equivalent
92	Doctoral degree or equivalent	92	Doctoral degree or equivalent
<b>N</b>	<b>NON-FULL QUALIFICATIONS (MODULAR / MICRO-CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATION)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>MODULAR CERTIFICATION (NON-AWARD COURSES / NON-FULL QUALIFICATIONS)</b>
N1	Micro-credential or modular certificate at post-secondary level (non-tertiary) or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)	N1	At least 1 WSQ Statement of Attainment or ITE modular certificate at post-secondary level (non-tertiary) or equivalent
N2	Micro-credential or modular certificate at diploma or post-diploma level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)	N2	At least 1 WSQ Statement of Attainment or other modular certificate at diploma level or equivalent (including polytechnic post-diploma certificate)

SSEC 2026 EQA		SSEC 2020 EQA	
N3	Micro-credential or modular certificate at degree level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)	N3	At least 1 WSQ Statement of Attainment or other modular certificate at degree level or equivalent
N4	Micro-credential or modular certificate at postgraduate level or equivalent (including WSQ Statement of Attainment)	N4	At least 1 WSQ Statement of Attainment or other modular certificate at postgraduate level or equivalent
N9	Other non-full qualifications	N9	Other statements of attainment, modular certificates or equivalent
<b>X</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>
XX	Not Reported	XX	Not Reported

#### Appendix 4: Comparison between SSEC 2026 and SSEC 2020 – Field of Study

SSEC 2026 FOS		SSEC 2020 FOS	
<b>01</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>
011	Teacher Training	011	Teacher Training
012	Education Science	012	Education Science
013	Trainer Training	013	Trainer Training
<b>02</b>	<b>FINE AND APPLIED ARTS</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>FINE AND APPLIED ARTS</b>
021	Fine and Performing Arts	021	Fine and Performing Arts
022	3D Design	022	3D Design
023	Media Design/Production	023	Media Design/Production
029	Fine and Applied Arts Not Elsewhere Classified	029	Fine and Applied Arts Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>03</b>	<b>HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>
031	Language and Cultural Studies	031	Language and Cultural Studies
032	Behavioural Science	032	Behavioural Science
033	Economics	033	Economics
034	Social Work	034	Social Work
039	Humanities and Social Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified	039	Humanities and Social Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>04</b>	<b>MASS COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>MASS COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE</b>
041	Mass Communication	041	Mass Communication
042	Information Science and Curatorial Studies	042	Information Science
<b>05</b>	<b>BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION</b>
051	Administration and Management	051	Administration and Management
052	Accountancy	052	Accountancy
053	Banking, Insurance and Financial Services	053	Banking, Insurance and Financial Services
054	Sales and Marketing	054	Sales and Marketing

SSEC 2026 FOS		SSEC 2020 FOS	
055	Management Support Services	055	Management Support Services
059	Business and Administration Not Elsewhere Classified	059	Business and Administration Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>06</b>	<b>LAW</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>LAW</b>
060	Law	060	Law
<b>07</b>	<b>NATURAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>NATURAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES</b>
071	Biological Sciences and Technologies	071	Biological Sciences and Technologies
072	Physical Sciences and Technologies	072	Physical Sciences and Technologies
073	Agriculture and Fishery	073	Agriculture and Fishery
074	Veterinary Sciences	074	Veterinary Sciences
075	Mathematics and Statistics	075	Mathematics and Statistics
079	Natural and Mathematical Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified	079	Natural and Mathematical Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>08</b>	<b>HEALTH SCIENCES</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>HEALTH SCIENCES</b>
081	General Medical Sciences	081	General Medical Sciences
082	Specialised Medical Sciences	082	Specialised Medical Sciences
083	Dentistry	083	Dentistry
084	Nursing and Health Care	084	Nursing and Health Care
085	Pharmacy	085	Pharmacy
086	Therapy and Rehabilitation	086	Therapy and Rehabilitation
087	Medical Diagnostic and Treatment Technology	087	Medical Diagnostic and Treatment Technology
089	Health Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified	089	Health Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>09</b>	<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>
091	Information Systems and Technology	091	Information Technology
092	Computer Operations/Technical Support	092	Computer Operations/Technical Support

SSEC 2026 FOS		SSEC 2020 FOS	
<b>10</b>	<b>ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE</b>
101	Architecture and Urban Planning	101	Architecture and Urban Planning
102	Surveying	102	Surveying
103	Building Science and Management	103	Building Science and Management
104	Building Trades	104	Building Trades
109	Architecture, Building and Real Estate Not Elsewhere Classified	109	Architecture, Building and Real Estate Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>11</b>	<b>ENGINEERING SCIENCES</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>ENGINEERING SCIENCES</b>
111	Chemical Engineering	111	Chemical Engineering
112	Civil and Environmental Engineering	112	Civil Engineering
113	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	113	Electrical and Electronics Engineering
114	Mechanical Engineering	114	Mechanical Engineering
115	Marine Engineering	115	Marine Engineering
116	Manufacturing and Related Engineering	116	Manufacturing and Related Engineering
119	Engineering Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified	119	Engineering Sciences Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>12</b>	<b>ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING AND RELATED TRADES</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING AND RELATED TRADES</b>
121	Engineering Trades	121	Engineering Trades
122	Manufacturing Trades	122	Manufacturing Trades
129	Engineering, Manufacturing and Related Trades Not Elsewhere Classified	129	Engineering, Manufacturing and Related Trades Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>13</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
131	Personal Services	131	Personal Services
132	Food Services	132	Food Services
133	Hospitality Services	133	Hospitality Services
134	Transport Services	134	Transport Services
135	Safety and Security Services	135	Safety and Security Services

SSEC 2026 FOS		SSEC 2020 FOS	
136	Sports and Recreation Services	136	Sports and Recreation Services
<b>99</b>	<b>OTHER FIELDS</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>OTHER FIELDS</b>
990	Other Fields Not Elsewhere Classified	990	Other Fields Not Elsewhere Classified
<b>XX</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>NOT REPORTED</b>
XXX	Not Reported	XXX	Not Reported

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