

Open College Network West Midlands
**Level 2 Award in
Employability and Development Skills**

Qualification Guide





'Passionate about enabling learning and releasing the potential of people and their communities'

Open College Network West Midlands is a national Awarding Organisation, regulated by Ofqual and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), to develop and award nationally recognised qualifications. We work in partnership with employers, training providers, colleges, universities, schools and voluntary and community organisations to offer vocational credit-based qualifications, Access to Higher Education Diplomas and quality assured Customised Accreditation to help learners gain employment or to progress into further learning and Higher Education.

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Contents

1. About this qualification _____	1
2. Learner requirements _____	2
3. Achieving the qualification _____	3
4. The units _____	4
5. Assessment _____	4
6. Offering the qualification _____	5

1. About this qualification

The Open College Network West Midlands Level 2 Award in Employability and Development Skills offers a flexible approach to study. Learners have access to a large range of employability units that are directly linked to the workplace, alongside a variety of pathways including vocational units within Building and Construction, Business, Administration and IT, Child Care, Creative Studies, Hair and Beauty, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering, Land-based Studies, Leisure, Travel and Tourism and Retail.

By offering learners the opportunity to engage in a specific vocational area learners are equipped to make informed choices when considering different career and progression options.

The qualifications also meet the needs of learners engaged in 16-19 study programmes and those undertaking traineeships. They are stepping stones to employment, further study and enable the development of generic transferable skills.

Objectives of the qualification

This qualification can be used flexibly to meet learner needs. Depending on the context of the learning and the needs of each individual learner, the qualification can:

- prepare individuals to progress to a qualification in the same subject area but at a higher level or requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding;
- prepare learners for employment;
- support a role in the workplace;
- encourage engagement in learning.

This qualification has been designed to enable learners to:

- develop a range of employability skills;
- gain knowledge and skills in a specific vocational area;
- acquire transferable skills;
- develop personal skills and increase confidence.

It is a requirement that assessment of this qualification is conducted in English.

The Open College Network West Midlands Level 2 Award in Employability and Development Skills is accredited by Ofqual.

Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Guided Learning Hours are defined as the number of hours of supervised or directed study time required for a unit or a qualification. Some learners will be able to achieve units and qualifications in a shorter time than indicated. Others, for example those with additional support requirements, may need longer.

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total qualification time is defined as the number of guided learning hours (GLH) plus the time taken by the learner for private study or work experience.

Guided learning hours and total qualification time for this qualification is:

Level 2 Award

GLH: Minimum 48 hours

TQT: 60 hours

2. Learner requirements

Entry requirements

There are no entry requirements.

Minimum age

The minimum age for access to this qualification is **14** years.

Centres ought to satisfy themselves, however, that learners have a level of maturity appropriate for units included in the courses that they offer. If in doubt, please contact Open College Network West Midlands for advice.

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations

Assessment within the Open College Network West Midlands Level 2 Award in Employability and Development Skills qualification is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of learners.

If you have learners with particular needs you should refer to the *Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations Policy*, available from Open College Network West Midlands. This gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

3. Achieving the qualification

Rules of combination

Centres are responsible for ensuring that learners are able to achieve the qualification for which they are aiming. Centres must ensure that the following rules of combination that apply to each qualification are met.

To be awarded the Open College Network West Midlands Level 2 Award in Employability and Development Skills, learners must achieve 6 credits. A minimum of 2 credits must be taken from Group A.

For a generic qualification, the remaining 4 credits may be taken from any combination of units from Groups A to L.

If a specific pathway is required, the remaining 4 credits must be taken from one of the specialist Groups B to L.

This pathway will then show on the learner certificate, provided the pathway is selected at the time of registration.

Unit achievement

All of the assessment criteria in a unit must be met before the unit is deemed to be achieved. The unit achievement is not graded: units are either achieved or not achieved.

Recording achievement

You must record the learner's achievement of each unit on an appropriate form(s). You should record the learner's achievement against the specific units assessment criteria evidenced by the task.

4. The units

For a complete list of units available for this qualification, please visit the Open College Network West Midlands website: www.opencollnet.org.uk or follow this [link](#).

Level descriptors

The level of the units within this qualification is linked to the latest QCF level descriptors published by Ofqual.

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder...)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can...)
Level 2	Has knowledge and understanding of facts, procedures and ideas in an area of study or field of work to complete well-defined tasks and address straightforward problems. Can interpret relevant information and ideas. Is aware of a range of information that is relevant to the area of study or work.	Select and use relevant cognitive and practical skills to complete well-defined, generally routine tasks and address straightforward problems. Identify, gather and use relevant information to inform actions. Identify how effective actions have been.

Extracted from 'After the QCF A New Qualification Framework' October 2015

5. Assessment

This qualification requires achievement of the specified units with no further requirements for additional/summative assessment. Achievement is therefore determined by successful completion of unit assessment. The assessment process is as follows:

- Assessments are internally set and approved at the centre by assessors, against the requirements detailed in the assessment criteria of the unit.
- The learners are assessed internally at the centre, using the assessments set.
- The resulting portfolios of assessed evidence are internally quality assured by an Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) at the centre.
- The portfolios of assessed evidence are quality assured either by an Open College Network West Midlands Quality Adviser (QA) or, for centres with Direct Claims Status, an Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) approved by Open College Network West Midlands.

Assessment methods

When delivering Open College Network West Midlands units and qualifications, centres may choose from a range of assessment methods. It is important that the most effective and appropriate methods are selected. We therefore strongly advise that all those involved in assessment and internal quality assurance of this qualification refer to the *Open College Network West Midlands Centre Handbook* and our *Assessment Methods* publication. These provide guidance on the range of assessment methods available and the types of evidence appropriate for each. These publications are available on our website www.opencollnet.org.uk.

It is important when devising assessments to differentiate between the assessment method (what the learner is asked to do) and the evidence (what the learner produces).

When designing any assessment method, tutors or assessors will need to consider the presentation of the assessment task to the learner to make it fair and accessible. Tutors or assessors may also need to consider arrangements for learners with particular learning difficulties and will need to be aware of Open College Network West Midlands' policy on reasonable adjustments.

All proposed assessment tasks must be checked and confirmed as appropriate, fair, valid and reliable by an appropriately qualified and experienced Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) before being issued to learners.

6. Offering the qualification

Centres wishing to deliver this qualification will need to demonstrate the ability to adhere to quality assurance and assessment regulations.

All procedures for the use of this qualification or units of this qualification, including approval, registration of learners, verification and certification will be completed through Open College Network West Midlands, who will have an identified officer to support your centre. If you have any queries or difficulties at any time you should contact the Open College Network West Midlands office on 01902 624230.

Approval to offer the qualification

If you are an Open College Network West Midlands Recognised Centre and you wish to add this qualification to your curriculum offer please also complete and submit an *Open College Network West Midlands New Course Notification Form*. This is available to download from [here](#). The completed form should be forwarded to your Business Development Manager for approval.

If you are not an Open College Network West Midlands Recognised Centre and you wish to offer the qualification, you will need to apply for Centre Recognition with us. To start the application process please email enquiries@opencollnet.org.uk or telephone 01902 624 239.

For more information visit 'Becoming a Centre' on our website.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards.

Standardisation:

- establishes statements on the standard of evidence required to meet the assessment criteria for the units in Open College Network West Midlands qualifications;
- makes recommendations on assessment practice;
- produces advice and guidance for the assessment of units;
- identifies good practice in assessment.

It is a requirement of the centre recognition process that each centre offering units from Open College Network West Midlands qualifications must contribute assessment materials and learners' evidence for standardisation if requested.

Open College Network West Midlands will notify centres of the required sample for standardisation purposes. Assessment materials, learners' evidence and tutor feedback will be sent to Open College Network West Midlands by centres.

Outcomes from standardisation will be available to centres through Open College Network West Midlands.

Support for centres

Open College Network West Midlands provide all of our centres with on-going support and advice on the use of Open College Network West Midlands units and qualifications, including the requirements for assessment.

If centres approved to offer Open College Network West Midlands units and qualifications have obtained a UKPRN (UK Provider Reference Number) from the UKRLP (UK Register of Learning Providers), this will be used as the centre reference number. If a centre has not obtained a UKPRN they will be issued with a unique Open College Network West Midlands centre number.

Information about obtaining a Unique Learner Number (ULN) on behalf of the learners is included in the *Open College Network West Midlands Centre Handbook*.

Centre responsibilities

Each centre should identify a centre contact who will be responsible for Open College Network West Midlands provision within the centre.

The centre contact must ensure all procedures relating to the delivery of the qualification operate effectively in the centre.

The centre contact is the person responsible for confirming and ensuring that the centre meets all the Open College Network West Midlands requirements for centre recognition.

The centre contact is responsible for ensuring all relevant Open College Network West Midlands documentation is distributed as required within the centre and that the security requirements for external assessment are adhered to, where applicable.

The information provided in this qualification guide is accurate at the time of publication but is subject to change. Open College Network West Midlands will occasionally update qualification information, so please refer to the 'Open College Network West Midlands Qualifications' page of our website to view any updates, including qualification end dates and the latest versions of our qualification guides.

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