

Open College Network West Midlands

Qualification purpose statement

Name of qualification	Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Award in Employability and Development Skills
Qualification number	601/6338/0
Credits	6
Aim of this qualification	<p>The Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Award in Employability and Development Skills (Entry 3) is a qualification regulated by Ofqual. This qualification should provide the means for learners to develop employability skills to overcome barriers to enter the world of work. The qualification is designed to allow the learner to develop essential and transferable skills that will help them to progress in/into the workplace. The qualification should provide opportunities for learners to further develop both their skills (for example, in ICT, employability, learning to learn, etc) and to test out their abilities and contextualise those skills before selecting a career or employment route.</p> <p>The diverse range of units available in the structure of the qualification can be used to create individualised learning programmes giving learners an opportunity for both personal and employment development that underpins their desire to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for work / change their work; or, • Return to work / plan to return to work; • Progress into new areas of work; • Progress to higher education courses; • Support a role in the workplace • Enhance personal growth by developing and / or updating employability skills.
Who this qualification is for	The Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Award in Employability and Development Skills is designed to help all those who want to overcome barriers to enter the world of work. It may also provide them with the opportunity of contextualising employability skills in a real world setting that will lead to employment. It meets the needs of learners in a variety of settings, including schools, further education colleges, voluntary organisations, and private training providers.

Age restrictions	This qualification is suitable for learners of all ages.
Entry requirements	There are no specific entry requirements.
What you will learn and achieve by doing this qualification	<p>By achieving this qualification the learner should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help them to overcome barriers to work leading to gaining employment. Depending on the units chosen, they can also learn about things that will help them to progress to further study, for example, how to set learning/career goals and prepare an action plan; how to take part in discussions; how to develop a personal learning programme, etc. Units in mathematics and English skills can be taken to enable success in the next stage of their learning, for example, units that cover addition and subtraction, division, multiplication, fractions, spelling, grammar or punctuation. • help them to develop personal and transferable skills, such as, how to apply for jobs, how to write a CV, • how to communicate, and how to prepare for and conduct themselves at an interview. • help them identify specific occupational areas in which they may want pursue a career. • prepare them to progress to qualifications at Level 1 in a specific sector area of their choice; • support them to gain knowledge and skills relevant to the specific vocational area they intend to progress into; <p>To achieve the qualification a learner must complete 6 credits (41 - 60 Guided Learning Hours). The learner may select units from either the employability or development groups of units; however, a maximum of 3 credits only may be selected from the 'IT for Users' Unit Group.</p> <p>Examples of core units are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Skills for Gaining Employment; • Recognising Own Skills for Personal Development; • Introduction to Career Preparation; • Speaking to Communicate; and, • Teamwork Skills. <p>The optional units can be chosen from the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Development and Well Being; • Horticulture and Forestry; • Animal Care and Veterinary Science; • Transportation, Operations and Maintenance; • Building and Construction; • ICT for Users;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retailing and Wholesaling; • Service Enterprises; • Hospitality and Catering; • Sport, Leisure and Recreation; • Performing Arts; • Crafts, Creative Arts and Design; • History; and, • Administration. <p>The learner will be assessed through a variety of structured tasks and activities. These will allow them to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and understanding that they have gained.</p>								
<p>Is this the right qualification for you?</p>	<p>The Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Award in Employability and Development Skills should be right for the learner if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need a more challenging programme of learning, with less support than qualifications at Entry level, made up of bite-sized units of learning and assessment; • need a qualification to provide them with skills and knowledge to help them to overcome barriers to work and/or progress to further learning leading to the job they want; • need to develop skills and knowledge to help them prepare for the next stage of learning; • prefer an alternative to an academic qualification; • are unable to study for a larger qualification, such as a Certificate or Diploma; or, • have not previously achieved qualifications. 								
<p>Where the qualification fits in the suite</p>	<p>The Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Award in Employability and Development Skills is part of a suite of different sized qualifications at all levels from Entry to Level 1. The qualifications in this suite have been developed at different levels and sizes to enable the learner to tailor their course to learning to meet different learner needs.</p> <p>The table below shows how this qualification fits in and how it differs from the other qualifications in the Employability and Development Skills suite.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Open College Network West Midlands Employability and Development Skills Qualifications</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Size</th> <th>Credits</th> <th>Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Entry 3</td> <td>Award</td> <td>6</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Size	Credits	Hours	Entry 3	Award	6	60
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What this qualification could lead to	<p>The learner should progress primarily to further learning to equip them with the knowledge, skills and understanding to be employable. This may be to higher levels within the Progression suite of qualifications, such as the Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Certificate in Progression or to other Level 1 qualifications.</p> <p>The learner may progress to qualifications in more specific vocational areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Certificate in Work Preparation for Building and Construction; • Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Certificate in Work Preparation for Land Based Industries; • Open College Network West Midlands Level 1 Certificate in IT User Skills. 				
Apprenticeships	This qualification is not part of an apprenticeship framework.				
Support	<p>This qualification is supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bournville College College • Stoke-on-Trent College • Heart of Worcestershire College. 				
Further information	More information about this qualification is available on our website here .				