



Quality in Careers Standard

Strongly recommended by the Government in its 'Careers and Access' statutory guidance for schools, and guidance for further education colleges and sixth form colleges.



ixion
part of Shaw Trust



What is the Quality in Careers Standard?

The national Quality in Careers Standard awarded by Ixion part of Shaw Trust is designed to accredit good practice and encourage development in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) in schools, academies, colleges, special schools and smaller units.

Up until the 4 February 2021 this award was known as the National Quality in Careers Standard under licence to Prospects, however Prospects is now owned by Shaw Trust and the licence is now part of Ixion which is also owned by Shaw Trust.

Ixion part of Shaw Trust is a Licensed Awarding Body. It is authorised to act on behalf of the Quality in Careers Standard Consortium to assess and accredit schools, colleges and work-based learning organisations against the national Quality in Careers Standard.

The Government strongly recommends that all schools and colleges work towards the updated Quality in Careers Standard to support the development of a world-class careers programme for all their young people. By holding a nationally recognised quality mark it demonstrates to those outside the institution that a high standard has been reached.

Working towards the Quality in Careers Standard gives CEIAG a higher profile and increases the involvement of senior managers and governors. Quality standards lead to better careers and guidance programmes because they help institutions continuously improve their careers work.



What does the Quality in Careers Standard cover?

Ten units cover all eight Gatsby Benchmarks and the accreditation criteria required by the national Quality in Careers Consortium. Our units are:

- Policy and Management.
- Planned Programme of Careers Education.
- Review and Evaluation.
- Information.
- Experience of the World of Work and Encounters with Employers and Employees.
- Encounters with Further and Higher Education.
- Individual Guidance, Personal Planning and Transition Support.
- Work with Parents and Carers.
- Equality and Diversity.
- Learner Voice.

The Quality in Careers Standard has been mapped against the Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance and the Career Development Institute (CDI) Framework for Careers, Employability and Enterprise Education.



What is the process for achieving the Award?

Registering for the Standard

Following registration, the institution will complete an audit tool and self-evaluation against the award standards. Institutions will benefit from consultancy support at this stage of the process.

Completion of each of the 10 units involves:

- An evaluative commentary which provides a route map through the self-evaluation and accompanying evidence.
- The self-assessment.
- Examples of accompanying evidence, with some items being mandatory for example; policy, programme and development plan, plus a list of other evidence available on request.
- Evidence and commentaries may be submitted via the portal at www.shawtrustqualityincareers.co.uk

Institutions will be expected to confirm that they:

- Are committed to work towards the Standard and will make a public commitment on their website that says that they are “Committed to working towards the Standard.”
- Have completed an up to date copy of the Careers Enterprise Company Compass tool.
- Will complete their portfolio ready for assessment. (At the latest 2 years after the date of registration). After this date the registration for the Standard will lapse.
- Allow all students registered at their institution to have access to impartial, independent advice and guidance from a qualified Careers Adviser. (QCF level 6). Guidance professionals must be on the CDI register.

What is the process for achieving the Award?

Assessors

The assessors will make qualitative professional judgements on the impact and outcomes from career related encounters and activities measured by Compass in respect of young people's learning and their career transitions.

Quality in Careers Assessors will review evidence of the impact of CEIAG programmes including career-related outcomes for learners, the 'learner voice', parental engagement and professional learning for those leading, managing and delivering the careers programme.

Central to the Quality in Careers assessment process will be considering evidence not only from a learning provider's staff but also from young people themselves. 'Learner voice' evidence will be of paramount importance in reaching judgements about meeting the overall national criteria for the Standard.

Assessors will visit your institution twice over two years, the first time will be one year after initial registration to see if you are making good progress towards the standards and the second visit will be to verify that you have completed the portfolio of evidence for the standards which will be verified by an internal assessor at Ixion. Both visits will take around two to three hours and will be your opportunity to showcase that the standard has been achieved.



Certification and Accreditation

Citations from October 2021

There will be two forms of public recognition through certification.

1. COMMITMENT: “Committed to work towards the Standard”

- Schools, colleges and work-based learning providers which make a public commitment to begin to work towards achieving the Quality in Careers Standard and will receive a “certificate of commitment” from Ixion.
- You will also be authorised to use the words “Committed to work towards meeting the Quality in Careers Standard incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks” on your materials (in accordance with the Consortium’s ‘brand guidelines’) until your external assessment takes place.

2. EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION: “Fully meets the Standard”

- Schools, colleges and work-based learning providers which are assessed and accredited as “fully meeting” all the national assessment criteria for the Quality in Careers Standard (incorporating meeting the Benchmarks) will receive an “accreditation certificate” from Ixion.
- You will also be authorised to use the Quality in Careers logo and the words “Nationally accredited by the Quality in Careers Standard as fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks” on your materials (in accordance with the Consortium’s ‘brand guidelines’) until your full accreditation is due for reassessment by an Awarding Body.

Successful institutions will be accredited for three years, will receive a certificate for the school, and will be entitled to use the national Quality in Careers Standard logo on websites and stationery. Institutions are expected to sustain the quality of provision for the three years, including an annual review with Ixion after which they will need to submit again for assessment against the standards that are current at the time.



Midland Academies Trust accepting their certificate for the national Quality in Careers Standard and the Ixion 'Gold' award for their outstanding provision for their four academies.

Gold Standard

The Gold Standard awarded by Ixion is determined solely by us and is not part of the national arrangements. It is for exceptional recognition of an institutions commitment to CEIAG.

This may be demonstrated by consistently high grades across all 10 units of the standard in addition to evidenced examples of outstanding and innovative practice.

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Receiving this award has provided us with a clear framework to evaluate and develop all aspects of our careers provision. There has been whole school commitment to the standard with teachers supporting the careers focus through their subject teaching. The scheme has helped to raise the profile of careers within the school agenda, and we look forward to continuing to offer all our pupils highly informative experiences in the future.”

Debbie Partridge, Careers and Employability Manager at the Midland Academies Trust

[Read more](#)

Further information

Portfolios

Submission for the portfolio is online at www.shawtrustsqualityincareers.co.uk

You will receive full details on how to access your workbook online at registration.

Cost

The cost to the institution for achieving the national Quality in Careers Standard from is £1,700 (Excl. VAT).

About us

We are a 'Grade 2' Ofsted national training provider of skills and education, putting care into developing and progressing careers. We are part of Shaw Trust, a social purpose organisation helping to build a future where rewarding employment is accessible for all.

Contact

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