

Volunteering Skills Award

SCQF Level: 3 Group Award Code: GD1N 43

SCQF Level: 4 Group Award Code: GD1P 44

SCQF Level: 5 Group Award Code: GD1R 45



SQA Wider Achievement qualifications are designed to recognise the skills needed to get ahead successfully in today's world. The portfolio supports Curriculum for Excellence delivery.

The **Volunteering Skills Award** at SCQF Levels 3, 4 and 5 provides formal recognition of volunteering activity. Through participation in volunteering activities, candidates will develop a range of skills and personal development experiences which will help to prepare them for responsibility and employment.

Candidates will learn about the context of volunteering; plan a volunteering placement; and review and reflect on their own skills and volunteering experience. Candidates will follow this up with an investigative project.

Why deliver this qualification?

The **Volunteering Skills Award** is open to all learners, regardless of age, academic experience or ability.

The achievement of other awards such as the Saltire Award, Youth Achievement Award and the Duke of Edinburgh Award can contribute towards the **Volunteering Skills Award**. These other awards exist for people under the age of 25, however the **Volunteering Skills Award** has the added advantage of being open to learners of any age.

The Award may be delivered in schools, colleges, community organisations and Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs). Delivery can be flexible to suit the needs of individuals or groups and adapted to take into account whether candidates already volunteer or are new to volunteering.

Centres may deliver the **Volunteering Skills Award** to candidates who already volunteer within their own institutions. This allows for acknowledgement of social and fundraising committee members, class reps, school/college council reps, student mentors and learners who carry out other important roles.

Who does this qualification suit?

The Award is suitable for candidates with no previous volunteering experience, candidates who are currently volunteers, and those preparing to be volunteers.

Potential candidates include:

- S3-S6 pupils
- College students
- Adult returners
- Anyone in a volunteering role

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Access

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Progression

Successful candidates will be able to progress to further study or volunteering work.

Learners may progress through the different levels of the Awards or use them as a stepping stone to further study including higher level volunteering qualifications.

Approval

The Awards are auto-approved for secondary schools.

Centres with devolved authority are eligible to seek approval through their own internal approval process. Centres without devolved authority will have to come forward for approval.

Qualification content

Each Award has three mandatory Units (18 SCQF credit points):

- Preparing to Volunteer
- Volunteering Experience
- Volunteering: Investigative Project

The amount of support that the candidate requires, their level of understanding, placement opportunities and their prior experience will determine the level of Award that is undertaken (SCQF Level 3, 4 or 5).

Assessment

A wide range of methods can be used to assess the Volunteering Skills Award. Assessment methods may include written and recorded oral evidence and performance evidence, leading to the compilation of a portfolio. The portfolio may comprise elements such as candidate notes, logbook and assessor observation checklists.

Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) will be available for all three mandatory Units.

Additional information

The Learning by Volunteering project (www.learningbyvolunteering.org) has a range of resources, information and useful templates of value to centres and candidates. It includes advice and guidance and a comprehensive toolkit to support planning a placement and making the most of the volunteering experience.