



openawards

# Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in Understanding and Responding to Substance Misuse (RQF)

603/6050/1



QUALIFICATION GUIDE

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## About the Qualification

<b>Title</b>	Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in Understanding and Responding to Substance Misuse
<b>QAN</b>	603/6050/1
<b>Sector</b>	1.3 Health and Social Care
<b>Level</b>	Level 3
<b>Funding</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Pricing Information</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Review Date</b>	31/07/2026

<b>Ofqual Purpose</b>	B – Prepare for Employment
<b>Ofqual Sub-Purpose</b>	B2 – To support a role in the workplace

<b>Age Range and Restrictions:</b>	
Pre -16	x
16 – 18	x
19+	✓
Any other restrictions specific to the qualification(s)	None

<b>Any specified entry requirements</b>
The minimum age for access to the qualification is 18. However, you are expected to have some experience or knowledge of working with those struggling with substance misuse and show a commitment to professional development.

### **Recommended Assessment Method Summary**

Learners will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence set and marked by the education provider and externally quality assured by Open Awards.

Candidates must provide sufficient evidence that they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding of the assessment criteria and that it is their own work.

Types of evidence could include:

- a) Observation of performance
- b) Questioning (written or oral)
- c) Practical Activities
- d) Photographs or videos
- e) Personal statements
- f) Project work
- g) Witness testimonies
- h) Group discussion
- i) Recognition of Prior Learning

Assessment practices must reflect the Equality and Diversity Policy of Open Awards.

## Qualification Units

Rules of Combination	
<b>Certificate</b>	
Credit Value of the Qualification	15
Minimum Credits to be achieved at the Level of the Qualification	15
Mandatory Units A	All 12 credits to be achieved
Optional Group B	A minimum of 3 credits must be achieved

### Mandatory Group A

QAC Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
D/618/2514	<a href="#">Assessment, Recovery and Discharge Planning for People Engaged with Substance Misuse Services</a>	6	Level Three
M/618/2517	<a href="#">Principles of Understanding and Responding to Substance Misuse</a>	6	Level Three

### Optional Group B

QAC Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
H/618/2515	<a href="#">Brief Interventions for Substance Misuse Practitioners</a>	3	Level Three
K/618/2516	<a href="#">Managing Teams and Individuals Working with Substance Misuse Services</a>	3	Level Three
T/618/2518	<a href="#">Providing Harm Reduction Support to People who use Drugs</a>	3	Level Three
M/618/2520	<a href="#">Raising Awareness of the effects of Substance Misuse</a>	3	Level Three
T/618/2521	<a href="#">Self-Management within Substance Misuse Services</a>	3	Level Three
A/618/2522	<a href="#">Support and After Care Services for Substance Users</a>	3	Level Three
F/618/2523	<a href="#">Understand Coexisting Substance Misuse and Mental Health Diagnosis (Dual Diagnosis)</a>	3	Level Three
J/618/2524	<a href="#">Understanding Prescribing and Detoxification Services</a>	3	Level Three
L/618/2525	<a href="#">Understanding the Recovery Process</a>	3	Level Three

## Delivering this Qualification

### **Becoming a Centre**

To deliver this qualification you must be a recognised Open Awards centre. For more information, head to our website or contact the team on 0151 494 2072

### **How to Deliver**

You can deliver this qualification by completing a [New Qualification Request Form](#) via the Open Awards portal. For more information, see the Centre Handbook, or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

### **Registering Learners**

Once you are ready to deliver this qualification, you will need to register your learners in line with the timescales below:

Short courses (15 weeks or less) within 25 working days of the course start date.  
Full year long courses (over 15 weeks) within 60 working days of the course start date.

You will need to register your learners via the Open Awards [portal](#).

### **Quality Assurance and Standardisation**

Delivery of this qualification must be done so in accordance with Ofqual regulatory guidelines and in line with Open Awards' quality assurance processes. Template forms and guidance documents are available via the Open Awards portal.

#### **Centre Staff Requirements**

Centres are responsible for ensuring that their staff are suitably skilled and experienced. Tutors/ assessors and internal quality assurance (IQA) staff must have relevant occupational knowledge and/or occupational competence at the same level or higher as the units being delivered.

Centres are responsible for notifying Open Awards of staff changes.

#### **Training and support**

Open Awards offers training and support events in Delivery & Assessment and Quality Assurance. These events are held throughout the year. Such events will also provide an opportunity to identify and share best practice. Up to date details of these training events are on our [website](#).

#### **Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)**

All centres delivering Open Awards provision must operate rigorous internal quality assurance systems. A centre must identify how they will internally quality assure and standardise their delivery and assessment before delivering a course.

#### **External Quality Assurance (EQA)**

Centre approval compliance monitoring and external quality assurance is carried out by Open Awards' Lead Quality Reviewers/External Quality Assurers who will

confirm that the centre is assessing to standard and ensure that there are robust quality assurance systems embedded.

Please refer to Internal and External Quality Assurance within the Centre Handbook.

### **Standardisation**

Centres are required to contribute to national standardisation as requested by Open Awards. Open Awards offers Standardisation events that are held throughout the year. Such events will also provide an opportunity to identify and share best practice. Up to date details of training and standardisation events can be found on our website.

Further guidance on Quality Assurance and Standardisation please refer to the [Centre Handbook](#)

### **Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)**

RPL is a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they may already possess. Evidence of learning must be sufficient, reliable and valid.

It is the responsibility of the centre to inform Open Awards at registration of any exemptions and/or equivalences for which a claim may be made. These claims will be subject to external verification by the Open Awards' Lead Quality Reviewer for the centre.

For more information, please see our Recognition of Prior Learning Policy found on the Open Awards [portal](#).

## Appendices and Links

Appendix Name
<a href="#">Centre Handbook</a>
<a href="#">Enquiries, Complaints and Appeals Policy</a>
<a href="#">Equality and Diversity Policy</a>
<a href="#">Invoicing Policy</a>
<a href="#">Privacy Policy</a>

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