



Qualifications
and Curriculum
Development
Agency

2009
Foundation
Learning

Foundation Learning

Increasing choice and flexibility for learners at Entry level and level 1

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What is Foundation Learning?

Foundation Learning is a new way to provide personalised learning programmes for young people and adults working at Entry level and level 1. It helps these learners develop their potential and prepares them to progress towards level 2 and other routes.

Foundation Learning also makes it easier for you to design and deliver successful learning programmes and recognises provision that in the past may not have been accredited or funded.

Foundation Learning will be implemented nationally between 2010 and 2013. It is one of the four main qualification suites for 14- to 19-year-olds alongside GCSEs and A levels, Diplomas and apprenticeships.

How will Foundation Learning work?

Foundation Learning is delivered in personalised Foundation Learning programmes.

A Foundation Learning programme should include:

- subject or vocational knowledge, skills and understanding
- functional skills
- personal and social development learning.

A Foundation Learning programme should also involve diagnostic assessment, mentoring, and information, advice and guidance for the learner.

Providers design programmes for their learners using units and qualifications at Entry level and level 1 of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). These programmes do not have a prescribed size, but the average programme will probably be 45 credits, or about 450 guided learning hours.

Who are Foundation Learning programmes for?

The programmes are for a wide range of learners, including those:

- in mainstream education working at Entry level and level 1
- on key stage 4 engagement programmes
- on Entry to Employment programmes
- with special educational needs
- with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- attending pupil referral units.

What are the progression routes for Foundation Learning programmes?

By 2010 there will be a variety of clear progression routes for Foundation Learning programmes.



What qualifications and units are available for Foundation Learning programmes?

The range of qualifications and units available for Foundation Learning make the programmes flexible and give learners more options. There are currently more than 450 new qualifications on the QCF that have been developed specifically for Foundation Learning programmes, and they all attract Achievement and Attainment Table points.

You can find information about these qualifications and units in the Foundation Learning catalogue on the QCDA website www.qcda.gov.uk/flqcatalogue.

The catalogue is a comprehensive list of qualifications and units approved for use within Foundation Learning programmes. It allows practitioners to choose the most appropriate qualifications and units to create personalised programmes for their learners.

Examples of Foundation Learning programmes

A disengaged learner at key stage 4

Mason is 15. He goes to a specialist technology college but he has not been successful in mainstream learning programmes and wants to get to work as soon as possible. He really likes computers and wants to get a job that would allow him to work towards a level 1 qualification in IT on day release to his local college.

Mason's Foundation Learning programme:

Functional skills in English	Entry 2	5 credits
Certificate in employability and personal development	Entry 3	15 credits
BTEC Award for IT users	Level 1	9 credits
Functional skills in mathematics	Level 1	5 credits
Functional skills in information and communication technology (ICT)	Level 1	5 credits
Award in skills for business	Level 1	3 credits
Full programme		42 credits

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A learner with special educational needs

Michaela is 19. She has moderate learning difficulties and attends a special unit at her local college. She lives at home with her parents and would like to learn how to be more independent. She likes more practical learning and enjoys spending time at her local stables, where she helps groom and feed the animals.

Michaela's Foundation Learning programme:

Functional skills in mathematics	Entry 1	5 credits
Functional skills in ICT	Entry 2	5 credits
Entry level certificate in skills for working life – land-based	Entry 3	22 credits
Functional skills in English	Entry 3	5 credits
Certificate in skills for independent living	Entry	13 credits
Full programme		50 credits

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A part-time post-16 learner

Aneel was bored by school, and his attendance was poor. He left his local comprehensive at 16 with a GCSE in art and design and level 1 functional skills in mathematics and ICT, but he failed his other courses because he didn't attend the exams. He has a part-time job in a garage and really enjoys it, but knows he needs more qualifications to become an engineer.

Aneel's Foundation Learning programme:

Certificate in personal and social development	Entry 3	13 credits
Award for the introduction to vehicle technology	Entry 3	12 credits
Functional skills in English	Level 1	5 credits
Vehicle maintenance and repair	Level 1	7 credits
Functional skills in ICT	Level 2	5 credits
Full programme		42 credits

What support and guidance is available?

More information and guidance about Foundation Learning is available from the QCDA website at www.qcda.gov.uk/foundationlearning.

Information about support activities and resources from the Foundation Learning support programme for local authorities, schools, colleges and learning providers is available from the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) Excellence Gateway at www.excellencegateway.org.uk/flt.

Further information is available from the Department for Children, Schools and Families website at www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/foundationlearning.



We want our website and publications to be widely accessible, so please contact us if we're not meeting your needs.

About this publication

Foundation Learning is one of the four main pathways for 14- to 19-year-olds alongside GCSEs and A levels, Diplomas and apprenticeships.

For more information about Foundation Learning please visit the QCDA website www.qcda.gov.uk/foundationlearning.

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