

The AMiE guide to Diplomas



Diploma time line

September 2008	September 2009	September 2010	September 2011
Construction and the Built Environment	Business, Administration and Finance	Public Services	Humanities
Creative and Media	Environmental and Land-Based Studies	Retail Business	Languages
Engineering	Hair and Beauty Studies	Sport and Active Leisure	Science
Information Technology	Hospitality	Travel and Tourism	
Society, Health and Development	Manufacturing and Product Design		

17 Diplomas, all at 3 levels, will be available from 2011. The structure and characteristics of the Diploma are the same for all 17 subjects, including the Humanities, Languages and Science line of learning. Thus the latter will provide a more integrated, workplace-related approach to these subjects than the equivalent A-level or GCSE programmes.

Diploma framework

	Principal Learning	Generic Learning			Additional and Specialist Learning	Equivalence	
	Main Subject, eg Hospitality	Project	Functional Skills	Work Experience	PLTS	Optional Courses	
Foundation Diploma (level 1)	Practical assessments + 1 exam	Project	ICT/Maths/English Level 1	Minimum 10 days	✓	Choose from a range of qualifications (see relevant catalogue of learning) including: BTECs, GCSEs and A-levels	5 x GCSEs (grade D–G)
Higher Diploma (level 2)	Practical assessments + 1 exam	Project	ICT/Maths/English Level 2	Minimum 10 days	✓		7 x GCSEs (grade A*–C)
Advanced Diploma (level 3)	Practical assessments + 2 or 3 exams	Extended Project	ICT/Maths/English Level 2	Minimum 10 days	✓		3.5 A-levels

A Progression Diploma (level 3) will be available, equivalent to 2.5 A-levels. It will require 720 guided learning hours and omit the ASL element.

Diploma structure

Principal Learning	Generic Learning				Additional and Specialist Learning
Enables the development and application of knowledge and skills of the chosen sector.	Develops the broad skills and knowledge necessary for learning, employment and personal development. The components of the generic learning element are functional skills, the project, PLTS and work experience.				Enables students' programmes to be tailored to their own interests and aspirations. Units can be chosen from the relevant catalogue of opportunities.
L1 – 240 GLH L2 – 420 GLH L3 – 540 GLH (50% applied learning)	Functional Skills: English, Maths, ICT L1 – 120 GLH L2 – 80 GLH	Project L1 & L2 – 60 GLH L3 – 120 GLH	Personal, Learning & Thinking Skills (PLTS) 60 GLH	Work Experience 10 days minimum	L1 – 120 GLH L2 – 180 GLH L3 – 380 GLH

In total the Foundation Diploma will require 600 guided learning hours (GLH), the Higher Diploma 800 GLH, and the Advanced Diploma 1080 GLH. Guided learning hours are the average number of hours of teacher-supervised or directed study time assigned to complete the qualification or unit of a qualification. In practice some parts may be integrated with others. For example, the personal, learning and thinking skills are embedded in, and assessed through, the principal learning; there is no separate assessment unit for them. The functional skills are all qualifications in their own right but students might well complete them alongside GCSE students.

Assessment

To achieve the overall Diploma, students must pass all components within the Diploma, including functional skills and additional and specialist learning.

- Principal learning units of assessment (all newly developed) are of 30 and 60 GLH at levels 1 and 2; 30, 60 or 90 GLH at level 3.
- Functional skills are assessed separately under exam conditions, though learning and application may be integrated into principal learning. To gain the Diploma, students must pass functional skills tests at level 1 for the Foundation Diploma, at level 2 for the Higher and Advanced Diplomas.
- Personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS) will not be assessed separately but integrated into principal learning.
- Project: the individual project is a discrete unit, locally assessed.
- Work experience of a minimum of 10 days will not be assessed (with older students their part-time work could count towards this component).
- Additional and specialist learning (ASL): permitted units are listed in the relevant Diploma catalogue at www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk

Grading

Level 1 attainment will be reported as A*, A and B. **Level 2** as A*, A, B and C. **Level 3** as A*, A, B, C, D and E. Attainment below these levels will be classified U.