

OCN LONDON

QUALIFICATION GUIDE

Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education



OCN London Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education
Qualification No: 601/4351/4

OCN London aims to support learning and widening opportunities by recognising achievement through credit-based courses and qualifications, promoting high standards of excellence and inclusiveness.

We are proud of our long-term role and unique history in providing, innovative learning solutions for a wide range of learners and particularly those who have not previously benefitted from education.

At the heart of what OCN London offers is:

- a commitment to inclusive credit-based learning;
- the creative use of credit with responsive, demand-led qualification development;
- high quality service and support;
- respect for and encouragement of diversity – in learners and learning approaches, partners and settings;
- the development of people, capacity and resources that will ensure effective business partnerships.

To navigate within this Qualification Guide

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General Information

This qualification guide contains details of everything you need to know about the [OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education](#). It makes reference to the curriculum areas covered, identifies the learners for whom the qualification has been developed and specifies the rules of combination for achievement of the qualification. The guide also covers important aspects of assessment and moderation that are particular to this qualification. The guide should be used by all involved in the delivery and assessment of the qualification.

The Curriculum and Relationship Development Manager (CRDM) for your Centre will provide support and advice on how to seek approval to offer this qualification. Please contact the main switchboard for the name of your CRDM if you do not already know it. If you are not yet an OCN London Approved Centre but wish to use this qualification, please contact the administrative team at OCN London for details of the Centre Approval application process.

Qualification Overview

The [OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education](#) has been developed specifically for the Bridging Programme, a government funded initiative targeted at those working in the health and social care sector, to support their career progression and enable them to progress into higher education. The Bridging Programme initiative is a direct response to recommendations made in the Cavendish Report and is aimed at supporting Health Care Assistants and others working in the health and social care sector into a range of programmes that lead to registration as a health professional including pre-registration nursing degrees.

The achievement of the OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education qualification will complement the learner's Level 3 vocational qualification by providing an opportunity for them to develop and/or enhance their academic study skills in preparation for higher level study. The achievement of this qualification will support their applications to universities, providing evidence of a range of skills that are essential for success on degree courses and other higher level programmes of study.

The [OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education](#) is regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England, and is registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

Qualification details

The [OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education](#) is available at Level 3 only.

Level 3 Certificate

- Qualification Number: 601/4351/4
- Qualification credit value: 16
- Operational start date: 01 September 2014
- Review date: 28 February 2026
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 112
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 260 hours
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated.

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the qualification is to support learners to progress into higher education by providing them with the academic study skills they will need, alongside their health and social care related qualification, to embark on a higher level course of study.

Who the qualification is for

The [OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education](#) is suitable for Health Care workers and learners, operating at and achieving vocational qualifications at or above Level 3 (inside or outside an Apprenticeship) and who wish to progress into

professional education programmes in health and/or social care, using a combination of their vocational qualification(s) and the Bridging Programme qualification.

Learners will acquire skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- building alliances;
- effective negotiation;
- planning and delivering a campaign;
- evaluating own actions.

Entry guidance

The minimum age for access to the qualification is 16 years.

Additional information

In order to be approved to deliver this qualification, providers/employers will be required to:

- Have a Progression Agreement with at least one Higher Education Institution offering professional education programmes in health and social care;
- Commit to contributing to the ongoing evaluation of the Bridging Programme as a condition of approval;
- Devise a personalised assessment plan for each learner which builds towards level 3 study skills achievement from the learner's starting point;
- Ensure learners know the difference between copying from sources and interrogating such sources when completing assessment assignments;
- Allow learners to complete multiple assessment tasks if this is what is needed to enable them to demonstrate achievement.

Integrate study skills learning and assessment into the learner's vocational programme and/or build and assess the development and acquisition of study skills using the knowledge and skills already acquired through vocational qualification and work experience.

Progression and related qualifications

This qualification has been developed specifically to support progression into health professional education programmes at Higher Education Institutions in England.

Structure of the Qualification

Rules of combination for achievement

The [OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education](#) comprises five mandatory units. Learners must achieve 16 credits in total.

Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
Mandatory					
L/506/6960	HC7/3/LQ/001	Extended Academic Essay and Report Writing Skills for Higher Study	3	3	21
R/506/6961	HC7/3/LQ/002	Essential Skills for Academic Study	3	3	21
D/506/6963	HC7/3/LQ/003	Extended Project Skills for Academic Study	3	6	42
H/506/6964	HC7/3/LQ/004	Finding and Reading Information Skills for Academic Study	3	3	21
K/506/6965	HC7/3/LQ/005	Understanding Opportunities in Higher Education	3	1	7

For unit content please click the Ofqual Unit Reference Number

Assessment and Moderation

Assessment process

The assessment process for this qualification is as follows:

- the learners are assessed through activities that are internally set by tutor/assessors;
- the activities must be designed to enable learners to meet the assessment criteria of the unit;
- learners' portfolios of assessed evidence must be internally moderated at the Centre;
- the portfolios of assessed evidence will be externally moderated by an OCN London External Moderator.

There is no additional external assessment for this qualification.

Devising assessments

Each unit has a supplementary page with suggestions for the types of assessment activities that can be used to assess learners against the unit. Tutor/assessors should refer to this page before devising assessment tasks.

OCN London assessment guidance relevant to the units in the qualification is in the [OCNLR Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors](#) section of this qualification guide. The guidance includes a general description of the activity and the type of evidence that is appropriate. The activity or activities set must enable the learners to meet the standards detailed in the assessment criteria. Please contact OCN London for further guidance on devising appropriate assessments.

Centre-devised assessments should be scrutinised by the Internal Moderator before use to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Centre-devised assessments will be scrutinised by the External Moderator to ensure reliability and validity of assessment.

Marking assessment activities

Each activity must be marked against the identified assessment criteria in the unit and judged to be either achieved or not achieved.

Tutor/assessors need to ensure that the work in a learner's portfolio is:

- authentic – it is the result of the learner's own performance or activity;
- sufficient – enabling the tutor/assessor to make a consistent and reliable judgement;
- adequate – appropriate to the level.

Where a series of activities are set, learners must demonstrate the achievement of the required standard identified in the assessment criteria in all activities. All the assessment criteria in a unit must be met before the unit is deemed achieved.

The unit achievement is not graded. Units are either achieved or not achieved.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards in relation to assessment. It:

- compares assessment judgements from different tutor/assessors;
- promotes consistent judgements by different tutor/assessors;
- identifies good practice in assessment;
- promotes the sharing of good practice in assessment between Centre staff.

Standardisation events should be held periodically within Centres to ensure consistent and effective assessment practice. Standardisation events may also be held by OCN London and it is a requirement that each Centre offering units from the qualification must contribute assessment materials and learners' evidence for standardisation, if requested.

OCN London will notify Centres of the required sample for standardisation purposes and assessment materials, learners' evidence and tutor/assessor feedback may be collected by External Moderators.

Learners with particular requirements

If learners have particular requirements the Centre should refer to the [Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure](#) which gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty, without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

Requirements for tutor/assessors

To be sufficiently competent

In addition to being qualified to make assessment decisions, each tutor/assessor must be capable of carrying out the full requirements within the competency of the units they are assessing. This competence should be maintained annually through clearly demonstrable continuing learning and professional development.

Expert witnesses can be used where they have suitable expertise for specialist areas. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the tutor/assessor.

To be sufficiently knowledgeable

Each tutor/assessor should possess relevant knowledge and understanding of the subject and so be able to make robust and reliable assessment decisions in relation to the subject.

OCNLR Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors

For OCN London's Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptors relevant to this qualification, please click on the link below.

[Level 3 Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptors](#)

About OCN London

OCN London is a well-established national awarding organisation with over 25 years' experience in accrediting learning. We are a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status, dedicated to widening participation in learning and training, social inclusion and employability. We are also a market leader in the recognition of achievement through credit-based units and qualifications. Based in London, we work with Centres both across the UK and abroad, offering national qualifications and accredited programmes.

Our mission is to provide opportunities for people from across society to benefit from learning, particularly those who have not previously benefitted from education.

Why work with us?

- We are agile and responsive. This means you will get a personal service with direct access to a named contact and a quick turnaround.
- We pride ourselves on our close relationships with Centres. The people we work with see us as a trusted partner, not just a supplier.
- We want to help you secure the best from your learners and employees.
- We have a reputation for high quality. The OCN London brand carries national recognition and kudos.
- We are flexible and recognise the importance of accommodating the needs of different learners and different learning styles.
- We offer exceptional value for money. Just ask the people we work with.
- We are committed to the belief that learning can change lives.

OCN London is regulated by Ofqual and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

If you would like to deliver this qualification please contact our Curriculum Development Team on **020 7689 5867**.

For further information call **020 7278 5511**. E: enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk

Or visit our website: www.ocnlondon.org.uk



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