Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities

©OCN London 2026

OCN London Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities
Qualification No: 601/2465/9

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

To locate a section in this electronic guide, click on the heading in the table of contents, on page 4. To return to the contents page, click again on any major heading within the document. Users can of course also scroll through pages in the usual way.

Contents

	Page
General Information	5
Qualification Overview	6
Qualification details	6
Purpose of the qualification	6
Who the qualification is for	6
Entry guidance	7
Additional information	7
Progression and related qualifications	7
Structure of the qualification	8
Rules of Combination	8
Qualification units	8
Assessment and Moderation	9
Assessment process	9
Devising assessments	9
Marking assessment activities	9
Standardisation	10
Learning with particular requirements	10
Requirements for tutor/assessors	10
Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors	12

General Information

This qualification guide contains details of everything you need to know about the **OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities.** It makes reference to the curriculum areas covered and identifies the learners for whom the qualification has been developed. The guide also covers important aspects of assessment and moderation that are particular to the qualification. The guide should be used by all involved in the delivery and assessment of the qualification. The Account Manager for your Centre will provide support and advice on how to seek approval to offer the qualification.

If you are not yet an OCN London Approved Centre but wish to use this qualification, then please contact us on **enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk** for details of the Centre Approval application process.

Qualification Overview

The **OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities** qualification has been developed in conjunction with specialist practitioners and through consultation with a range of learning providers working with learners with learning disabilities.

The content of the qualifications will enable learners to:

- Understand the meaning of Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD);
- Recognise the impact that communication impairment has on individuals with PMLD and compare effective and non-effective communication practice;
- Explain how sensory exercises impact on individuals with PMLD;
- Identify ways to overcome negative attitudes and assumptions towards people with PMLD.

The **OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities** qualification is regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England, and are registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). It is not a licence to practise.

Qualification details

This Qualification is also available at level 2.

Level 3 Award

- Qualification Number: 601/2466/0
- Qualification credit value: 2
- Operational start date: 1st February 2014
- Review date: 31 October 2029
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 20
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 16
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the **OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities** qualification is to develop a learner's understanding of the needs of people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) and to equip the learner with the skills to effectively support, respond to and engage individuals with PMLD.

Who the qualification is for

The **OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities** qualification is suitable for people already working in this field or

who are looking to move into this area of work. Learners who gain either of these qualifications will be able communicate more effectively with people with PMLD and develop appropriate strategies to support the learning needs of this group.

Entry guidance

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 19+. The minimum age for access to the qualification is 19 years.

Additional information

Tutors delivering this qualification must be able to demonstrate that they meet the following occupational competence requirements. They should:

- be technically competent in supporting individuals with special educational needs and/or have experience of providing training within the subject area; this experience must be, as a minimum, at the level above the training being delivered.
- be occupationally knowledgeable in the area of PMLD for which they are delivering training; this knowledge must be, as a minimum, at the level above the training being delivered.
- hold a recognised teaching qualification or, for new tutors, undertake and complete initial teacher training at Level 3 or above within 12 months of taking up the tutor role.

Centre staff may undertake more than one role, e.g. tutor and assessor or internal verifier, but they cannot carry out any verification on work that they have previously assessed.

Progression and related qualifications

This qualification provides continuing professional development for Learners to be able work more effectively with people with PMLD and develop appropriate strategies to support the learning needs of this group. They can also take related qualifications such as the **OCNLR Level 2 and 3 Awards in Meeting the Needs of Learners with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in the Mainstream Classroom.**

Structure of the qualification

Rules of combination for achievement

The **OCNLR Level 3 Award in Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities qualification** comprises 1 mandatory and units. Learners must achieve 2 credits in total.

Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
D/505/9026	Hg5/3/LQ/001	Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities	3	2	14

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 information on the types of assessment activities that can (indicated as 'Optional' or 'O') and/or must (indicated as 'Prescribed' or 'P') be used to assess learners against the unit. Tutor assessors must always refer to this page before devising assessment tasks.

OCN London assessment guidance relevant to the units in this 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.

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 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 of 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 this 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 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 can be found on our website at: Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure and 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 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 assessor.

To be sufficiently knowledgeable

Each 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.

Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors

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

Level 3 Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptors

OCN London

OCN London
70 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0HR
www.ocnlondon.org.uk
enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk
020 7278 5511