



Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Software Engineering

OCN London Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Software Engineering
Qualification No: 610/7131/6

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 4 Diploma in Software Engineering**. 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 4 Diploma in Software Engineering** qualification has been developed to equip learners with the skills, knowledge and competencies required for progression towards roles in software development. It supports learners to understand key theories, principles, technologies and processes used in modern software engineering, apply contemporary development methodologies, analyse client requirements, and design, develop and test object-oriented, web-based software solutions using database systems. The qualification also develops effective teamworking and clear written and oral communication skills.

The **OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Software Engineering** has been developed in partnership with UK Awards.

The **OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Software Engineering** 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 5.

Level 4 Diploma

- Qualification Number: 610/7131/6
- Qualification credit value: 120
- Operational start date: 01/03/2026
- Review date: 01/03/2028
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 1200
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 480
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the **OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Software Engineering** qualification is to develop skills and competencies needed for a career as a software developer. It aims to provide an education that fosters both an understanding of relevant theories and principles, as well as the technical skills associated with the field.

The course will provide the opportunity for learners to:

- Develop knowledge of some of the technologies and processes used in modern software development.
- Demonstrate an awareness of modern software development methodologies and their role in software development.
- Analyse client requirements to develop and test software solutions based on client requirements.

- Program object-oriented applications for a web-based system which uses a database system.
- Develop effective working in a team environment.
- Communicate effectively in written and oral form.

Who the qualification is for

The **OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Software Engineering** qualification is suitable for learners who have an interest in pursuing a career in software engineering.

Entry guidance

Normally, to be eligible for entry onto the course, a prospective learner must have:

- An appropriate facility in the English language, and
- Demonstrable capability in basic mathematics, and
- Completed a level 3 course in another subject and/or discipline and is seeking to change direction.

Progression and related qualifications

Learners who successfully complete this course will be eligible to progress to the **OCNLR Level 5 Diploma in Software Engineering**. They may also be eligible to progress to level 5 studies on other similar courses at colleges and universities. However, it should be noted that transfer of credit on application to other qualifications is determined by the receiving institution/awarding organisation.

Guidance on delivering this qualification

It is normally expected that they have a first degree in a related subject or an equivalent professional qualification. Please contact OCN London for decisions on particular qualifications if in doubt.

Structure of the qualification

Rules of combination for achievement

The **OCNLR Level 4 Diploma in Software Engineering qualification** comprises 6 mandatory units. Learners must achieve 120 credits in total.

- 120 credits must be taken from the mandatory units

Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
J/651/9730	CL4/4/LQ/001	Databases	4	20	80
K/651/9731	CL4/4/LQ/004	Networks	4	20	80
L/651/9732	CL4/4/LQ/003	IT Concepts and Computer Hardware	4	20	80
M/651/9733	CL4/4/LQ/002	Interactive Web Design	4	20	80
R/651/9734	CL4/4/LQ/005	Software Programming	4	20	80
T/651/9735	CL4/4/LQ/006	Project	4	20	80

Barred combinations

There are no barred combinations.

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.

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

Assessors of this qualification are expected to have, as a minimum, a degree in related subject or an equivalent professional qualification. (Contact OCN London for decisions on particular qualifications if in doubt.)

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 and grading system

The curriculum is set up to support a portfolio approach to continuous assessment. Learners will study units and develop a portfolio of evidence. Each unit will have milestones where

formative assessment is provided, and learners can then continue to work on their portfolios before a final submission at the end of the unit.

For each unit, an assessment grid is provided that sets out the context/scenario for the assessment, indicates the learning outcomes to be achieved, and identifies the evidence required to support their attainment. This grid contains evidence requirements for grading at pass, merit, and distinction. The criteria are cumulative, so to achieve a merit grade a learner must satisfy the criteria for both a pass and for a merit. Similarly, to achieve a distinction grade a learner must satisfy, pass, merit, and distinction criteria.

The grade outcome for a unit will be determined as follows:

- To achieve a **pass** grade in a unit, a pass must be attained for all learning outcomes.
- To achieve a **merit** grade in a unit, a merit must be attained for all learning outcomes.
- To achieve a **distinction** grade in a unit, a distinction must be attained for all learning outcomes.

Learners who either fail to make a final submission of their portfolio, or whose submission does not meet the criteria for a pass, will be counselled and allowed rectification as follows:

- Repeating the whole unit
- Reworking an element of their portfolio

For the diploma to be awarded, a pass grade must be achieved in all units. The grade outcome for the diploma will be based on the predominant outcome for each of the units.

For courses with six units, the grade outcome for the diploma will be determined as follows:

- To achieve a **pass** grade in the diploma, a pass must be attained for units.
- To achieve a **merit** grade in the diploma, a merit must be attained in at least three units.
- To achieve a **distinction** grade in the diploma, a distinction must be attained in at least three units, with all other units being graded merit.

For courses with three units, the grade outcome for the diploma will be determined as follows:

- To achieve a **pass** grade in the diploma, a pass must be attained for units.
- To achieve a **merit** grade in the diploma, a merit must be attained in at least two units.
- To achieve a **distinction** grade in the diploma, a distinction must be attained in at least two units, with all other units being graded merit.



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