



Qualifications and  
Curriculum Authority

# Progression routes for Diploma learners

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## Introduction

The Diploma is designed to give learners the flexibility to progress to further or higher education, apprenticeship or employment with training. The progression illustrations on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) website provide potential progression routes for the different lines of learning covered to date, giving a feel for the various opportunities. Different lines of learning have different entry opportunities and requirements upon completing the Diploma. For example, entry level job roles in creative and media are predominantly graduate entry.

The flexibility of the Diploma means that the illustrations will not cover every potential progression route, but should provide examples of the kinds of opportunities available. They show how the Diploma can work with a variety of additional and specialist learning (ASL) options that can be selected to suit each learner's own interests and career aspirations. Each progression illustration gives a flavour of the potential of the Diploma and has been produced in conjunction with experts from each line of learning to ensure they accurately reflect opportunities for learners. They are not a guarantee of any particular work experience placement, project or progression route, but indicate how the Diploma can suit a learner's individual needs and ambitions.

It is important that young people have access to high quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) about Diplomas and other 14–19 pathways to support them in making informed choices about their future learning. Local consortia are responsible for providing comprehensive IAG on Diplomas, and the progression illustrations provide an invaluable tool to support teachers, local Connexions services and other IAG practitioners in this task. IAG should be personalised with local and regional factors taken into account when researching opportunities for work experience, employment, apprenticeships or further and higher education.

## The progression illustrations

Progression illustrations are available to download for the following lines of learning:

- business, administration and finance
- construction and the built environment
- creative and media
- engineering
- environmental and land-based studies
- hair and beauty studies
- hospitality
- information technology
- manufacturing and product design
- society, health and development.

Each progression illustration provides the following information:

- background on the learners, including what they have studied so far and their personal interests
- which Diploma they have decided to study, including the following, which are explained in more detail later in this document:
  - principal learning
  - generic learning, including the project and work placement
  - ASL options, including the reasons for their choice
- the learners' progression upon completion of their studies, project and work placement, which could be either further or higher education, apprenticeship or employment with training.

# Principal learning, generic learning and additional and specialist learning

## Principal learning

This is a compulsory component of the Diploma that relates to the line of learning and includes a minimum of 50 per cent applied learning. Each progression illustration shows the mandatory principal learning for each Diploma.

## Generic learning

Generic learning aims to help students with learning, employment and personal development and is made up of the following areas.

- Functional skills include English, mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT).
- Personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS) help learners become independent and creative thinkers, reflective learners, good team workers and self-managing and effective participators
- The project enables learners to plan, execute and evaluate their choice of a project that can be related to their chosen study path and personal interests. The learners' work experience can often be a good source of projects for the Diploma, and the project itself could shape the timing, duration and pattern of the individual's work experience programme (see next point).

The outputs from the projects can take a variety of forms and include a report with findings from an investigation or study, a dissertation, an artefact with supporting narrative (for example a set of presentation slides, website or photography display) or a performance of some description, again with supporting narrative.

Information on the project can be found for consortia in the 'Foundation, higher and extended projects' section of the QCA website ([http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_18461.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_18461.aspx)) and for learners in the 'Lines of learning' section by choosing an individual line of learning ([http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_13473.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_13473.aspx)).

- The work experience element of the Diploma is a placement with an employer in which a young person carries out a task – or range of tasks – and duties in much the same way as an employee, with the emphasis on learning from the experience. Work experience gives young people the chance to learn about skills and personal qualities, as well as

roles and structures in the workplace.

Diploma learners will undertake at least 10 days' work experience and may do more.

This does not need to be 10 days in one block or even with the same employer.

More information on work experience and work related learning can be found in the Department for Children, Schools and Families publication, The Work-related Learning Guide ([www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/work-relatedlearningguide.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/work-relatedlearningguide.pdf)).

## **Additional and specialist learning**

ASL allows learners to add breadth or depth to the learning experience with their Diploma.

They can choose qualifications that complement their chosen line of learning and shape their future choices, or they may decide to broaden their options and choose qualifications that accommodate progression but do not directly relate to their Diploma.

Some progression routes (for example a university degree or an apprenticeship) may involve quite specific ASL for learners to be eligible. If learners have clear ideas about their progression, they would be well advised to check whether there are any explicit requirements.

## Other information

This section includes links to other websites that may be of interest for Diploma learners. These links give more information about each line of learning and potential career progressions. It also includes some general links that may be useful for Diploma learners.

### General links

- [yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas](http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas) – The DCSF Diploma site provides information on Diplomas.
- [www.planitplus.net](http://www.planitplus.net) – *PlanIT Plus* gives information on all aspects of careers listed alphabetically, and includes interactive career planning activities.
- [www.careersa-z.co.uk](http://www.careersa-z.co.uk) – *Careers A-Z* leads, via an alphabetical search, to a comprehensive store of information on jobs in each sector.
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) – *Careersbox* shows short clips on various opportunities by sector.
- [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) (click on the 'Apprenticeships' tab) – *Apprenticeships: Opening doors for a better future* gives information on entry levels and job roles in apprenticeships in each sector.
- [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com) – Connexions direct offers information on a range of issues, from careers and learning to money, health and relationships.
- [www.direct.gov.uk/en/Diol1/DoltOnline/DoltOnlineByCategory/DG\\_170372](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Diol1/DoltOnline/DoltOnlineByCategory/DG_170372) – The 'Find your local 14 – 19 prospectus' section of *Directgov* leads, via a search, to the local 14–19 prospectus, which shows courses and qualifications available in the local area.

### Business, administration and finance

- [www.fssc.org.uk](http://www.fssc.org.uk) – Financial Services Skills Council (FSSC) provides strategic leadership for education, training and skills development for financial services, and more recently accountancy and finance.
  - [fssc.org.uk/144\\_13.html?i=4&l1=true](http://fssc.org.uk/144_13.html?i=4&l1=true) – The 'Careers stories' section provides a number of career stories giving insight into some careers.
  - [fssc.org.uk/220\\_13.html?i=5](http://fssc.org.uk/220_13.html?i=5) – The 'Diploma in BAF' section provides information on the Diploma.

- [www.fssc.org.uk/careers.html](http://www.fssc.org.uk/careers.html) – *Directions*, the FSSC Careers Information Service, provides specialist information on careers in the financial services.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'business, administration and finance' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Construction and the built environment

- [www.cskills.org](http://www.cskills.org) – ConstructionSkills, the sector skills council for construction, provides advice, courses and funds for training to help improve construction businesses.
  - [www.cskills.org/workinconst/inconstruction/careerdevelopment/apprenticeships](http://www.cskills.org/workinconst/inconstruction/careerdevelopment/apprenticeships) – The 'Apprenticeships' section provides information on apprenticeships in the field and the three-year Construction Apprenticeship Scheme.
- [www.cbediploma.co.uk](http://www.cbediploma.co.uk) - ConstructionSkills' website on the construction and the built environment Diploma gives information on the Diploma for Diploma providers, employers, parents and students.
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (select 'All' from the 'Choose region' drop-down menu and 'Construction' from the 'Choose sector' drop-down menu) – The 'Construction' section of *Careersbox* shows video clips on careers related to construction.
- [www.constructionarium.co.uk](http://www.constructionarium.co.uk) – *Constructionarium* is a hands-on construction experience for students and young professionals where they learn to establish working links with industry. The basic model consists of a triangle formed by a university, contractor and consultant working in partnership to deliver a new learning experience that combines the academic perspective with those of the design professional and practical site delivery. *Constructionarium* is held as a six-day working field course. The participants construct scaled down versions of bridges, buildings, dams and civil engineering projects. Students are assessed on the final day in terms of budgetary control, methodology and timely completion.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'construction' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Creative and media

- [www.skillset.org](http://www.skillset.org) – Skillset, the sector skills council for creative media, supports skills and training for people and businesses in the creative media industries by providing advice and resources, and information on all the different jobs in the field.
  - [www.skillset.org/skillset/role/article\\_2643\\_1.asp](http://www.skillset.org/skillset/role/article_2643_1.asp) – The section on 'Defining the creative media industries' lists the sectors involved in the creative media industries.
  - [www.skillset.org/qualifications/diploma](http://www.skillset.org/qualifications/diploma) – The section on 'The Diploma in creative and media' gives information for students, consortia, employers and higher education providers on work-related learning, courses, qualifications and degrees, as well as direct link to the 14–19 Development Team.
  - [www.skillset.org/qualifications/apprenticeships](http://www.skillset.org/qualifications/apprenticeships) – The section on 'Apprenticeships' gives information on apprenticeships in England, Wales and Scotland, Skillset's Apprenticeship Frameworks, the Media Production Advanced Apprenticeship Scheme and apprenticeship case studies.
  - [www.skillset.org/careers/jobs/job\\_profiles](http://www.skillset.org/careers/jobs/job_profiles) – Within the section on 'Job profiles', Skillset has developed some job profiles for careers in the creative media industries to help students realise the different opportunities in the field.
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (select 'All' from the 'Choose region' drop-down menu and 'Creative & media' from the 'Choose sector' drop-down menu) – The 'Creative & media' section of *Careersbox* shows video clips on careers related to careers in the creative and media industries.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'media' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Engineering

- [www.semta.org.uk](http://www.semta.org.uk) – Semta, the sector skills council for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies supports UK businesses in achieving global competitiveness through investment in skills.
  - [www.semta.org.uk/careers\\_qualifications/plan\\_your\\_career.aspx](http://www.semta.org.uk/careers_qualifications/plan_your_career.aspx) – The 'Plan your career' section provides a course search facility and advice and guidance.

- [www.semta.org.uk/careers\\_qualifications/plan\\_your\\_career/diplomas\\_apprenticeships.aspx](http://www.semta.org.uk/careers_qualifications/plan_your_career/diplomas_apprenticeships.aspx) – The '14–19 Diplomas' section offers detailed information about the engineering, manufacturing and product design, and science Diplomas.
- [www.semta.org.uk/careers\\_qualifications/plan\\_your\\_career/apprenticeships.aspx](http://www.semta.org.uk/careers_qualifications/plan_your_career/apprenticeships.aspx) – The 'Apprenticeships' section gives information on apprenticeships.
- [www.semta.org.uk/careers\\_qualifications/plan\\_your\\_career/progression\\_routes.aspx](http://www.semta.org.uk/careers_qualifications/plan_your_career/progression_routes.aspx) – The 'Progression routes' section offers some career planners that can be downloaded.
- [www.scenta.co.uk](http://www.scenta.co.uk) – *Scenta* gives information about engineering and technology careers and news.
  - [www.scenta.co.uk/careers/money/job\\_profiles](http://www.scenta.co.uk/careers/money/job_profiles) – The 'Job profiles' section lists a range of profiles for jobs in the engineering and technology sectors.
- [www.enginuity.org.uk](http://www.enginuity.org.uk) – *Enginuity* gives information about engineering and technology careers.
  - [www.enginuity.org.uk/routes\\_into\\_engineering/qualification\\_routes](http://www.enginuity.org.uk/routes_into_engineering/qualification_routes) – The 'Pathways' section gives information about the Diploma and apprenticeships in engineering.
- [www.futuremorph.org](http://www.futuremorph.org) – The Science Council's *Future Morph* shows just some of the interesting and unexpected careers that can be followed by studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- [www.imiawards.org.uk](http://www.imiawards.org.uk) – IMI Awards Limited, an awarding body, gives information about the retail motor industry.
  - [www.imiawards.org.uk/qualifications/careers-in-the-motor-industry.html](http://www.imiawards.org.uk/qualifications/careers-in-the-motor-industry.html) – The 'Careers in the motor industry' section gives information about qualifications and apprenticeships.
- [autocity.org.uk](http://autocity.org.uk) – *Auto City* provides links to examples of numerous jobs in the motor industry.

- [www.abpi-careers.org.uk](http://www.abpi-careers.org.uk) – The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) gives an idea of some of the jobs that are available in the pharmaceutical sector.
- [www.bloodhoundssc.com](http://www.bloodhoundssc.com) (click on the 'Education' tab) – *Bloodhound* SSC has some interesting opportunities for those interested in science and engineering.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'engineering' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Environmental and land-based studies

- [www.lantra.co.uk](http://www.lantra.co.uk) – Lantra, the sector skills council for environmental and land-based industries, works with employers, organisations, training providers and individuals, to invest in skills, access appropriate learning solutions and promote careers.
  - [www.lantra.co.uk/young-people-and-parents](http://www.lantra.co.uk/young-people-and-parents) – The 'Young people and parents' section gives information on careers, education courses.
  - [www.lantra.co.uk/young-people-and-parents/education/england](http://www.lantra.co.uk/young-people-and-parents/education/england) – The 'England' education section leads to general information on Diplomas and apprenticeships.
  - [www.lantra.co.uk/young-people-and-parents/experience](http://www.lantra.co.uk/young-people-and-parents/experience) – The 'Gaining experience' section gives information on work experience and volunteering in the sector.
- [www.diplomaelbs.co.uk](http://www.diplomaelbs.co.uk) – Lantra's website for the Diploma in environmental and land-based studies provides specific information on the Diploma.
- [www.careersa-z.co.uk](http://www.careersa-z.co.uk) (type 'environment' into the 'Keyword search', then click the 'Environment' link under 'Career sectors, and click the 'All links' tab) – *Careers A-Z* provides links to information on a number of industry websites.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'environment' or 'land based' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Hair and beauty studies

- [www.habia.org](http://www.habia.org) - Habia is the standard-setting body for the hair, beauty, nails and spa industries and creates the standards that form the basis of all qualifications and industry codes of practice.
  - [www.habia.org/apprenticeships](http://www.habia.org/apprenticeships) – The 'Apprenticeships' section gives information for parents and learners on entry requirements and other characteristics of apprenticeships.
- [www.diplomainhairandbeautystudies.org](http://www.diplomainhairandbeautystudies.org) – Habia's website for the Diploma in hair and beauty studies gives information on the Diploma directed at both parents and learners, together with updates, news and video clips.
- [www.hairandbeautyjobs.com](http://www.hairandbeautyjobs.com) – *Hairandbeautyjobs.com* has information on available jobs, with links to specialist sections, information about careers and courses.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'hair' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Hospitality

- [www.people1st.co.uk](http://www.people1st.co.uk) – People 1st, the sector skills council for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism, offers news and research, and information about apprenticeships, qualifications and the Diploma.
  - <http://www.people1st.co.uk/apprenticeships> gives information on apprenticeships in this sector.
- [www.hospitalitydiploma.co.uk](http://www.hospitalitydiploma.co.uk) – People 1st's website for the Diploma in hospitality gives information on the Diploma.
  - [www.hospitalitydiploma.co.uk/learners](http://www.hospitalitydiploma.co.uk/learners) – The 'Learners' section has a video link for learners illustrating what the hospitality diploma is about, as well as other information for parents.
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (select 'All' from the 'Choose region' drop-down menu and 'Leisure & catering' from the 'Choose sector' drop-down menu) – The 'Leisure & catering' section of *Careersbox* shows video clips on careers related to careers in hospitality.

- [www.career-descriptions.co.uk](http://www.career-descriptions.co.uk) (click 'Careers' button at the top of the homepage) – *Career descriptions* gives descriptions of the career in areas of hospitality together with some of the personal requirements needed.
- [www.careersa-z.co.uk](http://www.careersa-z.co.uk) (click the 'H' button on the 'Letter search' to find link to hospitality and hotel and catering jobs) – *Careers A-Z* provides links to information on a number of industry websites.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'hospitality' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Information technology

- [www.e-skills.com](http://www.e-skills.com) – E-skills UK, the sector skills council for business and information technology, provides advice, services and programmes that have a measurable impact on IT related skills development in the UK.
  - [www.e-skills.com/e-skills-UK-in-schools/1841](http://www.e-skills.com/e-skills-UK-in-schools/1841) – The 'e-skills UK in schools' section provides information about the 14–19 IT Diploma.
  - [www.e-skills.com/apprenticeship](http://www.e-skills.com/apprenticeship) – The 'Apprenticeships' section provides news and information on IT apprenticeships.
- [www.bigambition.co.uk](http://www.bigambition.co.uk) – *BigAmbition*, an e-skills website, provides information about careers in IT.
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (select 'All' from the 'Choose region' drop-down menu and 'IT & telecomms' from the 'Choose sector' drop-down menu) – The 'IT & telecomms' section of *Careersbox* shows video clips on careers related to careers in the IT and telecommunications industries.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'IT' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Manufacturing and product design

- [www.improvetd.co.uk](http://www.improvetd.co.uk) – Improve, the sector skills council for the food and drink manufacturing industry, gives information about qualifications, vocational learning, sector entry and career development.

- [www.improve-skills.co.uk](http://www.improve-skills.co.uk) – *ImproveSkills* is Improve's website that highlights the work Improve undertakes in addressing the specific skills issues faced in the industry.
  - [www.improve-skills.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.improve-skills.co.uk/apprenticeships) – The 'Apprenticeships' section of *ImproveSkills* gives information on apprenticeships in the food and drink industry.
  - [www.improve-skills.co.uk/qualifications/diploma-in-manufacturing-and-product-design](http://www.improve-skills.co.uk/qualifications/diploma-in-manufacturing-and-product-design) – The 'Diploma in manufacturing and product design' section gives information on the Diploma.
- [www.manufacturingdiploma.co.uk](http://www.manufacturingdiploma.co.uk) – Improve's website for the Diploma in manufacturing and product design gives more detailed information in three sections for students and parents, employers, and schools and colleges. Student area is at
- [www.makeyourmark.org.uk](http://www.makeyourmark.org.uk) (click the 'Inspiring stories' tab, then click the 'Manufacturing' link at the bottom of the page) – *Make Your Mark* is a website for young people that includes case studies of students going on into the industry.
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (select 'All' from the 'Choose region' drop-down menu and 'Manufacturing' from the 'Choose sector' drop-down menu) – The 'Manufacturing' section of *Careersbox* shows video clips on careers related to careers in manufacturing.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'manufacturing' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.

## Society, health and development

- [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk) – Skills for Health, the sector skills council for the health sector, develops solutions that deliver a skilled and flexible UK workforce to improve health and healthcare.
  - [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/awards-and-qualifications/14-19-diploma](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/awards-and-qualifications/14-19-diploma) – The '14–19 Diploma' section offers information about the society, health and development Diploma.
  - [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/awards-and-qualifications/apprenticeships](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/awards-and-qualifications/apprenticeships) – The 'Apprenticeships' section offer information about apprenticeships in the sector.
  - [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/case-studies](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/case-studies) – The 'Case studies' section offers case studies that show examples of work and its impact in the industry.

- [www.skillsforcare.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk) – Skills for Care, the sector skills council for social care, gives information about careers in social care.
  - [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/qualifications\\_and\\_training](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/qualifications_and_training) (click the link to 'Diploma 14–19') – The '14–19 Diplomas' section gives information on the Diploma.
  - [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/qualifications\\_and\\_training/apprenticeships](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/qualifications_and_training/apprenticeships) – The 'Apprenticeships' section gives information on apprenticeships.
- [www.socialworkcareers.co.uk](http://www.socialworkcareers.co.uk) – The Department of Health's social work website gives information on careers in social work.
- [www.skillsforjustice.com](http://www.skillsforjustice.com) – Skills for Justice, the sector skills council and standards-setting body for the justice sector, offers information about a whole range of careers in the justice sector, from working in the police to forensic science.
  - [www.skillsforjustice.com/careers](http://www.skillsforjustice.com/careers) – The 'Careers' section offers more information about career opportunities in this sector.
  - [www.skillsforjustice.com](http://www.skillsforjustice.com) (scroll over the 'Qualifications' tab and select '14–19 Diplomas' from the drop-down menu) – The '14–19 Diplomas' section offers information about the Diploma.
  - [www.skillsforjustice.com](http://www.skillsforjustice.com) (scroll over the 'Qualifications' tab and select 'Apprenticeships' from the drop-down menu) – The 'Apprenticeships' section contains information about apprenticeships in the sector.
- [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (select 'All' from the 'Choose region' drop-down menu and 'Health & social' from the 'Choose sector' drop-down menu) – The 'Health & social' section of *Careersbox* shows video clips on careers related to careers in the health and social care sector.
- [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – *Jobs4u Careers Database* offers an alphabetic search with descriptions of jobs, requirements, salaries and some video case studies. Type 'social care' in the 'Job search' for a comprehensive selection of job types.