

# UK Qualifications

For entry to university or college in 2010

This guide provides accurate and up-to-date information about a wide range of pre-HE qualifications and entry routes to HE. The publication is intended primarily to be a working manual for admissions tutors and staff involved in admission and related activities in universities and colleges. It should also be useful for staff in schools, colleges and careers services who advise applicants on entry to HE.



substantial degree of personal responsibility and autonomy. Responsibility for the work of others and the allocation of resources is often present.

#### Level 5

Competences that involve the application of skills and a significant range of fundamental principles across a wide and often unpredictable variety of contexts. Very substantial personal autonomy and often significant responsibility for the work of others and for the allocation of substantial resources feature strongly, as do personal accountabilities for analysis and diagnosis, design, planning, execution and evaluation.

Applicants to HE with NVQs as main entry qualifications are likely to offer NVQ at level 3 (NVQ 3). These applicants should be judged on their merits alongside those with qualifications such as GCE A and AS level. Such applicants are likely to offer, in particular:

- a high level of technical competence in their specialist areas
- practical experience of work and the associated maturity
- high skills levels
- portfolios of evidence
- ability to assimilate knowledge and apply it in practice
- a high level of self-reliance.

A large number of candidates already in the workplace will have gained NVQs. These qualifications may therefore be useful in supplying accreditation of achievement, which would otherwise need to be judged through the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning.

Apprenticeships incorporate NVQs as their main content.

#### DATE OF FIRST AWARD:

1992

#### NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:

All NVQs are unit-based and allow candidates to accumulate unit certification until the complete NVQ award is achieved. Each unit is written in the form of outcomes describing what a candidate must be able to do, know and understand, and the context in which the assessment should take place.

#### ASSESSMENT METHOD:

Competence-based assessment, mainly within the workplace.

Assessment of NVQs is independent of any learning involved or the time taken.

#### GRADING SYSTEM:

As NVQs define competence, candidates are either 'competent' or 'not yet competent' to perform at the required level.

The AAT level 3 NVQ in Accounting carries UCAS Tariff points as follows:

Grade	UCAS Tariff Points
Pass	160

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE:

Internal and external verification.

#### PROGRESSION/ARTICULATION:

Single units may be certificated.

## NCC Education

NCC Education is a global provider of education solutions and an awarding body of British education programmes in Business and IT ranging from foundation to postgraduate level. Students are able to study for NCC Education qualifications at one of NCC Education's global network of Accredited Partner Centres, either locally or in the UK. Students can choose to study either via the classroom or online.

## NCC Education Degree and Masters/Postgraduate Degrees

#### BACKGROUND:

NCC Education works in conjunction with universities including the University of Wales, the University of Portsmouth and the University of Greenwich, to deliver final year degree top-ups and postgraduate diplomas and masters. For further information, please contact NCC Education directly.

## NCC Education International Advanced Diploma in Business

#### QUALIFICATION ABBREVIATION:

IADB

#### BACKGROUND:

A one-year full-time or part-time programme designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills required effectively to progress their career. The programme is aimed at students looking to improve their career prospects, progress to further study via the NCC International Degree Journey or enter further study at those universities with which NCC Education has articulation agreements.

#### PREREQUISITES:

Open to:

- successful graduates of the NCC Education International Diploma in Business
- or
- students who have any local or international qualification which is deemed to be a similar level to the NCC Education International Diploma programme. These shall be agreed in advance with NCC Education.

For students whose first language is not English, the required standard of English language proficiency for the programme is:

- IELTS 5.0
- or
- TOEFL® 550.

#### DATE OF FIRST TEACHING:

2004

#### NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:

The programme consists of seven compulsory core modules and a choice of one of two elective modules. **Core modules:** Managerial economics, Quantitative methods, Marketing management, Human resource management, Consumer behaviour, Applications of financial control and cross-cultural awareness. **Elective modules:** Technology and organisation and Operations management. Students must pass all core modules plus one elective module to be awarded the qualification. Modules are assessed by either global assignment or global examination.

#### ASSESSMENT METHODS:

All modules are assessed by either global examination or global assignment.

#### EXAMINATION TIMING:

March, June, September, December

#### GRADING SYSTEM:

Pass, Merit or Distinction. Awarded by NCC Education

#### PROGRESSION/ARTICULATION:

Successful graduates of the International Advanced Diploma in Business (IADB) are eligible to apply to enrol for the BSc (Hons) in Business Administration, validated and awarded by the University

of Wales. The International Advanced Diploma in Business (IADB) is equivalent to Year 2 of a typical UK honours degree programme and as such has been articulated by many UK universities, enabling eligible students to apply to enrol on Year 3 of degree programmes at those universities which have progression agreements with NCC Education.

For more details consult the NCC Education website:  
[www.nccedu.com/recognition](http://www.nccedu.com/recognition)

## NCC Education International Certificate in Computer Studies

**QUALIFICATION ABBREVIATION:**  
 ICCS

**NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVEL:**  
 Level 3

**BACKGROUND:**

An introduction to computing which provides students with a broad but secure foundation in the fundamental concepts of computing and an understanding of the essential concepts of computer programming.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Open to all students looking to progress their career or academic ambitions.

**DATE OF FIRST TEACHING:**  
 2000

**NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:**

The programme consists of the following five compulsory modules: Study and communication skills, Mathematical techniques, IT skills, Introduction to computing, Programming. Candidates must pass all five modules to be awarded the qualification.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

Assessed by assignments and examination.

**EXAMINATION TIMING:**  
 All year round

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

Pass/Fail. Awarded by NCC Education.

**PROGRESSION/ARTICULATION:**

The programme allows progression to the NCC Education International Diploma in Computer Studies programme (NQF Level: 4).

For more details consult the NCC Education website:  
[www.nccedu.com](http://www.nccedu.com)

## NCC Education International Diploma in Business

**QUALIFICATION ABBREVIATION:**  
 IDB

**NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVEL:**  
 Level 4

**BACKGROUND:**

A one-year full-time programme available to students who wish to obtain an internationally recognised Business qualification that will set them on a path to successfully seeking employment in the world of business.

The programme is aimed at students seeking undergraduate study in Business and progression through the NCC Education

International Degree journey or further study at universities with which NCC has articulation agreements.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Open to:

- successful graduates of the NCC Education International Foundation Year programme (IFY)  
or
- students who have any local or international qualification which is deemed to be of a similar level to the NCC Education International Foundation Year programme. These shall be agreed in advance with NCC Education  
or
- students with at least one A level pass or an appropriate School Leaver's Certificate  
or
- vocational experience which is deemed suitable by NCC Education.

For students whose first language is not English, the required standard of English language proficiency for the programme is as follows:

- IELTS 5.0  
or
- TOEFL® 550.

**DATE OF FIRST TEACHING:**  
 2004

**NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:**

The programme consists of eight core modules which cover the following core areas of business as follows: Principles of management, Economics, Business communication, Organisational and business structures, Principles of quantitative methods, Fundamentals of financial control, e-Business, Marketing. Students must pass all eight modules to be awarded the qualification.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

All modules are assessed by either global examination or global assignment.

**EXAMINATION TIMING:**

March, June, September, December

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

Pass, Merit or Distinction. Awarded by NCC Education

**PROGRESSION/ARTICULATION:**

The programme allows progression to the NCC Education International Advanced Diploma in Business (IADB) at NQF Level: 5.

For more details consult the NCC Education website:  
[www.nccedu.com](http://www.nccedu.com)

## NCC Education International Diploma in Computer Studies

**QUALIFICATION ABBREVIATION:**  
 IDCS

**NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVEL:**  
 Level 4

**BACKGROUND:**

A one-year, classroom-based academic programme which blends the best in computing, communication and business skills to create well-rounded IT professionals, making NCC Education graduates attractive to employers. The programme is aimed at students seeking undergraduate entry onto the NCC Education

International Degree Journey or those wishing to progress to study at universities with which NCC Education has articulation agreements. Alternatively, the programme helps those who are looking to improve their career prospects or gain employment within the IT sector. Upon successful completion, students may progress to the NCC Education International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies (IADCS) at NQF Level: 5.

#### PREREQUISITES

- either the NCC Education ICCS or IFY qualifications or
- holders of any local or international qualification deemed to be of a similar level to the ICCS or IFY and deemed to be acceptable to the NCC Education Academic Board. These shall be agreed in advance with NCC Education or
- holders of one A level or equivalent or an appropriate School Leaver's Certificate or
- vocational experience which is deemed suitable by NCC Education.

Students should also have O level/GCSE/IGCSE English and maths or equivalent.

For students whose first language is not English the required standard for the programme is:

- IELTS 5.0 or
- TOEFL® score of at least 550 or
- TOEIC 776 or
- an equivalent qualification.

#### DATE OF FIRST TEACHING:

1976

#### NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:

The programme consists of a total of eight modules (six core and two electives) as follows: **Core modules:** Computer technology, Systems development, Programming methods, Fundamentals of hardware and operating systems, Business communication, Networking. **Elective modules:** (choice of two from five modules): Java, Visual Basic, Web design, eBusiness, Organisational and business structures. Students must pass the six core modules and any two elective modules to be awarded the qualification.

#### ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Assessed by assignment and examination

#### EXAMINATION TIMING:

March, June, September, December

#### GRADING SYSTEM:

Pass, Merit or Distinction. Awarded by NCC Education

#### PROGRESSION/ARTICULATION:

On successful completion of this programme, students can either use the qualification to secure employment in the IT sector, or continue their studies on to the International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies (IADCS).

Alternatively students can apply to one of the universities which accept NCC Education graduates onto the second year of their degree programmes.

For more details consult the NCC Education website: [www.nccedu.com](http://www.nccedu.com)

## NCC Education International Foundation Year

#### QUALIFICATION ABBREVIATION:

IFY

#### NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVEL:

Level 3

#### BACKGROUND:

A one-year programme for speakers of English as a foreign language who are seeking entrance to a university bachelors programme or the NCC Education International Diploma in Business or Computer Studies (NQF Level 4). The programme covers language, socio-cultural skills and an introduction to computing and business.

#### PREREQUISITES:

- One A level or equivalent or a good higher secondary education certificate.

For students whose first language is not English the required standard of English language proficiency for the programme is:

- IELTS 4.5 or equivalent (including NCC Education's English Language placement test).

#### DATE OF FIRST TEACHING:

2005

#### NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:

The programme consists of the following five compulsory modules: Study and communication skills, English language, Culture studies, Mathematical techniques, IT skills. A further two modules are chosen from the following four electives: Introduction to computing, Programming, Introduction to business, Accounting and economics.

Students must pass all seven modules to be awarded the qualification.

#### ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Assessed by assignment and examination

#### EXAMINATION TIMING:

January, March, June, September

#### GRADING SYSTEM:

Pass, Merit or Distinction. Awarded by NCC Education

#### PROGRESSION/ARTICULATION:

Students can continue to study via the NCC Education International Degree Journey in Business or Computer Studies or are eligible to apply to those universities which accept NCC Education graduates for progression to their degree programmes.

For more details consult the NCC Education website:

[www.nccedu.com](http://www.nccedu.com)

## NCC Education International Certificate in Business (ICB)

#### NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVEL:

Level 3

#### BACKGROUND:

An introduction to business which equips students with the necessary skills for entry to NCC Education's International Diploma in Business programme (NQF Level: 4). The International Certificate in Business (ICB) provides students with a broad but secure foundation in the fundamental concepts of business, effective and practical IT skills and the essential study skills necessary to succeed at undergraduate level study.

**NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:**

The programme consists of five compulsory modules as follows: Study and communication skills, Mathematical techniques, IT skills, Introduction to business, Accounting and economics. Students must pass all five compulsory modules to be awarded the qualification. Awarded by NCC Education.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

Assessed by assignment and examination

## NCC Education International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies (IADCS)

**NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVEL:**

Level 5

**BACKGROUND:**

A one-year classroom-based academic programme focusing on analytical and business skills. The programme is suitable for students who have completed the IDCS or an equivalent qualification. Successful completion of the programme allows progression through the NCC Education International Degree Journey or further study at universities with which NCC Education has articulation agreements.

**NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:**

The programme consists of a total of seven modules: (four core and three electives) as follows: **Core modules:** Systems analysis and design (double module), Enterprise networking, Database design and development, Practical project. **Elective modules** (choice of three from eight): Advanced Java, Advanced Visual Basic, Advanced web design, Computer forensics, Internet systems administration, Internet security, Business management, Managing business projects. A student may major in one of the following streams: Advanced Programming – by passing the Advanced Java and Advanced Visual Basic electives, Business Management – by passing the Business management and Managing business projects electives, Internet Systems – by passing the Internet security and Internet systems administration electives. Students must pass all core modules and three elective modules to be awarded the qualification.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

Assessed by assignments and examination

## NCFE

NCFE qualifications and awards are offered by centres throughout the UK, including further education colleges, adult education centres, private training providers, schools and businesses. NCFE works primarily with adult learners within further education colleges, although it strives to promote its qualifications to a wider audience.

NCFE offers qualifications in the following six sector areas:

- Art, media and publishing
- Education and training
- Health, public service and care
- Leisure, travel and tourism
- Preparation for life and work
- Retail and commercial enterprise.

NCFE offers qualifications and awards at six levels: Pre-entry level; Entry level and levels 1–4. NCFE's level 3 qualifications are listed below.

- Award in Business for the Creative Industries
- Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering

- Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector
- Certificate for Entry to the Uniformed Services
- Certificate for the Outdoor Industry
- Certificate in Advanced Fitness Instructing
- Certificate in Airport Operations
- Certificate in Art and Design
- Certificate in Business for the Creative Industries
- Certificate in Counselling Skills and Theory
- Certificate in Creative Craft
- Certificate in Early Years Foundation Stage Practice
- Certificate in Event Management
- Certificate in Interactive Media
- Certificate in Managing Diversity
- Certificate in National Lottery Retail Management Skills
- Certificate in News and Magazine Retail Management Skills
- Certificate in Palliative Care
- Certificate in Personal Effectiveness at Work
- Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools
- Certificate in Sustainable Tourism
- Certificate in Tour Management
- Certificate in Travel and Tourism Management
- Diploma in Business for the Creative Industries
- Extended Certificate in Business for the Creative Industries
- Extended Diploma in Business for the Creative Industries
- Introductory Award in Business for the Creative Industries
- Key Skills
- NVQ in Advice and Guidance
- NVQ in Customer Service
- NVQ in Health and Social Care
- NVQ in Instructing Physical Activity and Exercise
- NVQ in Spectator Safety.

## NCFE Award in Practical Supervision of Food Safety in Catering

**NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVEL:**

Level 3

**BACKGROUND:**

Aimed at owners and/or managers of independent catering outlets or managers in catering establishments which are part of a chain and who have responsibility for maintaining food safety within the workplace.

**DATE OF FIRST TEACHING:**

2009

**NUMBER OF UNITS/STRUCTURE:**

One mandatory unit

**ASSESSMENT METHOD:**

Internally assessed and externally moderated portfolio

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

Pass mark for portfolio is 100%. Portfolio norm referenced. Qualification is not graded

**QUALITY ASSURANCE:**

Internally assessed and externally moderated portfolio.

**PROGRESSION/ARTICULATION:**

- Level 3 Award in Food Safety Supervision for Retail
- Level 3 Certificate in Health and Safety in the Workplace
- Level 3 National Diploma in Hospitality
- Level 3 Certificate in Food and Beverage Service
- Level 3 NVQ in Food Service Advanced Craft
- Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering.