

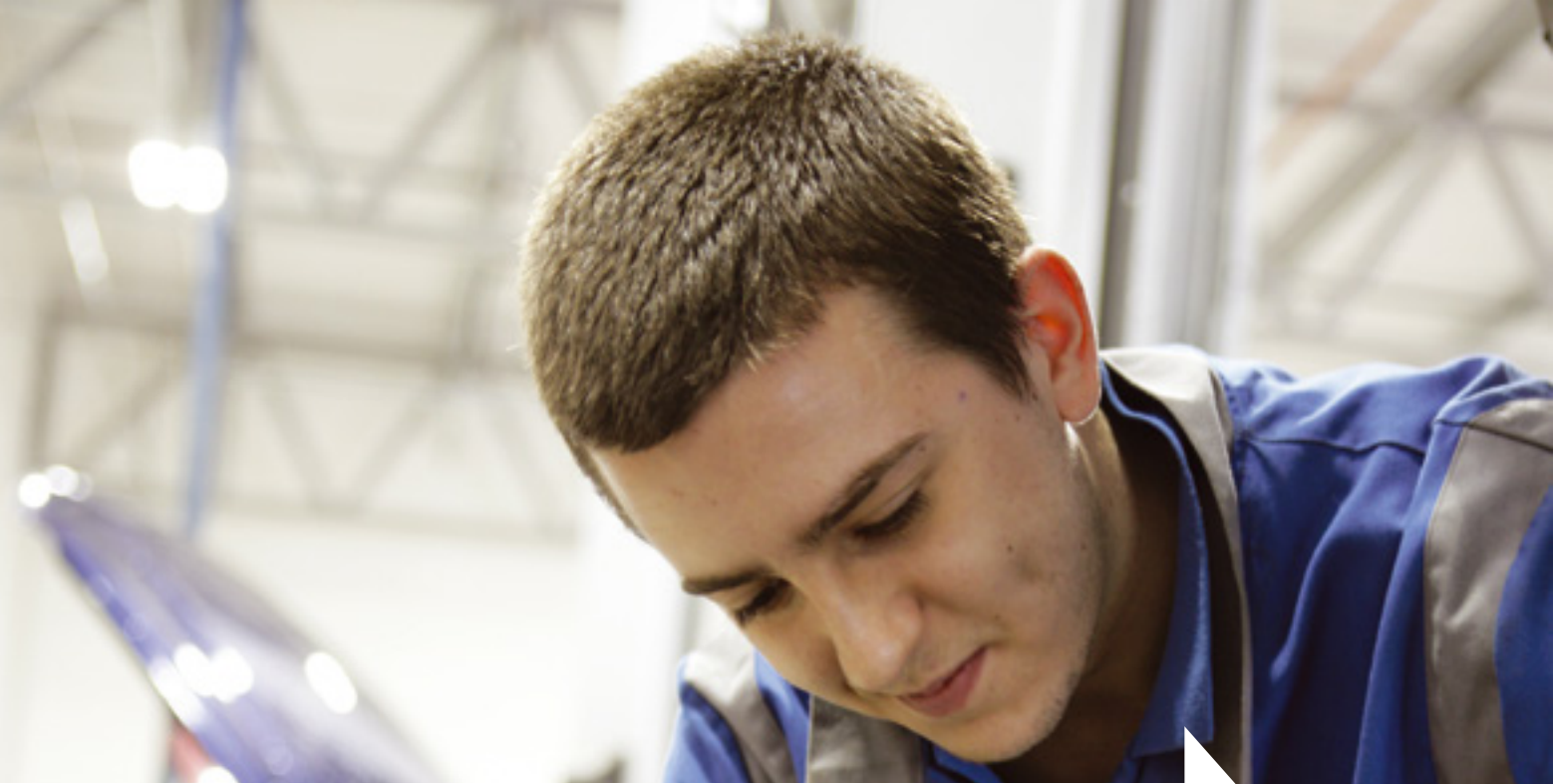


# AUTOMOTIVE QUALIFICATIONS FROM IMI AWARDS

Your guide to success in the motor industry

[imiawards.org.uk](http://imiawards.org.uk)





## A SHARED PASSION FOR THE INDUSTRY

IMI Awards is the UK retail motor industry's first choice for automotive qualifications and accreditations. Working closely with expert working groups from within the industry ensures our qualifications are relevant and sector-specific.

As the market leader, we partner with more than 550 training providers to offer over 250 nationally-recognised qualifications and accreditations. We recognise and support the skills of 100,000 young and adult learners each year.

IMI Awards is committed to advancing the motor industry by raising the importance of vocational learning and professional achievement. We deliver this by being a pro-active, supportive and responsive partner to you, the training provider.



“ IMI Awards qualifications are developed in response to the needs of the industry, so we are confident that we are providing our learners with the specialist knowledge and skills required by the automotive sector today. ”

*Chris Roberts, Vauxhall*



# ABOUT THE QUALIFICATIONS CREDIT FRAMEWORK (QCF)

QCF allows achievements to be recognised and recorded through the award of credits and qualifications. The framework supports the accumulation and transfer of credits and the easy identification of each achievement's level and size.

Units are the building blocks of all qualifications. Each unit has been credited and levelled using two measurements: a credit value (typical hours of learning required\*) and a level (of difficulty).

One credit represents ten national hours of learning – allowing you to work out, approximately, how long it would take to complete the unit and/or qualifications.

The level indicates the difficulty of the qualifications – levels vary from Entry Level 1 to Level 8.

## There are three types of qualifications:

- ▶ Awards: 1-12 credits  
(10 to 120 national learning hours)
- ▶ Certificate: 13-36 credits  
(130 to 360 national learning hours)
- ▶ Diploma: 37 credits or more  
(370+ national learning hours)

\*Based on an average learner

## HELPFUL HINT:

Within the QCF, GCSEs (A\*-C) are Level 2, A-Levels are Level 3 and PhDs are Level 8.

“ Having all of our BMW Technical qualifications endorsed by IMI Awards provides an assurance of quality for all candidates, and ultimately provides BMW Group customers with confidence of high quality workmanship and professional conduct. ”

*Phil Neal, BMW*



THIS BROCHURE OUTLINES OUR CURRENT OFFERING AND AVAILABLE PROGRESSION ROUTES.

For the latest qualification news and updates, visit [imiawards.org.uk](http://imiawards.org.uk)

# KNOWLEDGE QUALIFICATIONS (VRQs/PRINCIPLES)

These are nationally-recognised, vocationally-related qualifications (VRQs) which provide the essential knowledge to do a job. Many Level 2/3 VRQs are an underpinning component of the Sector Skills Council's Apprenticeship framework.

## Who are they suitable for?

- ▶ Those who choose a vocational route
- ▶ Those in full or part-time further education
- ▶ Those seeking employment, who therefore do not have access to competence qualifications (e.g. VCQ or NVQ)
- ▶ Those undertaking an Apprenticeship with a knowledge qualification (VRQ) requirement

## How do you get one?

- ▶ Full or part-time basis at an IMI Awards' approved centre
- ▶ Through training, and undertaking practical and online assessments, when required
- ▶ Typically each level is completed in an academic year

“ It is important to us that we are supported by the leading awarding body for the land-based sector, so our technicians undertake the best qualifications available. ”

*Kelly Flack, CLAAS*



## PRE-16 QUALIFICATIONS (VRQs)

Many of IMI Awards' qualifications are approved for teaching to pre-16 learners. These qualifications provide an introduction to automotive/ engineering learning; either offering a taster across the various routes available within the sector or a more focused approach to an individual job role. The qualifications can support employment or progression onto further learning. With no formal entry requirements, they are open to anyone aged 14 and over who are interested in gaining a nationally-recognised qualification.

Some qualifications approved for pre-16 learners are also included in the Department for Education (DfE) list of approved qualifications that count as an equivalent to GCSEs in school performance tables. This list is updated annually. For the latest approved list of qualifications and further information on performance tables, visit [education.gov.uk](http://education.gov.uk)

### Who are they suitable for?

- ▶ Those interested in a practical introduction to vehicle maintenance
- ▶ 14-16 year olds, interested in progressing on to a higher level course

#### HELPFUL HINT:

Awards can be anything between a Level 1 and a Level 8 qualification. This is because the type of qualification (i.e. Awards, Certificate or Diploma) indicates the size (or credit value) rather than its level of difficulty.





# COMPETENCE QUALIFICATIONS (VCQs/NVQs/WORK-BASED)

These are nationally-recognised vocational qualifications that demonstrate, to a national standard, competency in the workplace. Competence qualifications are practically-based and, to establish skill and proficiency, are assessed in the workplace across a range of tasks.

## Who are they suitable for?

- ▶ Those who are already in employment and who wish to achieve a qualification that demonstrates competence in the workplace.
- ▶ Those undertaking an Apprenticeship with a competence qualification, e.g. VCQ/NVQ, requirement

## How do you get one?

- ▶ A student registers with an IMI Awards approved centre and is observed and assessed doing their job in the workplace.
- ▶ A portfolio of evidence is gathered at work while carrying out tasks and meeting the assessment criteria
- ▶ Most students will attend an IMI Awards' approved centre on a day release basis to gain the underpinning knowledge needed to do the job – and for online assessment, when required.
- ▶ Typically completed in two years (Level 2) or three years (Level 3).



“ IMI Awards professional qualifications add real value to our students' success, and ultimately benefit their existing and/or future employers. ”

*Mike Haxby, Wirral Metropolitan College*

# APPRENTICESHIPS

An Apprenticeship is a vocational, work-based programme that demonstrates competence and knowledge. With a combination of on-the-job training and assessments, and training through an IMI Awards' approved centre, Apprenticeships demonstrate the individual's competence to do a job to a national standard.

In addition to the core Apprenticeship framework requirements, there are separate requirements for England and Wales. Apprenticeships in Wales include Employment Rights and Responsibilities (ERR). Apprenticeships in England include ERR and Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS).

ERR covers health and safety, employment rights and responsibilities, customer rights (including ethics) and industry issues (including professional organisations, and environmental and economic concerns).

PLTS covers independent enquiry, creative thinking, reflective learning, team working, self-management and effective participation.

## Who are they suitable for?

- ▶ Those who prefer vocational training to academic study
- ▶ Those who wish to gain employment by gaining a technical skill and knowledge, but also demonstrate competence in the workplace.

## How do you get one?

- ▶ The knowledge requirements (VRQ) and Life Skills, are all delivered and achieved through an IMI Awards' approved centre
- ▶ To achieve the competence requirements you will be observed and assessed in the workplace
- ▶ A portfolio of evidence is gathered at work while carrying out tasks and meeting the assessment criteria
- ▶ In addition your knowledge will often be assessed via online assessment at an IMI Awards 'approved centre.

“ We actively promote to all our stakeholders that we deliver IMI Awards qualifications. The extensive suite of courses offered by IMI Awards enables us to ensure all students have the correct guidance and qualifications to achieve their career ambitions. ”

*Graham Tribble, South Devon College*

Intermediate Apprenticeship Level 2 typically consists of:

**KNOWLEDGE LEVEL 2**  
(VRQs/Principles)

**COMPETENCE LEVEL 2**  
(VCQ/NVQ/Competence)

**LIFE SKILLS LEVELS 1 AND 2**  
as appropriate

**EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES LEVEL 2**  
England and Wales only

**PERSONAL LEARNING AND THINKING SKILLS**  
England only

Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3

**KNOWLEDGE LEVEL 3**  
(VRQs/Principles)

**COMPETENCE LEVEL 3**  
(VCQ/NVQ/Competence)

**LIFE SKILLS LEVELS 1 AND 2**  
as appropriate

**EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES LEVEL 2**  
England and Wales only

**PERSONAL LEARNING AND THINKING SKILLS**  
England only





# LIFE SKILLS

Life Skills qualifications have been designed to help develop the skills used in everyday life, for example: reading, writing and maths. These qualifications will boost a student's CV – and can also help the progression on to further study. IMI Awards' Life Skills offer to support personal development and prepare students for the working environment.

Functional Skills (England only) are practical skills in English, ICT and maths; enabling students to work confidently, effectively and independently. Functional Skills form part of the Apprenticeship framework in England.

Essential Skills Wales (ESW) consists of Communication, Application of Number and ICT and forms part of the Apprenticeship framework for Wales.

## Who are they suitable for?

- ▶ Those undertaking an Apprenticeship with a skills requirement.
- ▶ Those studying vocational qualifications who wish to gain life skills to enhance their learning.

## How do you get one?

- ▶ Full or part-time basis at an IMI Awards' approved centre.
- ▶ By additional training, if necessary, and online assessment.
- ▶ Typically the required level is completed in an academic year.

“ IMI Awards, in my eyes, still outperforms other awarding bodies due to good customer service and external verifier support. ”

*Michael Riley,  
Automotive Solutions*





## ARE YOU READY TO OFFER THE VERY BEST IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING?

**If you are an approved IMI Awards centre** simply visit [imiawards.org.uk](http://imiawards.org.uk) or contact your external verifier for further information.

**If you are not an approved centre**, but are interested in offering IMI Awards qualifications and accreditations, visit [imiawards.org.uk](http://imiawards.org.uk) > centres > become a centre

IMI Awards is the leading awarding body for the retail motor industry. We offer an unrivalled range of motor industry qualifications that demonstrate skills and competence; the foundation of a successful career.

For a supportive partnership, specialist experience and the full range of automotive qualifications and accreditations, choose IMI Awards. To find out more, or to speak to one of our experienced team, call **01992 519 038** or visit [imiawards.org.uk](http://imiawards.org.uk)

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