



*Exceptional Circumstances for Vocational
Qualification Delivery*

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Introduction

We recognise that delivery of our vocational qualifications has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore we are taking Ofqual guidance in ascertaining how we can support our centres in ensuring that learners are not disadvantaged by this current situation.

We understand that a number of learners will be wishing to complete their qualifications to allow them to progress their career and/or to progress onto further or higher education.

As an Awarding Body, SFEDI Awards is dedicated to ensuring that our centres are able to:

- Provide certification for those learners who would most likely have achieved their qualification had they been able to undertake assessments in summer 2020
- Protect learners who may be disadvantaged by the current situation

Which qualifications and learners are in scope?

1. Learners who would have completed their assessments in summer 2020
2. Qualifications from Level 1 to Level 6
3. Those approved for public funding and delivery irrespective of the age of the learner

Qualification Categories and Approaches

Ofqual has set out permitted approaches in their Extraordinary Regulatory Framework (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extraordinary-regulatory-framework-vtq-covid-19-conditions-and-requirements>) to promote consistency and fairness and they have produced an interactive tool which allows you to check whether the qualification/s you are delivering can be estimated/calculated, adapted or in some cases may need to be delayed.

You can check individual SFEDI Awards qualifications using this easy to use interactive tool <https://analytics.ofqual.gov.uk/apps/AllQualifications/summer2020tool/>

Estimated/Calculated Assessments

This approach is where progression to further or higher education is the primary purpose of the qualification. Learners will receive an estimated/ calculated result for assessments that were due to complete in summer 2020. There must be sufficient evidence along with tutor judgements to form a valid assessment and where there are no health and safety or safeguarding implications. They will be quality assured by SFEDI Awards and will form part of a wider moderation process prior to certification.

Adapted Assessments

Most of our current qualifications will fall under the category of Adapted Assessments. This approach is mainly used for qualifications that signal or demonstrate occupational competence

Changes might include

- Using an online rather than a paper-based test, or carrying out an assessment remotely rather than face to face.
- Using a practical simulation in place of an observation, or professional discussion in place of a practical demonstration.
- Reducing work experience or placement requirements.
- Allowing for standardisation or moderation to take place remotely or on-line.

Delayed Assessments

We would propose this approach as a last resort where it is clear that neither estimation nor adaptation is possible. Please contact us directly should you wish to discuss those qualifications which may not naturally fall into the previous two options.

If you have any questions relating to this framework please contact us directly at customerservices@sfedi.co.uk

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