



MAKING LEARNING MATTER

Our mission is to help create a fairer society where everyone, whatever their educational background, has an opportunity to benefit from learning and realise their potential.



WHO WE ARE

OCN London is a national not-for-profit organisation that creates and awards qualifications. We work in partnership with educators, training providers, charities and employers to help transform people's lives through learning.

We have been helping organisations to develop and validate their education and training provision for over 25 years. Our focus is on providing opportunities for people – many of them 'second chance' learners who have missed out in traditional education – to progress and achieve their goal. This is at the heart of our mission.



WHAT WE DO

We offer national qualifications for learners aged 14 upwards. We are a market leader in the recognition of achievement through credit-based units. This approach offers maximum flexibility and the opportunity to create learning programmes that cater to people's interests and ambitions.

We develop bespoke programmes that enable organisations to deliver accredited courses that meet their exact needs.

We also offer a quality mark to organisations that want recognition for excellence in learning and development practice.

We run training courses for teachers and tutors, assessors, verifiers and administrators.

With a team dedicated to offering exceptional support and expertise, we have achieved a reputation for enhancing quality and providing a personal and responsive service to our centres.

THE CORE OF OUR WORK IS DEVELOPING AND AWARDING QUALIFICATIONS.

We offer a portfolio of over **280** qualifications that are nationally approved by Ofqual. Many of these attract funding from the Skills Funding Agency and Education Funding Agency. We are constantly developing new qualifications, working closely with colleges, training providers, charities and employers to identify and meet the needs of learners.

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION DIPLOMAS

We have developed around 50 validated Access to HE Diploma programmes – all designed to help people progress to higher level education. What we offer to our centres is professional support and guidance from our specialist Access team to help them deliver and assess high quality Access to HE courses.

🗨️ OCN LONDON IS A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED ORGANISATION THAT IS RESPECTED BY UNIVERSITIES, WITH A RIGOROUS VERIFICATION PROCESS. THAT MAKES IT EASIER TO ATTRACT NEW STUDENTS TO OUR ACCESS COURSES AS THEY KNOW THAT THEIR CERTIFICATES WILL HAVE UNIVERSAL CURRENCY. 🗨️

*Ian Wilkinson, Access Curriculum Leader,
City & Islington College*

OUR ACCESS TO HE DIPLOMAS COVER THESE AREAS

- ✓ Art and Design
- ✓ Biomedical Sciences
- ✓ Built Environment
- ✓ Business and Accounting
- ✓ Business Studies
- ✓ Computing
- ✓ Counselling
- ✓ Design
- ✓ Digital Media
- ✓ Drama
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Fashion
- ✓ Forensic Science
- ✓ Health and Human Sciences
- ✓ Health and Social Care
- ✓ Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism
- ✓ Humanities
- ✓ Law
- ✓ Media Communication
- ✓ Media and Cultural Studies
- ✓ Medicine and Medical Biosciences
- ✓ Midwifery
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Music Technology
- ✓ Nursing
- ✓ Paramedic Science
- ✓ Pharmacy and Bio-Medical Sciences
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Science
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Sports Science
- ✓ Teacher Training
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ Trading and Finance

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

We offer over 260 national qualifications. The aim of our qualifications is to help people to progress – either to employment or further study at a higher level. Qualifications are available at different levels and sizes. Typically, learners will take one or more mandatory units and then select from a choice of optional units. This allows them to follow a programme that is tailor-made to suit their interests and aspirations. Our flexible approach to assessment allows a range of methods to be used to suit different learning styles.

LIST OF SUBJECT AREAS

- ✓ Animal Care
- ✓ Applied Science and Technology
- ✓ Building and Construction
- ✓ Business Administration and Finance
- ✓ Community Engagement
- ✓ Creative and Digital
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ English
- ✓ Employability
- ✓ Enterprise and Business
- ✓ Equality Diversity and Inclusion
- ✓ Functional Skills
- ✓ Hairdressing and Beauty
- ✓ Healthcare and Social Care
- ✓ Information and Communication Technologies
- ✓ Information Advice and Guidance
- ✓ Interior Design
- ✓ Languages
- ✓ Leadership and Governance
- ✓ Learning Support
- ✓ Life Skills
- ✓ Maths
- ✓ Mediation
- ✓ Peer Mentoring
- ✓ Personal Progress
- ✓ Progression
- ✓ Public Services
- ✓ Retail Knowledge
- ✓ Safety, Safeguarding and Tackling Domestic Violence
- ✓ Sports Science
- ✓ Teaching, Training and Assessment
- ✓ Youth Work

“ OUR LEARNERS INFLUENCE THE STRUCTURE OF THEIR OWN COURSE BY CHOOSING THE SUBJECTS THEY WANT TO STUDY. THIS MAKES IT A TRULY PERSONALISED CURRICULUM THAT MEETS THEIR NEEDS. HAVING THE FLEXIBILITY OF OCN LONDON ACCREDITATION HAS ENABLED US TO OFFER A GREATER BREADTH OF UNITS. ”

Rhona Sapsford, Learning Manager (specialising in learning disabilities), Bromley College of Further and Higher Education.

BESPOKE WORK

“ STAFF AT OCN LONDON HAVE BEEN VERY FLEXIBLE IN HELPING US FIND A STRUCTURE THAT WORKS FOR BOTH THE PARTICIPANTS AND THE CHARITY WHICH IS SUFFICIENTLY RIGOROUS. THEY HAVE BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING AND ACTIVE WITH OFFERS OF SUPPORT WHEN WE NEEDED IT. ”

Tim Gee, co-founder of the accredited Campaign Organisers Programme, Friends of the Earth.

We work with a diverse range of organisations – many of them well-known charities and education providers – to create tailored units that enable them to deliver accredited courses to meet their exact needs.

Through being accredited by OCN London people get a certificate from a nationally-recognised awarding organisation which indicates the quality of training that has been provided. Approved centres have access to our bank containing over 1500 credit-based bespoke units from a wide range of subject areas that can be adapted to suit their needs.

If you have an idea for a new national qualification we would love to hear from you.

Why work with us?

- We are agile and responsive. This means you will get a personal service with direct access to a named contact and a quick turnaround.
- We pride ourselves on our close relationships with centres. The people we work with see us as a trusted partner, not just a supplier.
- We want to help you get the very best from your learners and employees.
- We have a reputation for high quality. The OCN London brand carries national recognition and kudos.
- We are very flexible. We recognise the importance of accommodating the needs of different learners and different learning styles.
- We offer exceptional value for money.
- We are committed to the belief that learning can change lives.

Our impact

- We have helped tens of thousands to fulfil their dreams of a university education through our Access to HE qualifications.
- We have enabled many people from disadvantaged education backgrounds to develop and progress.
- We have helped to empower people in communities to take control of their lives.
- We are opening up new opportunities in health and social care for people to progress in their careers.
- We have supported small businesses to get started, expand and thrive.
- We have helped to give people a new start in life... and a new career.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US



“ WE APPROACHED OCN LONDON AS THEY OFFERED THE FLEXIBILITY AND THE SUPPORT TO BRING ACCREDITATION TO TRAFFORD HALL SOMETHING THAT WAS NEW AND INNOVATIVE. ”

Gary Dutton, Programme and Grants Coordinator, National Communities Resource Centre, Trafford Hall

“ IF YOU HAD SAID A YEAR AGO THAT I WOULD BE STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY I WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED YOU. AFTER MANY YEARS AT SCHOOL BEING TOLD THAT I WAS LAZY, TO BE GIVEN A HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IS JUST AMAZING. IT'S GIVEN ME A FUTURE I NEVER DREAMED OF. ”

Matthew Clarke, university student and winner of the OCN London award for Outstanding Academic Achievement (2015).

“ WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH OCN LONDON IS HELPING US TO ENSURE THAT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING OFFERS THE HIGHEST QUALITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO ALL OUR TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. ”

Janet Davies, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing.

“ AS OUR WORK HAS MANY COMPLEXITIES, WE NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY AND BUILD A PARTNERSHIP THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT FOR OUR STAFF AND OUR VOLUNTEERS. IT ALSO NEEDED TO BE FLEXIBLE. OCN LONDON MET THAT BRIEF PERFECTLY AND IT'S ALSO VERY COST EFFECTIVE FOR A SMALL CENTRE LIKE OURS. ”

Judy Flaschmann, Learning and Development Advisor, Terrence Higgins Trust.

“ IT'S IMPORTANT FOR OUR LEARNERS TO FEEL A SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT AND THAT'S HOW A CERTIFICATE THAT IS NATIONALLY RECOGNISED HELPS THEM. THE GOOD THING ABOUT OCN LONDON IS THAT PEOPLE CAN TAKE A NUMBER OF UNITS AND THEN GRADUALLY ADD MORE AND MORE. BREAKING THEM DOWN INTO MANAGEABLE CHUNKS MAKES IT ACHIEVABLE. WE FIND THE OCN LONDON VERY FLEXIBLE AND PERFECTLY SUITED TO THE NEEDS OF OUR LEARNERS. ”

Alex Bousoulengas, Family Learning Manager, Lambeth Council.



OUR HISTORY

We have an engaging story to tell. It dates back to the mid 1970s when a group of colleges started to provide alternatives to the traditional school and college-based exams for adults that wanted to progress to higher education. The innovative model was based around credits that enabled people to achieve in small steps. From here we created a grassroots movement that followed the open college ethos of widening participation. OCN London is continuing that tradition whilst meeting the demands of a rapidly changing society.



HOW YOU CAN WORK WITH US

We work in partnership with around 340 centres across the UK. These centres include further education colleges, schools, universities, private training providers, charities, NHS Trusts public sector organisations. Becoming a centre is straightforward, providing certain quality standards are met.

☑ Visit the website at <http://www.ocnlondon.org.uk/centres> for more information.

We offer ongoing support to all our approved centres. This includes access to specialist curriculum staff, briefings and updates, training courses, resources and an extensive bank of units. A new free service is the ePortfolio tool (OPT) we have developed. This takes the stress out of assessment by enabling learners to upload work via computers, iphones and tablets wherever they happen to be.



WHY NOT APPLY TO RECEIVE THE OCN LONDON QUALITY MARK?

The OCN London Quality Mark is our symbol of trust in the training provision offered by organisations, offered as an alternative to centre approval. We want to recognise good practice in the training provided by organisations who are not delivering our qualifications. They will need to demonstrate that they operate with integrity, maintain high standards of delivery and continually monitor and improve their practice. To find out more visit the website at www.ocnlondon.org.uk/accreditation/quality-mark.aspx

Find out how OCN London can make a difference to your organisation.

Get in touch. We'll be happy to talk to you.

📍 **OCN London**
15 Angel Gate
326 City Road
London EC1V 2SF

🌐 www.ocnlondon.org.uk
✉ enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk
☎ 020 7278 5511

