



Studying at Level 7: Expectations for Candidate, Assessors and Awarding Bodies

The expectation at Level 7 is for candidates to study independently.

Work should draw on a range of academic and subject relevant information and show sound understanding of the theories of SpLDS, assessment methodology, principles and concepts.

The exception to this is when planning the stages leading to assessment and teaching. Each stage will need to be approved by your tutor and candidates should be aware of their professional boundaries and adhere to these.

Academic assignments must comply with Masters level English writing (structure, spelling, grammar) and should be fully referenced using Harvard Referencing. Reports, on the other hand, should be fit for the audience who may range from parents to professionals. Candidates will need to master both styles of writing to a high standard.

Candidates are directed to read around a subject and use the knowledge they have found from their independent reading, course lectures and materials to 'have a go' at a given task. Whilst feedback is given, it is expected that a sound subject knowledge will be evident. Feedback on 2nd and 3rd assessment reports should be minimal, as it is expected that a certain standard will have been reached by these stages.

Assessors will advise, direct or question a candidate accordingly, encouraging the independent development of candidates' skills and knowledge. At Level 7 the Awarding Body expectation is that the candidate has developed their skills in teaching and is going on to develop their skills in assessing learners and critically evaluating aspects of their work.

In our courses we have done our very best to help candidates find this journey a well supported one. Candidates are given guidelines, acting as a significant scaffold for the development of new skills. Providing more than this would be considered to be 'spoon feeding' candidates and therefore the candidates' work would not be considered suitably independent.

This explanation does not mean a candidate cannot ask questions or talk to their assessors if necessary, albeit at an agreed time and for mutually agreed reasons. However, it does explain course providers' restrictions in the process of delivering a Level 7 courses. It offers candidates an explanation as to why an assessor may indeed re-direct a candidate to further study, request re-drafts or require additional tasks to be completed to ensure that the necessary skills are demonstrated. We do not want any candidate to be wrong footed or surprised by this expectation.



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Level 7 Descriptors

When studying at Level 7 candidates are required to demonstrate:

- An outline knowledge of the scope and main areas of the subject(s) and its links with related subjects, and a more extensive knowledge of some of the key areas.
- An understanding of the major theories, principles and concepts.
- Familiarity with some of the routine materials, techniques and practices of the subject.
- Skills for the gathering, basic analysis, and presentation of routine information, ideas, concepts and quantitative and qualitative data within a clearly defined context. This will include the use of information and communications technology (ICT) as appropriate to the subject.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- use their knowledge of the subject and its techniques in a routine manner to evaluate and formulate a range of arguments and solutions to problems and issues of a routine nature;
- communicate the results of their study and other work accurately and reliably, and within structured and coherent arguments;
- undertake further learning within a structured and managed environment;
- apply their subject-related and transferable skills in contexts where individuals may have some limited personal responsibility, but the criteria for decisions and the scope of the task are well defined.