

## Arts Award Explore Qualification Specification

We are delighted to introduce the Trinity College London specification for Arts Award Explore.

### Purpose of this specification

This specification document provides key information about the structure, content and administration of the Trinity Entry Level Award in the Arts (Entry 3), known as Arts Award Explore.

## Introduction

### Why choose Arts Award?

The Arts Award qualifications are designed to inspire learners aged 25 and under to grow their arts and leadership talents. Most of all, they aim to support and encourage learners of all levels and abilities and from all backgrounds and cultures to engage and participate in the arts. From the initial Arts Award Discover level, all the way through to Gold Arts Award, these qualifications offer a variety of ways to approach creative and wider skills development, that can be tailored to the centre, adviser and learners.

Through Arts Award, learners will achieve a national qualification that will build confidence through nurturing their individual interests, while also equipping them with life skills that will support their education and future employment.

To achieve their Arts Award, learners take on challenges in an art form, participate in arts activities, experience arts events, get inspired by artists and share their arts skills with others. They create a portfolio to keep a record of their creative work and progress along the way, and they are supported by an adult, who has trained as an Arts Award adviser and acts as an assessor, facilitator and mentor.

Arts Award recognises all art forms ranging from fashion to poetry, rapping to dance, sculpture to film and arts administration to backstage roles, providing assessment opportunities for many different learners and offering freedom of choice within the framework. This enables them to play to their strengths and express their creative identity through art form options and portfolio presentation. Arts Award is designed as a flexible, personalised learning programme in which those taking part have choice and control.

Arts Award Supporters, advisers and alumni have impressive stories to tell about these qualifications and our community is growing every year. Read their inspiring success stories at [artsaward.org.uk/blog](https://artsaward.org.uk/blog) and [artsawardvoice.com](https://artsawardvoice.com).

Arts Award can be delivered in the UK only (including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Arts Award is managed by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England. Arts Council England is a government-funded body that supports and promotes artistic and cultural experiences to enrich people's lives. Both organisations are passionate about helping children and young people engage with the arts.

We hope you enjoy exploring all the opportunities these Arts Award qualifications offer and we wish you every success.

## About Trinity College London

Trinity College London, established in 1872, is a leading internationally recognised awarding organisation (exam board), publisher and independent education charity. We specialise in the assessment of communicative and performance skills covering music, drama, combined arts and English language. With over 850,000 candidates a year in more than 60 countries worldwide, Trinity qualifications are specifically designed to help people progress. We inspire teachers and learners through the creation of assessments that are enjoyable to prepare for, rewarding to teach and that develop the skills needed in real life.

At the heart of Trinity's work is the belief that effective communicative and performance skills are life enhancing, know no boundaries and should be within reach of us all. We exist to promote and foster the best possible communicative and performance skills through assessment, content and training that is innovative, personal and authentic.

For more information about our full range of qualifications, visit [trinitycollege.com](http://trinitycollege.com).

## Qualification information

### Aims of the qualification

Arts Award Explore enables learners to develop a basic understanding of a range of art forms, artists and arts organisations, to commit to taking part in arts activities and to demonstrate a basic understanding of communication.

Learners create a personal arts log (portfolio) containing evidence of their experiences. These arts logs can be in any format, including digital.

### Qualification details

All Arts Award qualifications are assigned a total qualification time (TQT). Total qualification time is an estimate of the average time a learner spends with an adviser or adult to support them (guided learning hours) added to the average time spent learning independently. It is recognised that the amount of time needed to complete a qualification will depend on the level of experience of each individual or group. For this reason, the assigned TQT should be used as guidance only.

Examples of different delivery approaches can be found at [artsaward.org.uk/blog](http://artsaward.org.uk/blog).

Qualification title	Title on regulators' registers	Level on the RQF**	Guided learning hours	Independent learning hours	Total qualification time (TQT)	Qualification number
Arts Award Discover	N/A*	N/A*	–	–	20 hours (recommended)	N/A*
Arts Award Explore	Entry Level Award in the Arts (Entry 3)	Entry 3	25	10	35	600/3894/9
Bronze Arts Award	Level 1 Award in the Arts	Level 1	40	20	60	501/0081/6
Silver Arts Award	Level 2 Award in the Arts	Level 2	60	35	95	500/9914/0
Gold Arts Award	Level 3 Certificate in the Arts	Level 3	90	60	150	500/9666/7

Arts Award qualifications are regulated by [Ofqual](#) (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in England, [CCEA Regulation](#) in Northern Ireland and by [Qualifications Wales](#). The awarding organisation is Trinity College London (TCL).

## Prerequisites

Trinity's Arts Award Discover and Arts Award Explore qualifications are open to learners aged 25 and under, with Bronze, Silver and Gold Arts Award open to learners aged 11 to 25 years.

There are no formal prerequisite qualifications and there is no requirement to have passed a particular level to progress to the next. However, the levels represent a system of progression.

Arts Award Discover is open to anyone aged 25 and under (designed for ages 5 to 9, particularly for Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2).	Arts Award Explore is open to anyone aged 25 and under (designed for ages 7 to 11, particularly for upper Key Stage 2).	Bronze Arts Award is open to anyone aged 11 to 25 years (designed for ages 11 to 14). This qualification is working at the same standard as GCSE grades D-G/3-1.	Silver Arts Award is open to anyone aged 11 to 25 years (designed for ages 14 to 16). This qualification is working at the same standard as GCSE grades A*-C/9-4.	Gold Arts Award is open to anyone aged 11 to 25 years (designed for ages 16+). This qualification is working at the same standard as an A level.
---	---	--	---	--

Further qualification information can be found at [artsaward.org.uk/qualification](https://artsaward.org.uk/qualification).

## Progression opportunities

After Arts Award Explore, learners may wish to progress onto Bronze, Silver or Gold Arts Award.

Trinity also offers qualifications for learners wanting to specialise in developing skills in drama, acting for screen, communication skills and musical theatre, and classical music, jazz and rock and pop performance.

## Funding

Arts Award Explore, and Bronze, Silver and Gold Arts Award levels may form part of a 16-19 study programme and have Funded Learning Aims. Please check for specific funding available for each level on the [Find a Learning Aim](#) website.

## Arts Award delivery

### Arts Award centres

Arts Award centres are validated by Trinity College London and are responsible for the successful delivery of Arts Award, ensuring the necessary policies, procedures and resources are in place, and for overseeing the work of trained advisers. Any arts, cultural or youth organisation, business or school can apply to become a validated centre and should refer to the *Validation Requirements* and *Best Practice Guidebook*, which contain essential information about how to administer Arts Award.

### Arts Award advisers

To deliver Arts Award, advisers must have successfully completed a training course relevant to the level they wish to run. Advisers must be engaged by a validated centre which is responsible for overseeing the delivery of Arts Award. Advisers enable learners to access the required activities and support them to organise their evidence of participation in their arts logs. Arts Award advisers use the framework and assessment criteria in the Arts Award Toolkit to assess the learners' work. Trinity will select the centres who are required to provide portfolios for moderation. The moderation validates the adviser's assessment through a sampling process.

For information about training and qualification fees, visit [artsaward.org.uk/costs](https://artsaward.org.uk/costs).

# Achieving an Arts Award Explore

## Qualification requirements

Learners can work at their own pace for this qualification and they record their progress in an arts log. This provides the evidence for the adviser to assess and for the moderator to validate. Arts logs can be created in any format. Learners can use written, visual and digital methods to record work for their evidence.

To pass Arts Award Explore, learners are required to create an individual arts log that demonstrates how they meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Active participation in a range of arts activities, providing a personal response about what they have learnt from taking part (part A)
- ▶ Experience of arts organisations, artists and their work (part B)
- ▶ Creativity and arts skills through making art work (part C)
- ▶ Identification of what they have enjoyed and/or achieved, and their communication of this to others (part D)

Further information is contained in the Arts Award Discover & Explore Adviser Toolkit, provided when attending Arts Award adviser training. Visit [artsaward.org.uk/training](https://artsaward.org.uk/training).

Arts Award section	What young people should demonstrate through their evidence	Evidence required in their arts logs
Part A: Take part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Participation in at least two arts activities</li><li>▶ What they have learnt about the arts through active participation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A record of taking part in more than one arts activity</li><li>▶ Identification of what they have learnt from taking part in these arts activities</li></ul>
Part B: Explore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ An exploration of the work of at least one artist</li><li>▶ An exploration of the work of at least one arts organisation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A record of what they found out about the work of artists</li><li>▶ A record of what they found out about the work of arts organisations</li></ul>
Part C: Create	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Participation in an arts activity, leading to the creation of art work</li><li>▶ The application of arts skills through making art work</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ A record of the process of creating their art work</li><li>▶ A record of their final art work</li></ul>
Part D: Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Identification of personal enjoyment and/or achievement(s)</li><li>▶ Communication of enjoyment and/or achievement(s) to others</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Identification of what has been enjoyed and/or achieved through completing the award</li><li>▶ A record of what was shared and how it was shared with others</li></ul>

## Assessment

For Arts Award Explore, the adviser assesses learners in the following areas:

- ▶ Art form knowledge and understanding
- ▶ Creativity
- ▶ Communication

Only an Arts Award adviser trained at Arts Award Explore level can assess the work. A marksheet should be completed for all learners entered for Arts Award. The adviser assesses each of the arts logs against the requirements in the 'What the young people should demonstrate through their evidence' and 'Evidence required in their arts logs' sections and against the assessment criteria.

Arts Award qualifications are not allocated different grades or pass levels, so each arts log will be assessed as either a pass or a below pass.

Arts Award qualifications are internally assessed and externally quality assured. The centre may be required to provide a sample of portfolios for moderation. At moderation the role of the moderator is not to reassess the work, instead they are looking for consistency of approach across the adviser's marking and to establish if the correct marking decisions were made by the adviser.

## Arts Award Explore assessment criteria

Advisers look at the evidence in the arts logs to ensure learners are working at the required level as described in the assessment criteria.

### Art form knowledge and understanding

Pass: A basic understanding of a range of art forms, artists and arts organisations.

### Creativity

Pass: Show commitment in arts activities.

### Communication

Pass: A basic understanding of communication.

## Certificates

Results are confirmed through the issuing of digital certificates to those who have achieved the award, subject to payment being received. Paper certificates are available for an additional fee.

## Complaints, result reviews and appeals

We strive to ensure that all our centres, advisers, learners have a positive experience. However, we recognise that occasionally things do not always run as smoothly as we would like. If you are unhappy with any aspect of Trinity's service, please contact us. You should raise your concern through contacting the Trinity helpdesk in the first instance. We will then either be able to solve the problem or advise you how to take your complaint further.

Information about our complaints policy, academic investigations and appeals policy and re-mark procedure, which govern how complaints are handled by Trinity, are available on the Trinity website at [trinitycollege.com/policies](http://trinitycollege.com/policies) and [trinitycollege.com/appeals](http://trinitycollege.com/appeals).

Trinity also delivers a range of qualifications in music, drama, and English language, so for clarity, advisers should specifically read the 'clerical check' and 're-mark' information and provide details in the form about which service is required.

We ask that you help us in any investigation into your concerns by co-operating fully and providing all necessary information.

## Reasonable adjustments

Trinity is committed to creating an inclusive environment where learners with special educational needs are able to demonstrate their skills and feel welcomed. We aim to make our qualifications accessible to all. We treat each learner individually when considering how we can achieve this aim, recognising that requirements vary.

For further information about reasonable adjustments, visit [artsaward.org.uk/accessibility](http://artsaward.org.uk/accessibility).

Please refer to the Arts Award website to ensure you are using the latest version of this document.