

Pearson Assured Crossfields Institute Programmes

This is an overview of Pearson Assured Crossfields Institute programmes*. It has been produced for learners, centres and the general public to inform about the value and scope of developing or holding a Pearson Assured Crossfields Institute Programme certificate. This document is reviewed and amended regularly to reflect sector changes.

The document contains information about the following subjects:

A. What are Pearson Assured Crossfields Institute (PACI) Programmes?.....	1
B. Maintaining ownership of customised programmes.....	1
C. Certification and licensing.....	2
D. Level and volume of PACI programmes.....	2
E. The value and currency of PACI programmes.....	3
F. Progression to employment, further and higher education.....	3
G. Student loans and funding.....	4
H. Sector changes.....	4

A. What are Pearson Assured Crossfields Institute (PACI) Programmes?

The Pearson Assured Crossfields Institute Programmes are a unique offer for education providers to develop specialist, customised programmes, based on a specific vision and method. The programmes are subject to relevant sector standards and rigorous, bespoke quality assurance. ‘

‘Pearson Assured’ means that Crossfields Institute complies with Pearson quality indicators for the Pearson Assured framework and that the Institute is audited annually by Pearson Quality Reviewers. This assures all registered learners and affiliated centres that all systems and quality processes applied by Crossfields Institute are in place and effective.

Programmes are developed by the Institute’s Qualifications Development Team and quality assured by the Institute’s Quality Assurance Team.

**Pearson Assured, by Pearson, is a service that assures the quality of the processes underpinning the decision, delivery, quality assurance and/or assessment of the organisation’s own education or training programmes. Pearson does not assure specific qualifications or programmes offered by Crossfields Institute Centres.*

The UK education sector has a limited range of alternative solutions for the development of customised programmes. Pearson as an example, offers a solution called the ‘Self Regulated Framework’ (SRF). The SRF is based on similar principles to the Pearson Assured but programmes must comply with BTEC structures to be approved by Pearson.

B. Maintaining ownership of customised programmes

It is not always appropriate or necessary to place all customised programmes or qualifications on one of the UK regulated frameworks, regulated by Ofqual (the qualifications regulator in England), particularly if it is in a highly specialist sector. Many centres prefer to “self-regulate” rather than submit their programme to a UK regulated framework. Any centre that does wish to regulate their customized programme onto a UK regulated framework would need to go through a further approval process through one of the Institute’s partner organisations.

When developing a PACI programme, ownership of the programme remains with the education provider (the Crossfields Institute affiliated centre). When submitting a PACI programme to one of the UK regulated frameworks, the units and specification automatically become available to the public and the unit submitting body (an Ofqual accredited Awarding Organization like Pearson) owns the certification process of the learners.

Most education providers who choose the PACI programme option prefer to maintain intellectual property rights and control over who delivers their programme, how and in what context.

C. Certification and licensing

Certificates for PACI programmes are issued to centres by Crossfields Institute. The right to provide the PACI programme remains with the affiliated centre that developed it unless the centre decides to make it available to another centre. In this case, a license and license fee are established. The license fee is paid directly from licensee to licensing centre. A Memorandum of Understanding between the licensing centre and the licensee safeguards the ownership, delivery and quality assurance of the PACI programme as well as providing direction with regards to certification, adaptation, duration, audits and more.

D. Level and volume of PACI programmes

Levels and Sectors

The majority of Crossfields Institute programmes are written to be equivalent to a specific level or standard. Some centres choose to align programmes to other sector approved qualifications (such as specialist undergraduate and postgraduate programmes or BTECs). The levels used in our programmes aligned with:

The UK Quality Code (Quality Assurance Agency)

www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/CreditLeaflet_Nov09.pdf

The Regulatory Arrangements of the QCF (Ofqual):

www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/Regulatory_arrangements_QCF_August08.pdf

This assures learners and centres that the level is recognised by the education sector. The quality assurance process that standardizes the programme level is the responsibility of the Crossfields Institute Quality Assurance Team and is monitored in ongoing programme reviews and in the 6-monthly Touchstone Events.

Volume

The volume of our programmes is measured using a value scheme that equates 10 Notional Learning Hours to a value of '1'. This formula and value scheme is based on and comparable with the UK Quality Code and Ofqual's regulated credit point system. **Please note that the term 'credit point' is only used for qualifications that are accredited by a University or included on the QCF.**

All Crossfields Institute unit templates denote programme volume in terms of 'Notional Learning Hours'. All programme transcripts denote programme volume in terms of 'value'.

By choosing the Pearson Assured service, you can draw on Pearson's expertise in measuring standards and quality. Pearson Assured is a signal that quality and standards have been acknowledged by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding organisations. Pearson Assured is based on Quality Objectives, which provide a framework for measuring the quality of:

Managing the organisation

- Staff resources
- Staff induction and development
- Physical resources
- Organisation structure
- Administrative systems

Managing learning / training

- Maintaining quality
- Roles and team working
- Review, evaluation and improvement
- Learner/Trainee recruitment
- Learner/Trainee support and review
- Malpractice, Appeals and Complaints

Managing assessment

- Assessment practice
- Assessment recording

E. The value and currency of PACI programmes

All PACI programmes are customised to express and represent a particular and perhaps distinctive vision and method promoted by an education provider or affiliated centre (or consortium of centres). The PACI programmes are therefore by default unique.

The way Crossfields Institute contributes to the transferability and wider recognition of the PACI programmes is by aligning all PACI programmes with sector regulations such as the

- UK Quality Code (Quality Assurance Agency):
www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/CreditLeaflet_Nov09.pdf
- Regulatory Arrangements of the QCF (Ofqual):
www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/Regulatory_arrangements_QCF_August08.pdf
- National Occupational Standards <http://nos.ukces.org.uk/Pages/index.aspx>

This alignment ensures that the PACI programmes are compatible with the European Qualification Framework (EQF) for our international centres and with the level and credit point systems used in UK Universities and General Further Education Colleges.

F. Progression to employment, further and higher education

Learners holding PACI programmes may apply to Universities for progression into undergraduate or postgraduate programmes. A growing number of learners are successful in their applications and offered places in Universities. However, there is no guaranteed entry to any UK Universities for any applicant; regardless of what qualifications they hold.

Whether an applicant is offered a place is contingent to a number of factors. First and foremost, the applicant must meet the entry requirements of the programme applied for. Secondly, all other achievements of the applicant, the supporting statement and references will be taken into account in the admissions process. For postgraduate programmes, prior subject knowledge in the field of study may apply.

All UK Universities are required to have a policy and/or procedure for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) / Accreditation or Prior (Certified/Experiential) Learning (APL/APCL/APEL). This is the means by which a University ensures equal opportunities and compliance with good equality and diversity practice.

The RPL/APL procedure enables graduates from a PACI programme that is equivalent to a Foundation Degree Award to apply for access to the last year/two years (depending on subject) of a BA/BSc (Hons) degree.

Most, if not all UK Universities, have a version of the below entry requirements for postgraduate study – this example is taken from Sheffield Hallam University <http://www.shu.ac.uk/prospectus/course/294/print/>:

- Normally an honours degree or recognised equivalent qualification.
- We welcome enquiries from people with substantial management experience but do not have the normal entry requirements.
- We may invite you for an interview to discuss your background, experience and qualifications.
- Through accreditation of prior learning (APL), you may be able to claim entry with credit or exemptions based on your existing qualifications, knowledge and experience

Learners holding PACI programmes may refer to Crossfields Institute in the application process and the University may, from time to time, contact the Institute or the centre to obtain full programme content and material. All material should be made available to FE or HE Institutes upon request.

It is common in the HE sector to establish 'Progression Agreements' between providers, centres and Universities. If the Crossfields Institute affiliated centre wishes to do so the Institute offers to facilitate the development of progression agreements with a specific university, which would allow graduates of the PACI programme to gain entry to that university.

G. Student loans and funding

Student loan facilities available to PACI programmes are rare and specific to the subject and vocational application of the training. Certain charities and private bodies recognise the PACI programmes and bursaries are available from such bodies. Crossfields Institute may be able to signpost providers, learners and centres to such bodies.

Government funding is only allocated to customised qualifications in very particular circumstances and the goalposts are regularly changing. Where an education provider submits a qualification to the QCF, government funding for the qualification is still subject to further application processes which include creating a business plan for the qualification that demonstrates its relevance, transferability and learner take-up in terms of critical mass.

H. Sector changes

Since the development of the first PACI programmes, the education sector has undergone significant changes. Some of those changes have had an impact on the structure or quality assurance systems applied to the PACI programmes. Certain language has been amended to comply with Ofqual and Pearson regulations (see section C. above on level and volume denominations).

Please don't hesitate to contact us with your further questions.

Crossfields Institute
Stroud House
Russell Street
Stroud GL5 3AN, UK
0044 (0) 1453 808118
www.crossfieldsinstitute.com

