



Qualification Specification

GA Level 3 Award in Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing

(610/0871/0)

This qualification is subject to the GA Centre Assessment and Standards Scrutiny and General Moderation policy.

This GA qualification is delivered exclusively in partnership with Skin Group International Ltd.

Section 1: Qualification Overview

1.1 Introduction

Gatehouse Awards (GA) qualifications are designed to give candidates the skills to be active in the modern labour market and progress in their career and/or into higher level study.

This specification covers the award-sized qualification in Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing at Level 3.

This document provides centre staff, candidates and employers with an overview of the qualification content as well as the assessment and quality assurance requirements for this qualification.

Further information containing detailed assessment instructions is available to approved GA centres.

This qualification is regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations (Ofqual) in England and is part of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). All versions of this qualification are listed on the Register of Regulated Qualifications which is operated by Ofqual at www.register.ofqual.gov.uk.

1.2 Qualification Title, Qualification Number and Important Dates

Qualification Title and Level	Qualification Number	Operational Start Date	Operational Review Date
GA Level 3 Award in Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing	610/0871/0	10/05/2022	May 2027

1.3 Qualification Aims and Objectives

This qualification is designed to enhance learner’s job prospects and provide the underpinning knowledge and skills to provide an ear cartilage and nose piercing service.

This qualification can be used flexibly to meet learner needs. Depending on the context of the learning and the needs of each individual learner, the qualification can:

- prepare individuals to progress to a qualification in a specific subject area at the same, or at a higher level, or a qualification requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding
- prepare learners for employment
- support a role in the workplace
- encourage engagement in learning

This qualification provides learners with the skills and knowledge necessary to carry out an ear cartilage and nose piercing service. The learner will understand the use of ear cartilage and nose piercing equipment, materials and products and be able to provide a client with aftercare advice concerning the use of aftercare products, moving and removal of the ring/stud and possible contra-actions. The learner will maintain effective health, safety and hygiene and maintain their personal appearance and good communication with the client.

1.4 Qualification Structure and Overview: Title, GLH, TQT, Level, Credit Value and Component Units

The structure of this qualification is as follows:

GA Level 3 Award in Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing				
Mandatory Unit(s)	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. The Principles and Practices of Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing	A/650/2491	2	10	10
		Total Credits 2	Total GLH* 10	TQT** 20

Qualification Title: GA Level 3 Award in Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing

Qualification Structure:

The Syllabus for the mandatory unit consists of four specific topic areas:

- Topic 1: The practice of ear cartilage and nose piercing
- Topic 2: The anatomy and physiology relevant to ear cartilage and nose piercing
- Topic 3: The practical application of ear cartilage and nose piercing services
- Topic 4: Providing effective ear cartilage and nose piercing services

The overall learning outcomes for each topic are that learners are able to:

- understand the practice of ear cartilage and nose piercing
- understand the anatomy and physiology relevant to ear cartilage and nose piercing
- understand client consultation for ear cartilage and nose piercing
- understand how to provide an ear cartilage and nose piercing service
- carry out a client consultation and assessment of the area of skin to be pierced
- agree a service plan for ear cartilage and nose piercing
- carry out an ear cartilage and nose piercing service
- carry out post-service procedures
- maintain professional role and professional accountability

*Guided Learning Hours (GLH): Definition

The activity of a learner in being taught or instructed by – or otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

**Total Qualification Time (TQT): Definition

The number of Guided Learning Hours assigned, plus an estimate of the number of study hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but, unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

The number of study hours a learner is expected to undertake in order to complete each unit is expressed in the '**Study Time**' above. This, including the GLH, provides the Total Qualification Time, or TQT, and represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of this qualification.

The estimates for Guided Learning Hours and Total Qualification Time above have been produced with due regard to information gathered from those with experience in education and training and is in line with guidance published by Ofqual on the allocation and expression of Total Qualification Time and Guided Learning Hours.

Level

The qualification within this specification is designated at Level 3 on the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) according to the Level Descriptors for knowledge and understanding, which build on those used within the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). This means that this qualification is considered by GA to lead to the outcome as follows:

Achievement at Level 3 reflects the ability to identify and use factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks and address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine, interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas, and reflects an awareness of the nature of the area of study or work and different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.

1.5 Rules of Combination

There is one mandatory unit within this qualification.

There are no further rules of combination.

1.6 Intended Audience

This qualification is ideal for learners who work in, or intend to enter, a role which involves providing ear cartilage and nose piercing services.

1.7 Age and Entry Requirements

This qualification is intended for learners aged 16 and above.

Learners who wish to undertake this qualification must have already achieved:

- the GA Level 2 Award in Ear Lobe Piercing qualification or a regulated equivalent
- and
- the GA Level 2 Award in the Effective Prevention & Control of Infection qualification or a regulated equivalent.

Due to the nature of the qualification content, those undertaking the qualification must also have a proficient level of English.

We recommend that learners hold, or be working towards, a formal English language qualification of at least Level 2, e.g.

- GCSE English Language and maths (A* - C / Grade 4 or above), or equivalent

If English is not the learner's first language, an English language level of International English C1 (CEFR) is required.

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to study at Level 3. It is therefore recommended that prior to commencing a programme of study leading to this qualification, learners receive detailed advice and guidance from the training provider in order to ensure the programme and qualification will meet their needs.

1.8 Recognition of Prior Learning and Transfer of Credits

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a method of assessing whether a learner's previous experience and achievements meet the standard requirements of a GA qualification, prior to the learner taking the assessment for the qualification, or part of the qualification, they are registered for.

Any prior learning must be relevant to the knowledge, skills and understanding which will be assessed as part of that qualification, and GA will subsequently amend the requirements which a learner must have satisfied before they are assessed as eligible to be awarded the qualification.

Where there is evidence that the learner's knowledge and skills are current, valid and sufficient, the use of RPL may be acceptable for recognising achievement of assessment

criteria, learning outcome or unit(s), as applicable. The requirement for RPL in such instances must also include a consideration of the currency of the knowledge gained by the learner at the time they undertook the prior learning.

RPL cannot be guaranteed in instances where industry practice or legislation has significantly changed in the time since the prior learning was undertaken / a previous award was issued.

1.9 Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations

Assessment for this qualification is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of learners.

If you have learners with particular needs you should refer to the GA Candidate Access Policy, available on the GA website, which contains information about Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations. This policy document provides centres and centre staff with clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the achievement of the qualification.

1.10 Relationship to Other Qualifications and Progression Opportunities

The GA Level 3 Award in Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing is an ideal qualification from which a learner might progress onto a higher-level study or practical occupational training, or into self-employment or employment.

1.11 Language of Assessment

This qualification is offered in English. Further information concerning the provision of qualification and assessment materials in other languages may be obtained from GA.

1.12 Grading and Recording Achievement

All learning outcomes and assessment requirements must be met before a learner can be considered having achieved this qualification.

These qualifications are not graded on a scale. Learners are assessed as Pass or Fail. Learners who aren't successful can resubmit work within the registration period.

1.13 Qualification Availability

This qualification is available in the UK and internationally. If you would like further information on offering this qualification, please contact us. Our contact details appear on our website, www.gatehouseawards.org

Section 2: Qualification Delivery, Assessment & Quality Assurance Model

2.1 Teaching and Learning Requirements

Courses leading to this qualification can consist of e-learning, distance learning or classroom-based courses offered through GA approved centres.

Learners must have suitable access to teaching staff as well as technical support. Specialist staff, high quality learning materials and access to assessment opportunities are essential.

Further details and guidance on the content of teaching and learning can be accessed via the Ark (GA's online Learner Management System, available to all GA Approved Centres).

2.2 Assessment & Quality Assurance Model

This qualification is a centre-assessed qualification. This means that it is internally assessed and internally moderated by centre staff to clearly show where learners have achieved the learning outcomes and qualification requirements. There is no requirement for external summative assessment.

Assessment, internal moderation and quality assurance activities are subject to external moderation and quality assurance conducted by GA.

This qualification is subject to the GA Centre Assessment and Standards Scrutiny (CASS) and General Moderation Policy.

Detailed information is available in the *GA Syllabus, Assessment & Internal Moderation Handbook* for the component unit(s) of this qualification, available to GA Approved Centres.

2.3 Portfolio Requirements

Learners are expected to build a portfolio of evidence, clearly demonstrating where they have met the learning outcomes and qualification requirements.

Various types of evidence may be used, for example:

- essays/assignments
- short questions and answers
- workbooks
- professional discussions
- observations of performance in the workplace
- product evidence
- reflective accounts
- witness testimony
- records of questioning

Evidence in the portfolio should be mapped against the learning outcomes, reflect the type of evidence supplied and indicate its location within the portfolio. By using portfolio reference numbers, it will enable the learner, assessor, IQA and EQA to quickly locate the evidence submitted.

All evidence must meet CRAVES requirements (see Section 2.4 below).

2.4 Assessment of Learners: CRAVES

Assessors must ensure that all evidence within the learner's portfolio judged to meet GA's 'CRAVES' requirements is:

- **current:** the work is relevant at the time of the assessment
- **reliable:** the work is consistent with that produced by other learners
- **authentic:** the work is the candidate's own work
- **valid:** the work is relevant and appropriate to the subject being assessed and is at the required level
- **evaluated:** where the learner has not been assessed as competent, the deficiencies have been clearly and accurately identified via feedback to the learner
- **sufficient:** the work covers the expected learning outcomes and any range statements as specified in the criteria or requirements in the assessment strategy.

2.5 Internal Moderation and Quality Assurance Arrangements

Internal Moderators (also known as Internal Quality Assurers or IQAs) ensure that Assessors are assessing to the same standards, i.e. consistently and reliably, and that assessment decisions are correct. IQA activities will include:

- ensuring Assessors are suitably experienced and qualified in line with the qualification requirements
- sampling assessments and assessment decisions
- ensuring that assessment decisions meet the GA 'CRAVES' requirements (Current, Reliable, Authentic, Valid, Evaluated and Sufficient)
- conducting standardisation and moderation of assessment decisions
- providing Assessors with clear and constructive feedback
- supporting Assessors and providing training and development where appropriate
- ensuring any stimulus or materials used for the purposes of assessment are fit for purpose.

Sampling of assessment will be planned and carried out in line with a clear IQA and moderation strategy, which incorporates the number of learners, number of Assessors, and the experience and competency of Assessors.

Centre IQAs may wish to refer to the guidance documents provided by GA to approved centres (available on the Ark) in order to formulate an appropriate Sampling Strategy.

2.6 External Moderation and Quality Assurance Arrangements

All GA Approved Centres are entitled to two EQA visits per year. Additional visits can be requested, for which there may be an additional charge.

EQA activities will focus on the centre's continuing adherence to and maintenance of the GA *Centre Approval Criteria* and the criteria and requirements for the specific qualifications for which it holds approval.

Through discussions with centre staff, examining learner's work, moderation of assessment, talking to learners and reviewing documentation and systems, the GA EQA will provide the centre with full support, advice and guidance as necessary.

2.7 Registering Candidates and Unique Learner Numbers (ULNs)

Learners must be registered through the Ark, the GA online Learner Management System.

Owing to the Total Qualification Time of this qualification, the validity period of registrations made will be 6 months. Should a learner not have achieved in the timescale, a new registration is required.

Each approved GA centre is provided with a user account to allow approved staff access to the online system.

Where the Unique Learner Number (ULN) of a learner is known, this should be provided at the point of registration in order for GA to issue updates to the Learner Record Service.

2.8 ID Requirements

It is the responsibility of the centre to have systems in place to confirm each learner's identity.

Learners are required to declare that all work submitted for assessment is their own work.

2.9 Record Keeping

Records of learner's details, their work and any records of Reasonable Adjustments, Special Considerations and records containing learners' personal details must be kept by the centre in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 (including GDPR and all relevant privacy regulations) for a minimum of 2 years.

The centre must operate a safe and effective system of care and comply with clinical and information governance requirements, with appropriate policies and procedures in place to maintain confidentiality related to clients, staff and learners.

All records must be easily retrievable and made available to GA or the Regulator upon request.

Portfolios must be retained until the following External Quality Assurance visit to allow them to be sampled. Following external moderation and the award of a qualification by GA, centres may return portfolios to learners.

Records of all internal quality assurance and moderation activity undertaken must be kept and made available to GA upon request.

Section 3: Staff and Resource Requirements for Centres

In order to deliver this qualification, a centre must ensure that they have the following resources in place.

3.1 General Staff Requirements

The knowledge and experience of all staff involved in course delivery, assessment and quality assurance will be considered during the approval and re-approval process and at EQA visits.

Centres must ensure that they hold up-to-date and detailed information about their staff and must make records available to GA upon request. The information GA expects the centre to hold for each member of staff includes, as a minimum:

- current up to date CV
- copies of relevant qualification certificates
- relevant and up to date CPD (Continuous Professional Development) records

Centres must ensure that there are an adequate number of staff members to provide a safe environment for learners and clients.

Centres must also ensure that they have the management and administrative staffing arrangements in place which are suitable to support the registration of learners and the receipt of results and certificates.

3.2 Requirements for Teachers and Assessors

The primary responsibility of an Assessor is to assess a learner's performance and ensure the evidence submitted by the learner meets the requirements of the qualification. An Assessor must be able to recognise competence, knowledge, skills and understanding in line with the qualification standards and requirements and therefore need to have a thorough understanding of assessment and quality assurance practices, as well as have in-depth technical understanding related to the qualifications for which they are assessing.

It is the centre's responsibility to ensure that all staff involved in the delivery and assessment of these qualifications are suitably qualified.

To be able to assess learners, Assessors must:

- have a minimum of 3 years work experience in a related occupational field
- hold a recognised teaching or training qualification
- hold evidence of relevant teaching experience in an education or training context
- have access to appropriate guidance and support
- participate regularly in related assessment and quality assurance processes such as standardisation
- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in assessment
- hold one of the following qualifications or their recognised equivalent:

- Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
- Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement
- A1 Assess candidate performance using a range of methods
- D32 Assess candidate performance and D33 Assess candidate using differing sources of evidence; and
- show current evidence of continuing professional development in assessment and quality assurance.

Assessors may be working towards a relevant equivalent teaching/assessing qualification under the guidance of a suitably qualified and experienced Assessor and their Internal Moderator.

Assessors are required to evidence contemporaneous proficiency in the treatment(s) being delivered, and evidence of meeting the requirements of the *GA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Revalidation for Centre Staff*.

Assessors must have relevant occupational experience. The Assessor must hold relevant qualifications in the particular subject area being assessed. They must hold, or be working towards, a regulated qualification at least at the level of the qualification they are assessing and hold appropriate indemnity insurance.

In the absence of a regulated qualification, Assessors are required to demonstrate Continued Professional Development (CPD) with accredited training providers, for the qualification they are assessing. Assessors are then required to agree to update their training to a full qualification within 18 months of commencing their role in order to continue to deliver the qualification.

These specific occupational and qualification requirements are to ensure that the Assessor is able to take direct responsibility for the consequences of treatment and clinical management of complications, should they arise during a treatment carried out by a learner.

Unit-specific additional requirements for Assessors are outlined in the *GA Syllabus, Assessment & Internal Moderation Handbook* for the individual units within this qualification. This document is available to GA Approved Centres.

3.3 Requirements for Internal Moderators (also referred to as an Internal Quality Assurers or IQAs)

Assessors may have one or several appointed Internal Moderators.

This qualification is assessed by an Assessor and internally moderated and quality assured by an Internal Moderator to ensure standardisation, reliability, validity and sufficiency of the Assessor's assessment decisions. Internal Moderators therefore need to have a thorough understanding of quality assurance and assessment practices, as well as sufficient technical understanding related to the qualifications that they are internally quality assuring. It is the centre's responsibility to select and appoint Internal Moderators.

To be able to perform the internal moderation and quality assurance role, an Internal Moderator must:

- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of the specific occupational field
- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in assessment and quality assurance
- hold one of the following Assessor qualifications or their recognised equivalent:
 - Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
 - Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement
 - A1 Assess candidate performance using a range of methods
 - D32 Assess candidate performance and D33 Assess candidate using differing sources of evidence
- hold one of the following internal quality assurance qualifications or their recognised equivalent:
 - Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
 - Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
 - V1 Conduct internal quality assurance of the assessment process
 - D34 Internally verify the assessment process
- show current evidence of continuing professional development in assessment and quality assurance.
- In addition, Internal Moderators must be familiar with GA's qualification requirements.

Internal Moderators may be working towards a relevant equivalent quality assurance qualification under the guidance of a suitably qualified and experienced Internal Moderator.

The Internal Moderator must have relevant occupational experience and hold relevant qualifications in the particular subject area being assessed. They must hold a regulated qualification at least at the level of the qualification they are assessing and meet the Subject-Specific Requirements for Assessors as outlined in the *GA Syllabus, Assessment and Internal Moderation Handbook* for the individual unit(s) within this qualification.

Internal Moderators are required to evidence of contemporaneous proficiency in the treatment(s) being delivered, and evidence of meeting the *GA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Revalidation for Centre Staff*.

Unit-specific additional requirements for Internal Moderators are outlined in the *GA Syllabus, Assessment & Internal Moderation Handbook* for the individual unit(s) within this qualification. This document is available to GA Approved Centres.

The knowledge and experience of Teachers, Assessors and Internal Moderators will be considered during the centre and qualification approval process and at External Quality Assurance Visits.

3.4 External Moderation (also referred to as External Quality Assurance or EQA)

Assessment and internal moderation and quality assurance activities are subject to external moderation and wider scrutiny and centre controls as per GA's quality assurance arrangements for centre-assessed qualifications.

3.5 Venue Requirements

When training premises are used in the delivery of teaching and assessment of this qualification, centres should, wherever possible, provide suitable access in line with Disability Discrimination, Diversity & Equality law and regulations and any other regulations which apply.

The centre must maintain up-to-date health and safety policies and procedures to maintain client, learner, staff and visitor safety at all times.

3.6 Equipment

Centres must ensure that all products and equipment used in the delivery and assessment of this qualification must be authorised by GA and confirmed as fit for purpose and compliant with current Health and Safety legislation and any other relevant regulations. This will be considered at approval and during the on-going monitoring of centres.

Where specific products and equipment are required for the delivery and assessment of a GA qualification, the suitability of the products and equipment at the centre will be considered during the centre and qualification approval process and at External Quality Assurance Visits.

3.7 Teaching and Learning Resources

Whether delivering a programme of learning as a classroom-based or e-learning course, centres must ensure that their teaching and learning resources are high quality and are relevant, up-to-date and of industry standard, in order to allow learners to adequately prepare for assessment. This will be considered at approval and during the on-going monitoring of centres.

All delivery and assessment resources should be inclusive of the principles of equality and diversity and the safeguarding of learners.

3.8 Results and Certification

Centres may make claims for certification via the Ark when learners complete and the Assessor and Internal Moderator have confirmed achievement. Such claims for certification are subject to successful external moderation (EQA). Following the External Moderator's confirmation of a learner's achievement, GA will authorise claims for the certification of learners, details of which will be visible to the centre in the centre's Ark account. Certificates are usually issued within 10 working days of the award of the qualification.

The qualification certificate will indicate both the title and the level at which the qualification is achieved.

Certificates will only be issued to learners who have achieved sufficient credits and met the rules of combination for the qualification they are registered for. If a learner has not achieved sufficient credits or failed to meet the rules of combination, the qualification certificate will not be issued.

Replacement certificates are available upon request.

Amendments to certificates are available upon request but may require the centre to provide evidence of the need for any amendment (e.g. learner proof of identification) and will involve the return of the original certificate. Replacements and amendments may incur an additional charge.

3.9 Direct Claims Status (DCS)

Direct Claim Status is not available for this qualification.

3.10 Appeals and Enquiries

GA has an appeals procedure in accordance with the arrangements for regulated qualifications.

General enquiries can be made at any time and should be directed to a GA Centre Administrator.

3.11 Ongoing Support

There are a number of documents on the GA website that centres and learners may find useful: www.gatehouseawards.org

The website is updated regularly with news, information about GA qualifications, sample materials, updates on regulations and other important notices.

Within the centre, a named Examinations Officer is responsible for ensuring that all information and documents provided to centre staff and learners are correct and up to date.

GA must be kept up to date with contact details of all changes of personnel so centres can be provided with the best level of support and guidance.

At the time of approval, centres are assigned a designated Centre Administrator who is their primary point of contact for all aspects of service or support.

Learners should always speak to a member of staff at the centre for information relating to GA and our qualifications prior to approaching GA directly.

Contact details for GA can be found on the GA website www.gatehouseawards.org.

Document Specification:					
Purpose	To detail the specification of the GA Level 3 Award in Ear Cartilage and Nose Piercing qualification.				
Accountability	GA Governing Body	Responsibility	GA Quality Assurance Manager		
Version	1	Effective From	10.05.2022	Indicative Review Date	May 2027
Links to Ofqual GCR	E3; G6; G7	Other relevant documents	GA Centre Handbook GA Candidate Access Policy GA Malpractice & Maladministration Policy GA Syllabus, Assessment & Internal Moderation Handbook for the individual unit(s) within this qualification GA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Revalidation for Centre Staff (Aesthetic Pathway).		