

## Withdrawal of Professional Services qualifications

Following a review of our qualifications, and in light of changes in funding arrangements and Apprenticeship reforms, we have decided to withdraw the Professional Services qualifications from **31<sup>st</sup> August 2017**.

The suite has a number of qualifications. These qualifications make up the apprenticeships at level 4 for Professional Services (Accounting) SASE framework and will be replaced by new apprenticeship trailblazer standards.

The withdrawal is being announced now so that we can give sufficient notice to prepare centres to move over from the SASE frameworks to the new apprenticeship standards.

OCR will of course continue to support and assess the qualifications up to the final certification dates which will be as follows:

Scheme code	Title	Qualification Number	Last entry date	Final certification date
10352	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Business Accounting	601/0616/5	31 August 2017	31 August 2019
10353	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Business Accounting Practice	601/0617/7	31 August 2017	31 August 2019
10354	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Accounting and Business	600/6059/1	31 August 2017	31 August 2019
10355	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Audit Practice	600/6041/4	31 August 2017	31 August 2019
10356	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Tax	600/6058/X	31 August 2017	31 August 2019
10357	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Tax Practice	600/5959/X	31 August 2017	31 August 2019
10331*	OCR Level 4 Certificate in Management Consulting	600/6039/6	31 August 2017	31 August 2018
10358	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Management Consulting Practice	600/6040/2	31 August 2017	31 August 2018

\*Scheme 10331 is assessed by OCR-set and marked exams. Please see question 6 below on last entry arrangements

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. What is the last date I can enter learners?

The final date to enter learners for these qualifications is **31/08/2017**. Please see Question 6 for information about test windows for 10331 OCR Level 4 Certificate in Management Consulting.

**2. What is the last date I can certificate learners?**

The Management consulting qualifications final certification is 31 August 2018.

The final certification date for the remaining qualifications is 31 August 2019.

Please be aware that the last certification date is the final date OCR will produce certificates. Centres are therefore advised to plan for completion of all learner assessment and submit claims at least two months prior to the last certification date. Please see question 10 for further information.

**3. Why is OCR withdrawing these qualifications?**

Following a review of our qualification offer in the light of changes to market demand and the introduction of the new apprenticeship trailblazer standards, OCR has made the decision to withdraw these qualifications

OCR will not offer a replacement for the qualifications being withdrawn.

**4. What if a learner completes their portfolio, but we haven't made a qualification entry for that learner and it is after the final qualification entry date?**

Learners **must** be entered via OCR Interchange before the last entry date. If the last entry date has passed please [contact us](#).

**5. What will happen if a learner has a unit withdrawn and wants to claim the unit at a later date?**

As long as they were entered before the last entry date and the last certification date has not passed you can continue to claim units. All claims must be made before the end certification date and, for externally moderated qualifications, before your final external moderation visit.

**6. How does the last Entry date and certification date apply to exams for 10331 OCR Level 4 Certificate in Management Consulting?**

Learners should be entered for the qualification on Interchange by 31/08/2017. Once you have entered the learner, you can continue to make test entries for a specific series for any of the units within the qualification (and resits) until the final series in **June 2018**.

There are two test sessions per year – January and June. Each exam is sat on a specified day, at a specified time. The learner can resit a failed unit at the next available session. The final session will be in June 2018.

## 7. What do we need to consider as the last certification date approaches?

The last certification date is the last date we will produce certificates and we suggest you plan to complete all candidate assessment at least two months before this. Please ensure your candidates have completed all portfolios of work in order to meet the assessment criteria.

### Visiting moderation

To make sure you're prepared you may like to consider these key points:

- Ensure you arrange your moderation visit date in good time.
- Remember to make your certification claims **at least 4 weeks** before the last certification date.
- To allow visiting moderators time to select a sample of candidates' work for moderation, centres must ensure the claim is made **at least two weeks** before the scheduled moderation visit.
- Ensure your moderation visit takes place at least two weeks before the last certification date to allow certificates to be processed.
- If you have any issues arranging visits, please contact our allocation team: [opsalloc@ocr.org.uk](mailto:opsalloc@ocr.org.uk).

### **For 10331, OCR Level 4 Certificate in Management Consulting**

- We recommend that you plan to complete all candidate assessment by January 2018. The only resit opportunity is June 2018. There will be no resits after this date. .

## 8. We are a centre in Wales/Northern Ireland – are we affected in the same way?

Yes, this qualification is approved to be offered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The end dates are the same for all three nations.