City & Guilds

November 2025

# Cutting edge skills that shape futures

A guide to our hair qualifications and apprenticeships

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# Introduction

Explore qualifications and programmes that support your learners to build and shape careers across hairdressing, barbering and beyond.

The hairdressing and barbering sector plays a vital role in the service industries. As trends evolve and client expectations rise, the demand for skilled, creative professionals continues to grow. There's never been a more exciting time for learners to begin a career in this dynamic and expressive industry.

Our qualifications and apprenticeships cover everything from cutting and styling techniques to colouring, shaving, and salon management, equipping learners with the practical and professional skills needed to thrive.

We offer industry-recognised programmes designed to support a wide range of career paths, including Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships, VRQs and NVQs, and CPD short courses developed to build a highly skilled workforce for the future.

We work closely with employers and industry experts to ensure our flagship qualifications and apprenticeships meet current industry standards, providing the skills employers need and a clear pathway to a successful career.

By choosing City & Guilds, you and your learners gain access to:

- A vast library of qualification materials and resources
- Support from our team of industry and technical experts
- Guidance on curriculum planning, delivery, funding updates, and quality assurance

# Hair and barbering apprenticeships

Our Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeship standards with End-Point Assessments (EPA) are open to learners aged 16+, with no upper age limit.

Funded through government support or the employer levy, these programmes enable providers to deliver training and assessment at no cost to learners.

As a trusted market leader, we've delivered over 80,000 EPAs with a 90% pass rate, giving you and your learners confidence in outcomes and support.

Apprentices benefit from real-world salon experience, combining on-the-job and off-the-job training while earning a salary, making these qualifications attractive, practical, and career-ready.

## Learning resources to support apprenticeships

### Apprenticeship training manuals

We have a range of apprenticeship training manuals that include tasks to support apprentices' progression during the on-programme phase, as well as signposted opportunities to demonstrate and develop essential skills, including soft skills, behaviours, and maths and English skills. They also include appraisal documentation for annual reviews. Training manuals are available for purchase for all our apprenticeship standards and can be accessed through SmartScreen, our tutor and learner support website.

Find out more

# Apprenticeships

| Standard | EPA | Apprenticeship training manual |
|---|---|---|
| **Level 2 Hairdressing Professional ST0213** | Hairdressing Professional (9036) | Level 2 Hairdressing Professional (9036) |
| **Level 2 Barbering Professional ST1273** | Barbering Professional (9037) | Level 2 Barbering Professional (9037) |
| **Level 3 Advanced and Creative Hair Professional ST0214** | Advanced and Creative Hair Professional (9014) | Level 3 Advanced and Creative Hair Professional (9014) |

**View our hairdressing and barbering apprenticeships on our website**

**"The Men's Hairdressing Federation stands at the forefront of championing top-tier talent and industry standards. With City & Guilds qualifications, today's learners and employers gain more than just credentials- they unlock dynamic, future-ready skills tailored to the worlds of hairdressing, barbering, and beauty. Together, we're shaping the next generation of industry-ready professionals."**

**Adam Sloan,**
CEO
Men's Hairdressing Federation

# Hairdressing qualifications

We offer a broad portfolio of full-time qualifications and CPD short courses, from entry level to Level 4, designed to develop skills across every aspect of hairdressing, including women's hairdressing, barbering, colouring, and perming.

**Funding note:** The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) updates its list of funded qualifications regularly as part of ongoing reforms. To maximise funding opportunities, we recommend checking the ESFA 'Find a learning' aim database for the latest eligibility criteria before registering learners.

## Learning resources to support qualifications

### SmartScreen

To support your teaching, we provide a range of tutor resources for the qualifications listed below. These materials are available through SmartScreen with a subscription which gives you access to schemes of work, worksheets, activities, handouts, PowerPoint presentations, and multiple-choice questions. For more information, contact our customer service team.

# Hairdressing and beauty therapy

Our Level 1 certificates and diplomas introduce learners to knowledge and core skills like styling, make-up, and nail art, ideal for beginners seeking entry-level roles or progression to further study.

Flexible pathways let providers offer a short award or a full diploma, with optional units such as skin care, nail art, men's and women's styling, and photographic make-up.

These qualifications help providers attract new learners, widen their offer, and create clear routes into further training and employment.

## Qualifications

| Qualification | Accreditation number | Guided learning hours (GLH) | Available for delivery in |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Entry 3 VRQ Level certificate in an introduction to the hair and beauty sector (3001-01)** | 500/6325/X | 119 - 130 | England, Wales, NI, International |
| **Entry 3 VRQ Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector (3001-90)** | 500/6433/2 | 62 | England, Wales, NI, International |
| **Level 1 VRQ Diploma in an introduction to the hair and beauty sector (3001-02)** | 500/6346/7 | 270 - 370 | England, Wales, NI, International |
| **Level 1 VRQ Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector (3001-90)** | 500/6347/9 | 129 | England, Wales, NI, International |
| **Level 1 VRQ Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector (3001-0)** | 500/6345/5 | 72 | England, Wales, NI, International |
| **Level 1 VRQ Diploma in Hair and Beauty (3001-11)** | 600/2753/8 | 347 | England, Wales, NI, International |
| **Level 1 VRQ Certificate in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy (3001-12)** | 500/6345/5 | 233 | England, Wales, NI, International |

**View our hairdressing and beauty therapy qualifications on our website**

# Hairdressing

These qualifications are for those interested in a career in hairdressing.

Our certificates and diplomas give learners the knowledge, skills and confidence to build a career in hairdressing. Covering everything from shampooing, styling and dressing to cutting, colouring, and barbering. With flexible entry points, learners don't need a current salon placement to get started, making these qualifications accessible to both beginners and those with experience.

### Progression at every level:

- **Level 1:** Ideal for beginners as an introductory qualification that focuses on foundational skills for aspiring salon assistants, learning basic techniques such as blowdrying and styling hair, consultation and an introduction to basic colour techniques.
- **Level 2:** Perfect for learners starting out or working under supervision. Builds solid foundations in core hairdressing skills, suitable for both young learners (14–16) and adults.
- **Level 3:** Designed for those with salon experience who want to advance or specialise, whether in women's hairdressing, barbering, or colouring.
- **Level 4:** For experienced professionals aiming to refine expertise and broaden career opportunities.

### Flexible learning, tailored to learners.

Depending on whether learners choose an award, certificate, or diploma, they'll complete a mix of core and optional units, giving them the freedom to focus on the skills most relevant to their goals.

For full details of available units, download the qualification handbook in the additional documents section.

## Qualifications

| Qualification | Accreditation number | Guided learning hours (GLH) | Available for delivery in |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Level 2 VRQ Certificate in Hair Services (3002-23)** | 500/8807/5 | 232 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 2 VRQ Certificate in Women's Hairdressing (3002-24)** | 500/9052/5 | 232 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 2 VRQ Certificate in Barbering (3002-25)** | 500/8704/6 | 241 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 2 VRQ Certificate in Hair Techniques (3002-40)** | 500/9002/1 | 176 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 2 VRQ Diploma in Hair Services (3002-60)** | 500/8694/7 | 342 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |

| Qualification | Accreditation number | Guided learning hours (GLH) | Available for delivery in |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Level 2 VRQ Diploma in Women's Hairdressing (3002-61)** | 500/9051/3 | 470 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 2 VRQ Diploma in Barbering (3002-62)** | 500/8808/7 | 458 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 2 VRQ Diploma in Women's and Men's Hairdressing (3002-70)** | 600/5151/6 | 450 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 3 VRQ Certificate in Hairdressing (3002-34)** | 600/2748/4 | 299 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 3 VRQ Diploma in Hair Services (3002-35)** | 601/0106/4 | 341 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 3 VRQ Certificate in Barbering (3002-36)** | 601/3811/7 | 219 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 3 VRQ Diploma in Women's Hairdressing (3002-66)** | 500/9099/9 | 485 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 3 VRQ Diploma in Barbering (3002-67)** | 500/9100/1 | 446 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 3 VRQ Diploma in Hairdressing for Colour Technicians (3002-68)** | 500/9101/3 | 462 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 3 VRQ Diploma in Hairdressing for Cutting and Styling Technicians (3002-69)** | 500/9098/7 | 426 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| **Level 2 Award in Colouring and Lightening Hair (3002-92)** | 500/8673/X | 91 | England, Wales, Scotland, NI, International |
| Technical | | | |
| **Level 2 technical award in hair and beauty studies (3038-24)** | 601/0656/7 | 90 | England, Wales |

**View our hairdressing qualifications on our website**

# Creative hair and beauty studies

Our Creative Hair and Beauty Studies qualifications prepare learners for careers in hair, beauty, or combined roles within the industry. Designed for those with little or no experience, these programmes build essential skills in areas such as hair styling, makeup, manicure, lash and brow treatments, nail art, face painting, and foot care. Learners can progress into roles such as salon junior, receptionist, or move into apprenticeships.

## Qualifications

| Qualification | Accreditation number | Guided learning hours (GLH) | Available for delivery in |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Level 2 VRQ Diploma in Hair and Beauty (3004-12)** | 600/5861/4 | 458 | England, Wales Scotland, NI, International |

**View our Creative hair and beauty qualifications on our website**

# Hairdressing and barbering

Our professional hairdressing and barbering qualifications help learners launch and advance careers in this vibrant industry. From shampooing, cutting, and styling to advanced colour correction, these certificates, diplomas, and NVQs build the skills needed for roles ranging from salon assistant to senior stylist, salon manager, or business owner. Delivered in real or simulated work environments, programmes combine hands-on practice with industry insights, preparing learners for success in salons, barber shops and beyond.

## Qualifications

| Qualification | Accreditation number | Guided learning hours (GLH) | Available for delivery in |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Level 1 NVQ Certificate in Hairdressing and Barbering (6008-01)** | 601/5909/1 | 208 | England, Wales, NI |
| **Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Hairdressing (6008-02)** | 601/5696/X | 561 | England, Wales, NI |
| **Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Barbering (6008-04)** | 601/5699/5 | 452 | England, Wales, NI |
| **Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Hairdressing (6008-03)** | 601/5697/1 | 541 | England, Wales, NI |
| **Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Barbering (6008-05)** | 601/5698/3 | 538 | England, Wales, NI |

## Apprenticeships

| Standard | EPA |
|---|---|
| **Level 2 Diploma for hair professionals - hairdressing ST0213** (Version 1.2) | Hairdressing professional (9036) (Version 1.2) |
| **Level 2 Diploma for hair professionals- barbering ST0213** (Version 1.0) | Barbering professional (9037) (Version 1.2) |
| **Level 3 Diploma for advanced and creative hair professionals ST0214** (Version 1.0) | Advanced and Creative Hair Professional (9014) (Version 1.0) |

**View our hairdressing and barbering qualifications and apprenticeships on our website**

# Contact dermatitis prevention

Our Award in Work-Related Contact Dermatitis raises awareness of this common occupational risk for individuals working with wet hands or chemicals, such as those in hairdressing, catering, cleaning, beauty therapy, and engineering. Learners gain knowledge of the causes, risks, and preventative measures to protect skin health and reduce the likelihood of developing contact dermatitis in the workplace.

## Qualifications

| Qualification | Accreditation number | Guided learning hours (GLH) | Available for delivery in |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Level 2 Award in Contact Dermatitis Prevention (6911-02)** | 500/5107/6 | 9 | England, Wales, NI, Scotland, International |

**View our contact dermatitis prevention qualifications on our website**

# More skills solutions for your learners

Support your learners at every stage of their journey with functional skills, employability skills, leadership qualifications and more.

## Skills for Work and Life

Maths, English and digital skills are essential at every stage of life. Whether learning, training or working, the ability to effectively communicate, work with numbers, solve problems and use technology is key to success.

At City & Guilds we offer a full range of support to strengthen maths, English and applied digital skills for 16-18s, adults and apprentices. This includes highly recognised qualifications such as Functional Skills, plus a broad set of developmental qualifications available from Entry Level 1 to Level 2 (Digital Functional Skills is available at Entry Level 3 and Level 1). Our flexible digital learning resources and support tools are designed to support learners at every stage.

Our ESOL Skills for Life, a suite of qualifications from Entry Level 1 to Level 2, supports speakers of other languages based within the UK to develop their English for work, further learning or everyday life. We shaped our offer around the specific needs of ESOL centres and learners, supporting flexible delivery, responsive assessment and encouraging maximum learner engagement.

In addition, we provide a broad, flexible range of Employability Skills qualifications, helping learners to enter the employment market or progress within their chosen sector.

Find out more

## Assured – accredit your in-house training

We know that some organisations have specific training needs that cannot be met by existing qualifications. Our Assured service has been designed to evaluate and certify in-house training programmes against our Assured Benchmark Standards, confirming the quality of the processes and systems used to design, plan and deliver the training.

Securing Assured recognition demonstrates the strength of your training both internally and externally, showing that you take your employees' development seriously and that you are ensuring your workforce has the skills that you need.

Learn more

## ILM

Develop tomorrow's leaders with our globally recognised leadership and management provision. From supervision to strategic leadership (levels 2-7), ILM qualifications and apprenticeships give you the frameworks and support to deliver high-impact professional development.

Find out more

## Sustainability and the green environment

Sustainability is now a priority across every industry, and employers are looking for individuals who understand how to work in more environmentally responsible ways. The Level 2 Award & Certificate in Sustainability and the Green Environment are ideal additions to your portfolio, helping you meet the growing demand for green skills across sectors.

Designed to support learners in any job role, these qualifications build knowledge around climate change, sustainability, and net zero, making them a strong fit alongside a wide range of programmes. Whether your learners are entering the workforce or upskilling for progression, this is a practical, future-focused way to broaden your offer and support meaningful career development.

Learn more

## Customer service skills

Great client experiences start with great customer service. Adding the Awards in Customer Service to your Hair & Beauty offer equips learners with the skills to confidently meet client needs, handle real-world interactions, and create lasting impressions — essential for success in salons, spas, and beyond.

This flexible qualification is suitable for all learners, from those preparing for their first role to those with industry experience, helping providers deliver well-rounded, career-ready graduates who stand out to employers.

Learn more

## Retail knowledge

Add extra value to your Hair & Beauty programmes with our Retail Knowledge qualifications, designed to equip learners with the essential skills needed to succeed in a client-facing environment. Covering customer service, selling techniques, teamwork, and health and safety, this qualification gives learners the confidence to excel not only in salons and spas but also in the wider retail sector.

For providers, offering Retail Knowledge as part of your Hair & Beauty provision means broadening employability skills, helping learners stand out in a competitive market, and supporting smooth progression into first roles or career advancement opportunities.

Learn more

## Level 2 Award in Wellbeing & Mental health of self and others

New for 2025, the Level 2 Award in Supporting Wellbeing and Mental Health of Self and Others is a short, flexible qualification designed to complement any level 2 programme. It helps learners build a foundational understanding of mental health, develop personal resilience, and gain a practical toolkit to support their own wellbeing and that of others,  skills they'll carry into the workplace.

By embedding this qualification, providers add measurable value to any programme by supporting the broader development of learners, building self-awareness, confidence, and readiness for the world of work.

Learn more

# Why work with City & Guilds

Working with City & Guilds gives you access to comprehensive support including qualification resource materials, in-person and online events and direct, tailored support from our teams of sector and technical experts.

As part of our commitment to supporting learners into a job, on the job and onto the next job, we also offer accreditation and certification for a modern, digital-first world, whether that's through our verifiable digital credentials or our Assured in-house training accreditation service.

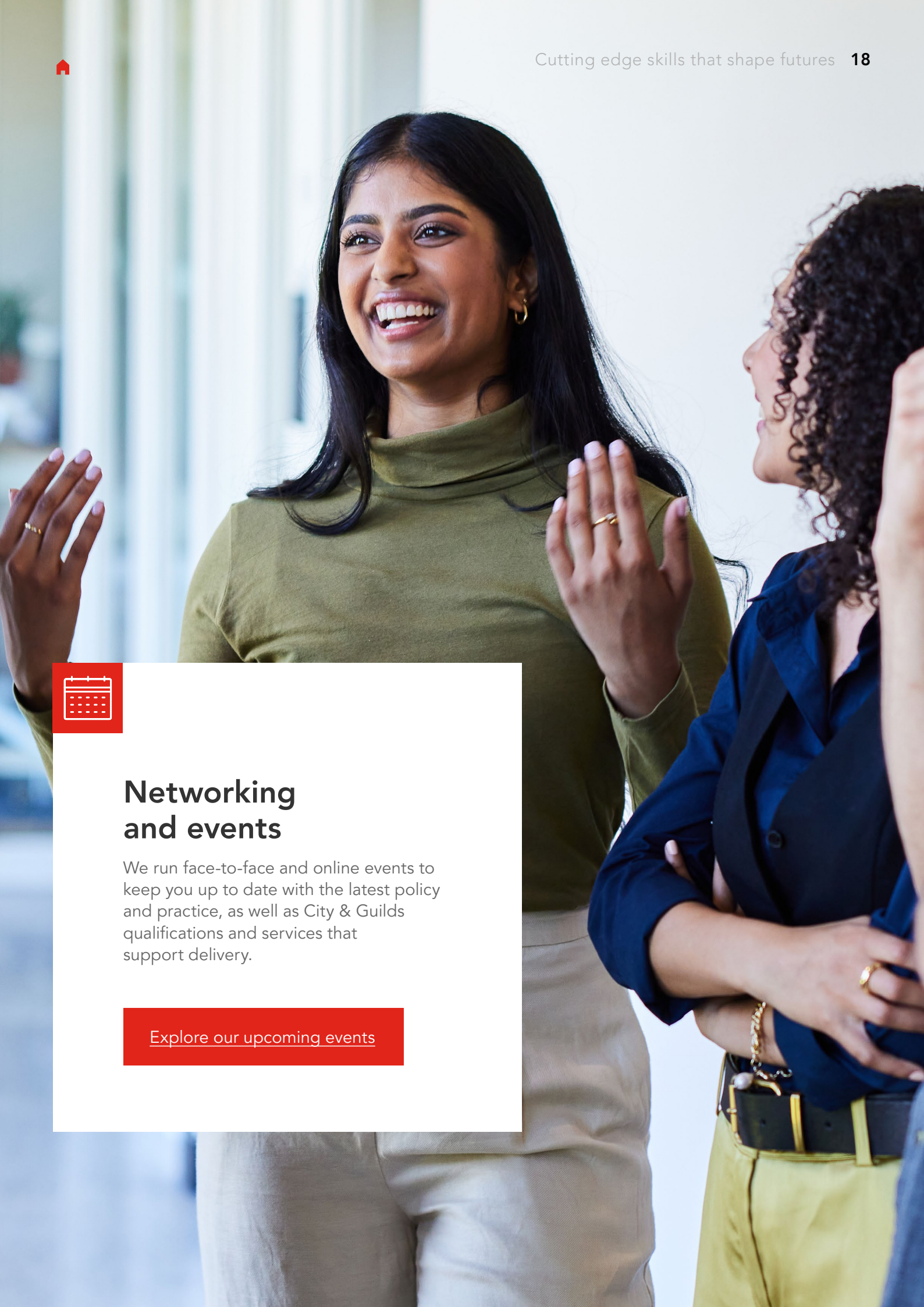
**Explore our range of services and support…**

# People support

We understand the value our customers put on having direct access to the support they need to maximise success. That's why our specialist teams are available to support you at every stage of planning and delivery.

**Learn more about our support teams...**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Business development managers** | Your local contact on-hand to support you with all aspects of qualifications, apprenticeships and skills development.<br><br>Find out more |
| **Client managers** | Our team of training experts work with employers to identify learning needs and maximise organisational growth through tailored Strategic Skills Review sessions.<br><br>Find out more |
| **Customer support team** | Whatever your question, our customer support team are available to support with all enquiries from providers, employers and learners.<br><br>Find out more |
| **Digital solutions managers** | Our digital support team provide training sessions and advice on how to get the most out of our elearning and admin platforms to support a smooth and successful delivery.<br><br>Find out more |
| **EPA partnership managers** | From onboarding apprentices through to EPA, our partnership managers support customers at every stage of the apprenticeship journey.<br><br>Find out more |
| **Funding and policy team** | Get access to easy-to-digest funding and policy information and the latest updates through regular webinars hosted by our in-house experts. |
| **Industry managers** | Our industry experts keep customers, products and services up to date with the latest developments from their sectors, including regulatory, compliance and policy changes. |
| **Technical advisors** | With in-depth knowledge of both education and industry, our technical experts offer flexible support with programme delivery through in-person and online events and visits.<br><br>Find out more |



## Networking and events

We run face-to-face and online events to keep you up to date with the latest policy and practice, as well as City & Guilds qualifications and services that support delivery.

Explore our upcoming events

# Teaching and learning support

## SmartScreen

SmartScreen is the City & Guilds tutor and learner support platform, providing online resources for our qualifications and apprenticeships.

Supporting over 150 qualifications and apprenticeships across 20 different industries, SmartScreen equips tutors and assessors with delivery tools and learners with engaging content.

Learn more about SmartScreen

## Example credential journey

City & Guilds
ENTRY 3
Certificate in an Introduction to Hair and Beauty Sector
3001-01

City & Guilds
LEVEL 1
Certificate in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
3001-12

City & Guilds
LEVEL 1
Diploma in an Introduction to the Hair and Beauty - Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
3001-11

# Digital credentials

As more and more of the hiring process moves to an online-first model, having a digital way to help showcase knowledge and skills to potential employers can be crucial tool to support career progression.

Digital credentials are a visual representation of an individual's skills that provide a convenient way to easily capture and share accomplishments and abilities online with professional networks and potential employers. They can be shared via email or social media and can provide a map of an individual's educational journey, giving your learners a competitive edge in the workplace.

Find out more about digital credentials

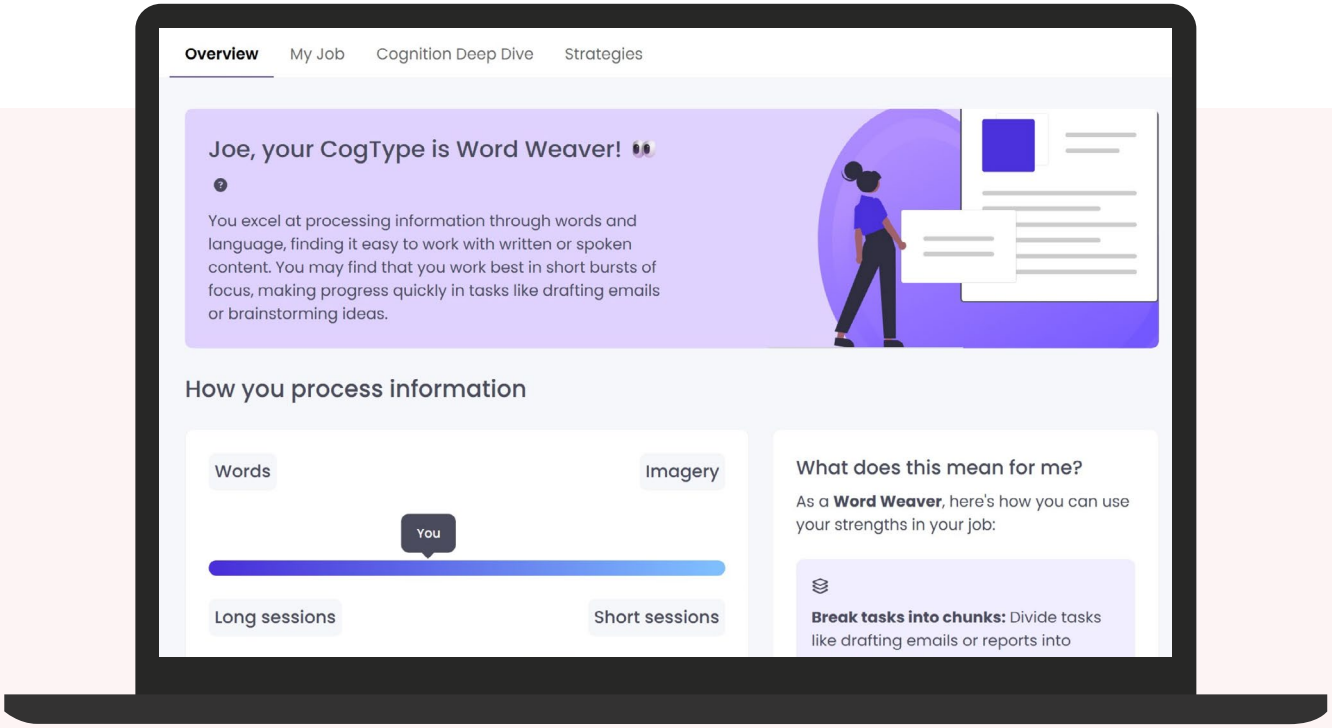
## Cognassist

In today's learning environment, one-size-fits-all approaches no longer meet the diverse needs of learners. With growing pressure to improve retention, meet quality standards, and support every individual, providers need smarter, more scalable ways to personalise the learning experience.

City & Guilds has partnered with Cognassist to help providers deliver truly inclusive, personalised learning experiences that boost retention, support compliance, and improve learner outcomes.

Through cognitive assessment and personalised support strategies, this solution helps identify how each learner thinks and learns - ensuring no one is left behind.

Find out more about the partnership



# Online resources and funding information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Qualifications reforms hub** | Stay informed with updated guidance, timelines, upcoming support events, FAQs and news around City & Guilds qualifications<br><br>Find out more |
| **Government resources** | Find a learning aim (gov.uk) See the latest information on available qualifications, apprenticeship standards, T Levels and units.<br><br>Find out more |
| **Department for Education funding overview** | View the Department for Education's full list of funding approval information for qualifications in England.<br><br>Find out more |
| **Guide to the post-16 qualification landscape (Department for Education)** | A high-level overview of level 3 and below reformed qualifications for 2025 and beyond.<br><br>Find out more |
| **Teaching support** | Enhance your skills and confidence with flexible qualifications designed to support effective teaching, learning, and assessment across diverse settings.<br><br>Find out more |

# Partner with City & Guilds

## Interested in delivering City & Guilds qualifications, apprenticeships or EPA?

As a trusted leader in skills development, we offer a comprehensive range of qualifications and training solutions to prepare individuals for success in today's evolving workplace.

Working with us gives you access to a broad portfolio across multiple sectors, from entry-level qualifications to senior leadership pathways. Our on-hand support teams are here to help you deliver the best learning experience for your learners.

Complete our form linked below to learn more about our BSE qualifications and training solutions.

Get in touch

## About City & Guilds

City & Guilds is the global skills partner, empowering people, organisations and economies to develop the skills they need for growth. With almost 150 years of trusted expertise, we support people into work, help them develop on the job and move into the next job.

We work with Governments, employers, training providers, colleges and industry stakeholders to design and deliver high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to meaningful career progression. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility and success. Our solutions span critical sectors including construction, engineering, transport, energy and electrical, serving over 1 million learners annually.

Through our comprehensive portfolio of brands and trusted global network, we set industry-wide standards for technical, behavioural and commercial skills to improve performance and productivity. We believe you can achieve your potential - and we're here to help make it happen.

## Contact us

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