



AIMQUALIFICATIONS

Counselling Qualifications Provider Meeting: 15th October 2020

- Ofqual Extended ERF consultation outcomes
- Our consultation outcomes/decisions: counselling qualifications
- How we can help: training
- We are hiring! Freelance counselling specialists
- Level 3 Certificate in Counselling: UCAS points
- Provider meeting dates going forward
- Questions





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Introductions

Nicola Bate – EV Manager

Jessica Beverley – Qualification Development Lead – Counselling

Enquiries@aim-group.org.uk

Etiquette

Mute microphone

Use chat for questions

Opportunity at the end for further questions



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Ofqual Extended ERF consultation outcomes

EERF = Adaptations or delays to qualifications

No CAGS / Predicted grades

AIM's plans and processes

Awarding Organisations to start communicating plans to centres by 23rd October



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Our consultation outcomes/decisions: counselling qualifications

What we asked:

Placement hours - do you envisage any issues with your learners being able to achieve the required placement hours (online or face to face)?

SSP - Do you anticipate any problems with SSP's being completed or interrupted due to social distancing or closures? Please provide details below

Responses received:

Concerns around the ability and delays of learners completing 100 hours due to issues relating to accessing placements, shielding, local lockdown issues etc.

Our response/guidance:

We have been working with other Awarding Organisations who are all receiving the same concerns from centres and learners. We are expecting some guidance from professional bodies around remote working/placements soon. We will align with the professional body guidance throughout – consider dated screenshots of allowances in learner portfolios.



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What we asked:

Content - Is there any specific content which you are concerned about teaching/practicing in class whilst social distancing is in place (including activities online)?

Responses received:

Concerns around assessing the role play and skills practice.

Our response/guidance:

We are continuing to permit remote observation and assessment. AIM are planning on offering a training programme throughout the year of bitesize sessions. It is hoped that this will include remote assessment and authentication.



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What we asked:

For each of the internally marked assessments below, please rate your feelings around the delivery and completion of them.

Responses received:

General responses were that there were no concerns around the internally marked assessments (other than those already mentioned).

Our response/guidance:

AIM are offering regular provider meetings for counselling (further information later on) and plan on having a scheduled training sessions on a range of topics throughout the year



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What we asked:

EXAMS - as we look at mitigations, contingencies and options around the exams we would appreciate feedback regarding your centres provision.

Responses received:

There were high levels of concern regarding centre ability to facilitate proctored/invigilated exams online/remotely. Concerns around local lockdowns, quarantines, shielding etc.



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Our response: Level 2 and Level 3 (both withdrawn and live qualifications)

Content that was assessed by externally set and externally marked written examinations is now to be assessed via externally set, internally and externally verified controlled tasks.

Two series available: January 2021 and May 2021. Centres will have the flexibility of a 4-week window in which their learners must undertake the assessment.

Centres must inform AIM of proposed date and time at the point of scheduling. Expect full cohort to undertake assessment on same date/time – unless special circumstance.

Assessments and mark sheets will be released to centres 5 working days prior to window via the AIM Portal.

Assessment must be taken under controlled conditions (as set out in our [Invigilation Guidance](#) document) and must be taken within the time specified.

Centres must schedule their learners for each series by scheduling deadline.



Level 2 and Level 3 (both withdrawn and live qualifications)

January 2021	May 2021
Window: 11th January 2021 – 8th February 2021	Window: 3rd May 2021 – 31st May 2021
Scheduling deadline: 16 th November 2020	Scheduling deadline: 15 th March 2021

Assessment will be internally verified by the centre, using the provided mark sheet, and will be subject to external verification (as usual). Live Level 3 graded (P/M/D) – mark sheet details different grading criteria.

External verifications must be booked with the centre's EV. All other assessments in these qualifications remain unchanged. E-RAC will be used for claiming the controlled task and should be submitted for the spring EV activity.

Sample assessments available on AIM website (withdrawn qualifications) and on AIM Portal (live qualifications) – 'Written Examination Sample'



Our response: Level 4 (both withdrawn and live qualifications)

The Level 4 content that was assessed by externally set and externally marked written examinations is now to be assessed via externally set and externally marked controlled tasks. Level 3 content – see previous slides.

Two series available: January 2021 and June 2021. Centres will have the flexibility of a 4-week window in which their learners must undertake the assessment.

Centres must inform AIM of proposed date and time at the point of scheduling. Expect full cohort to undertake assessment on same date/time – unless special circumstance.

Assessment must be taken under controlled conditions (as set out in our [Invigilation Guidance](#) document) and must be taken within the time specified.

Centres must schedule their learners for each series by scheduling deadline.

Level 4 (both withdrawn and live qualifications)

January 2021	June 2021
Window: 11 th January 2021 – 8 th February 2021	Window: 1 st June 2021 – 29 th June 2021
Scheduling deadline: 16 th November 2020	Scheduling deadline: 12 th April 2021
Results issued to centres: 24 th March 2021	Results issued to centres: 12 th August 2021

Assessment must be returned within 48 hours of completion and will be marked by AIM. Results will be issued to centres. All other assessments in these qualifications remain unchanged.

Sample assessments available on AIM website (withdrawn qualifications) and on AIM Portal (live qualifications) – ‘Written Examination Sample’



External coursework submission deadline dates (L4, L5 and L6): Study of Supervised Practice, Research Proposal, Dissertation

NEW: Centres must schedule their learners for each series, using standard scheduling processes.

February 2021	June 2021
Scheduling deadline: 16 th November 2021	Scheduling deadline: 12 th April 2021
Submission deadline: 8th February 2021	Submission deadline: 29th June 2021
Results issued to centres: 24 th March 2021	Results issued to centres: 12 th August 2021



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Details on all adapted assessments will be available as an appendix in each qualification handbook from next week (w/c 19th October) – download from AIM website.

All assessment dates will be available on the AIM website: <https://www.aim-group.org.uk/services/aim-qualifications/centres/external-assessment-schedule/>



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How we can help: training

Bitesize training sessions – online webinars, videos and handouts

- Using the Portal, making claims, eracs etc
- Authenticating assessment
- Remote assessment
- IQA activity
- Preparing for your EV
- EV when you need it, not limited to twice a year
- Provider meetings

<https://www.aim-group.org.uk/services/aim-qualifications/centres/training-and-events/>



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Provider meeting dates

Periodic 1-hour online session for all counselling qualification providers (centre staff, not learners)

Proposed topics/months

- December - Support with delivering assessments
- February - Marking assessments and preparing for your interim EV
- April – TBC
- May – AIM Portal/erac support and preparing for your final EV
- July – review of the year and plans for following year



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We are hiring! Apply - <https://aim.livevacancies.co.uk/#/job/details/3>

Roles -

External Verification of the qualifications within centres

Examiner responsible for marking exams and external assessments in line with the mark schemes of the qualifications

Product development and support working with the Qualification Development Lead to support qualification reviews, writing of assessments and exams and quality assuring the assessments and exams

Requirements -

Qualified counsellor registered with a relevant professional body (such as BACP, NCS) (please see the centre staff requirements in each qualification for specifics)

Recognised teaching/assessor qualification and internal verification qualification

Recent relevant industry experience

Have an eye for detail

Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Be a team player

Level 3 Certificate in Counselling 603/3986/X (live): UCAS points

Confirmation from UCAS that Level 3 qualification now attracts UCAS points.

The [UCAS Tariff](#) is used to allocate points to post-16 qualifications and is mainly used by universities and colleges in their course entry requirements.

Points allocated to each grade. UCAS submission deadline we must meet – factored into latest EV sign off 1st July (eRAC and EV activity).

Grade	UCAS Points
Distinction	24
High Merit	20
Merit	16
High Pass	12
Pass	8



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Questions

Further questions: enquiries@aim-group.org.uk



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Qualifications and Assessment Group



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