

We regularly review our products to ensure they remain fit for purpose, to reflect recent developments and to meet industry needs. The AIM Awards Suite of Counselling qualifications has undergone a review and a new suite of qualifications will be available from 1st August 2019. Please see the **Operational Guidance** below for details on final dates for the expiring qualifications.

This document details the main changes to the qualifications.

New: AIM Awards Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills (603/3985/8)

This qualification builds on the Level 2 Award in Introduction to Counselling Skills.

The qualification is non-credit bearing; no credits are attached to the components and/or qualification. Further information can be found here: <https://www.aimawards.org.uk/news/2018/12/18/removal-of-credit-from-aim-awards-qualifications//>.

The 'Counselling: Skills Acquisition and Practice' unit is covered by 2 new components (taken from the Level 2 Award):

- **The Fundamentals of Counselling**
- **Introduction to Counselling Skills**

There is an additional component called **Introduction to Counselling Theory** (previously called 'First Steps in Counselling' in the Level 2 Award) and is assessed through an externally set and externally marked written examination.

Learners will complete a journal reflecting on the content learned in their teaching sessions and role-plays in a choice of different areas:

- Introduction to Counselling in the Workplace
- Introduction to Working with Children and Young People
- Introduction to Working with Grief and Loss
- Introduction to Working with Trauma

Internal assessments are to be based on the assignment briefs provided by AIM Awards. Where specified, these may be contextualised by the centre, for example centres may choose to incorporate industry set scenarios.

Operational guidance

Approval to offer the qualification

Centres wishing to offer these qualifications must complete and submit a Qualification Approval Request via the AIM Awards website.

FAQ: Does my centre need to apply to offer this new qualification, even if I delivered the expiring qualification previously?

Yes, centres are required to complete and submit a new Qualification Approval Request as this is a new qualification with a new Qualification Number.

FAQ: Do I need to re-submit evidence of Assessor(s) and Internal Verifier(s) requirements for this new qualification?

Yes, due to GDPR regulations we no longer hold evidence of staffing requirements, so these must be submitted with the Qualification Approval Request.

Final important dates for expiring qualifications

Qualification title	Qualification number	Qualification expiry date	Final learner registration	Final claim date	Final certification date
AIM Awards Level 2 Certificate in Counselling	601/3284/X	31/07/2019	24/07/19 (12PM)	24/07/2022	24/07/2022

Examination	Final exam schedule date	Exam dates	Results issued
External written examination L2	19/04/2019	11/06/2019	16/08/2019
	15/11/2019	14/01/2020	15/03/2020

FAQ: What is the final date I can register learners?

The final date to enter learners for these qualifications is 24/07/2019 (12PM).

Please note it is expected that all 2019/2020 learners are registered against the new qualification(s). The final learner registration date (above) is for existing learners in 2018/2019 which may have been omitted from the original registration.

For roll on/roll off courses, learners enrolling onto the course after 1st August 2019 are expected to be registered against the new qualification(s).

FAQ: What is the final date I can certificate learners?

The final certification date for these qualifications is 31/07/2022.

Please be aware that the final certification date is the final date AIM Awards will produce certificates. Centres are therefore advised to plan for completion of all learner assessment and submit claims by the final claim date, which is 24/07/2022.



FAQ: What is the final date learners can sit the external written examination?

If any learners registered on the expiring qualification do not achieve the external assessment on 11/06/2019, they are permitted to re-take the examination against the criteria of the expiring qualification on 14/01/2020. If learners do not achieve this re-take, they must register onto the new qualification and sit the examination against the new standards.

FAQ: What is the final date I can schedule my learners for the external written examination?

The final date to schedule learners for the external written examinations is shown above.

FAQ: What if a learner completes the qualification, but we haven't submitted the registration for that learner and it is after the final registration date?

Learners must be entered via AIM Awards portal before the final entry date. We are not able to process any registrations after this date.

FAQ: What do we need to consider as the final certification date approaches?

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

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

- Remember to make your certification claims on or before the final claim date. As part of the quality assurance process, ensure all your claims are part of a sample seen by our external verifier
- Ensure all your EV visits take place at least one month prior to the final certification date to allow certificates to be processed
- If you have any issues arranging visits, please contact your Customer Support Officer at enquiries@aimawards.org.uk.

FAQ: Who can I talk to, to get more information on the new replacement qualification?

Please talk to your Business Development Manager, if you are unsure who this is please contact our Customer Support Team on 01332 341822 or enquiries@aimawards.org.uk and we will inform you who your Business Development Manager is.

Please note due to the assessments, opportunities for RPL/exemptions between the expiring and new qualifications are not permitted.