PIABC LEVEL 5 AWARD FOR A PACKAGING RELATED RESEARCH PROJECT

Qualification Number: 603/7508/5

Qualification Specification

Created: 09 July 2021

PURPOSE

The PIABC Level 5 Award for a Packaging Related Research Project qualification has been designed to enable candidates to apply what they know and have learned about packaging to a concrete research project perhaps in their own company or work experience company. This involves specifying what is to be learned, carrying out research and tests and reporting on their findings.

The qualification provides a useful complementary qualification for those on HNC/D or degree programmes in packaging design, food science/technology, and materials science/engineering.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

The general objectives of the PIABC Level 5 Award for a Packaging Related Research Project are to:

1. Provide those employed, or who wish to be employed in the packaging and related industries with the skills, knowledge and understanding to underpin and enhance job experience.
2. Provide students with a portable qualification to enable job movement throughout the industry.
3. Provide employers throughout the packaging and related industries with a firm basis for judging suitability of students.
4. Raise the status of those employed in the packaging and related industries.

TARGET GROUP

This Level 5 qualification is appropriate for those wanting to enhance their employment and progression opportunities in the packaging and related industries.

There are thus two broad target groups:

1. People currently employed in parts of the industry who want to broaden their knowledge and understanding and take on greater levels of responsibility. Due to the diverse nature of the packaging and related industries, it is difficult to define this target group in terms of precise job functions. Typically, students are likely to be working at the practitioner or manager level in any of the following disciplines:

Discipline	**Type of company**
Technical	Packaging manufacturer Packer/filler Retail
Technical sales/marketing	Packaging manufacturer Packaging machinery manufacturer
Quality assurance	Packaging manufacturer Packer/filler
Purchasing	Packer/filler Retail
Engineering	Packer/filler Packaging machinery manufacturer
Design	Design Agency Packaging manufacturer Packer/filler Retail

2. People who are not currently employed in the packaging industry, which may be following courses in associate subject areas such as packaging design, food science/technology, and materials science/engineering, will find that this programme broadens the scope of their studies.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As a guide for entry onto programmes, learners will normally be expected to have a minimum attainment of:

- 1 GCE A level and 5 GCSEs at grade A – C, including one science subject, plus the key skills of numeracy, communication and information technology;
- PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Packaging.

Alternatively, learners should be able to clearly demonstrate, for example through experience in the packaging industry, which they are likely to succeed in the programme of study.

PROGRESSION

Learners who successfully complete this qualification can progress to the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology and gain exemption for the PIABC Diploma in Packaging Technology's Unit 4 Packaging Related Research Project.

STAFFING

It is expected that staff involved with the delivery of the course will be appropriately qualified and/or experienced in packaging. The PIABC approval process requires prospective centres to provide details of the staff involved in delivery and assessment including their qualifications and relevant training/employment experience, plus staff development arrangements.

Tutors can play a key role in all stages of the organisation and completion of the project providing support and advice to candidates. Colleagues in the workplace and beyond and fellow students are also invaluable sources of support.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

PIABC requires that each centre has a quality assurance and enhancement procedure in respect of the programme, and a means of monitoring its implementation.

There should be a team that is responsible for preparing an annual self-assessment of the programme and for monitoring the improvement measures resulting from this.

This self-assessment process should use evidence from different sources including:

- Candidate self-evaluation
- The views of external individuals and organisations, for example those companies sending students
- Staff working on the award

In addition, it is also expected that there will be an internal moderation procedure to ensure standardisation of unit delivery. This will include the following elements:

- Classroom observation
- Peer review of award materials
- Moderation of any internally assessed elements

There should be a named and appropriately qualified individual (Centre Co-ordinator) who has the necessary authority, with whom the awarding body can liaise directly on all matters of management, administration and quality assurance.

EXTERNAL MODERATION

PIABC will appoint external centre monitors to visit centres in order to ensure the maintenance of standards of quality. The role of the centre monitor includes:

- Liaison between the centre and PIABC to ensure standardisation in terms of the quality of award delivery
- Providing advice and support for the Centre in understanding and implementing the requirements of the units and the PIABC

Centre monitors will undertake at least one quality assurance activity per centre each year, which will be documented. Any actions or recommendations will be discussed with the Centre and any actions that the Centre needs to take will be agreed at that stage.

PROGRAMME ORGANISATION

To achieve the qualification, learners need to successfully gain the 10 credits.

It is expected that courses leading to the qualification will take a minimum of 10 guided learning hours, which is the average hours a learner may require guidance and support from teaching, learning and assessment professional to achieve the qualification. Learners may be expected to carry out additional reading and other work to complete each unit and prepare for the assignments. It is anticipated that the qualification will require a minimum of 100 hours of total qualification time for satisfactory completion for an average learner.

Centres must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for supporting students. This could be either through separate tutorial sessions or through the use of time within structured study sessions. Centres using on-line or other forms of open learning must ensure that appropriate tutorial support is provided for students.

In relevant circumstances, centres are recommended to provide information and guidance to their students on the availability and type of employment the programme may lead to and on the progression routes available for further education and training in packaging.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY, METHODS & ASSESSMENT

Those students employed in the packaging and related industries, will come to the course with varying levels of existing knowledge and/or practical experience of some parts of the syllabus.

Tutors can play a key role in all stages of the organisation and completion of the project providing support and advice to candidates. Colleagues in the workplace and beyond and fellow students are also invaluable sources of support.

QUALIFICATION LEVEL

This is a Level 5 qualification.

Students require the skills, knowledge and understanding to show competence in applying technical, aesthetic and commercial principles to a range of complex and varying tasks.

Students are required to analyse problems, determine root cause, and recommend and implement effective solutions, with a substantial degree of personal responsibility and accountability.

Students may have direct responsibility for others or may have responsibilities within a team.

Level 5 Descriptor

Summary
Achievement at level 5 reflects the ability to identify and use relevant understanding, methods and skills to address broadly defined, complex problems. It includes taking responsibility for planning and developing courses of action as well as exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters. It also reflects understanding of different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the reasoning behind them.

Knowledge and Understanding
- Use practical, theoretical or technological understanding to find ways forward in broadly defined, complex contexts
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant information, concepts and ideas.
- Be aware of the nature and scope of the area of study or work
- Understand different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the reasoning behind them

Application and action
- Address broadly defined, complex problems.
- Determine, adapt and use appropriate methods and skills
- Use relevant research or development to inform actions
- Evaluate actions, methods and results

Autonomy and accountability
- Take responsibility for planning and developing courses of action, including, where relevant, responsibility for the work of others
- Exercise autonomy and judgment within broad parameters

Source: Level descriptors for positioning units in the Qualifications and Credit Framework tests and trials. Version 2: 2006. QCA.

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

In designing the qualification, the principles of unit design where each unit has an informative title, a level, a credit value, learning outcomes and assessment criteria has been applied. The assessment process is based on those learning outcomes and assessment criteria. The learning and teaching strategy must be designed so that students have the opportunity to meet the learning outcomes in an effective manner by demonstrating that they can achieve the assessment criteria.

The PIABC Level 5 Award for a Packaging Related Research Project has one mandatory unit:

Ofqual Unit No.	Title	Level	Credit	Guided Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time
F/502/5922	Unit PCAL1 Packaging Related Research Project	5	10	10	100

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through the production of a research project on a topic chosen by the candidate. PIABC would advise candidates to get approval of a topic by their centre before writing the project.

Success in producing the project allows candidates to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes and met the assessment criteria.

Candidates should note that evidence of Learning Outcome 1 should appear in the appendices and be referred to in the introduction of the report.

A word count of 5,000 words is suggested for guidance only.

The project is graded unit with pass, merit, and distinction being available.

The project is marked using criterion referenced scheme of pass, merit, and distinction. A copy of the grading criteria is available from the PIABC team (piabc@iom3.org) or your centre co-ordinator.

The grading structure for this unit is not subject to change.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION

The full award is available at *Pass, Merit* or *Distinction* to learners who successfully complete the qualification.

The overall grading structure for the qualification is not subject to change.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

Countries offered in:	England
Subject/sector area:	4.2 Manufacturing Technologies
Qualification operational start date:	30 April 2021
Qualification review date:	30 December 2022
Applicable age ranges (years):	18+

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Learning outcome	This describes what a learner needs to know, understand or do as a result of the process of learning
Assessment criteria	These are the requirements learners are expected to meet to demonstrate that a learning outcome has been achieved.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact PIABC Limited directly at:
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