

A TASTE FOR ENTERPRISE



Just like businesses in the private sector, organisations in the voluntary and community sector are enterprises in their own right. They, too are small businesses – some of them not that small – but they work in the beyond profit, or not-for-profit sector.

As such they, and their staff, have to demonstrate the same entrepreneurial drive shown by the budding Richard Branson's of the private sector. In fact, because of the tough funding environment in which they are working organisations in the voluntary and community sector often have to be more enterprising and innovative than their private or public sector counterparts.

A Taste for Enterprise seeks to harness that spirit of enterprise and to offer those working in the sector – both paid and unpaid – the opportunity to have their creativity, flair, dynamism and ability to be entrepreneurial celebrated.

The programme offers a recognised qualification, accredited by the national awarding body NCFE, which rewards individuals' efforts and acknowledges their entrepreneurial flair whilst seeking to develop transferable skills and knowledge which can be taken back into the 'workplace' and be used to further develop their organisations.

Successful participants on the A Taste for Enterprise programme will gain the NCFE's Level 2 Award in Developing Enterprise Capabilities. The programme is ideal for candidates who want to understand what enterprise capabilities are through planning, implementing and evaluating project work in the context of enterprise.

Supported by EBC assessors, candidates are assessed in one mandatory area - understanding and exploring enterprise capabilities. The NCFE qualification offered through A Taste for Enterprise provides candidates with a broad overview of enterprise capabilities and the characteristics that are present in successful entrepreneurs.

Critically this unit also seeks to introduce candidates to the idea that enterprise capabilities are not only found in business environments (for profit organisations), but in social enterprise environments as well (not for profit organisations, charities etc) and also within the public sector.

After exploring enterprise capabilities candidates will work as a group to complete a project of about eight hours duration, which can be done through simulation.

The overall aims of A Taste for Enterprise is to see candidates:

- Identify and develop their own enterprise skills and capabilities through project management.
- Reflect on their experiences and identify areas for personal development.
- Use their acquired skills in future education, work and life in general.
- Develop an overview of enterprise capabilities and the capabilities and characteristics present in successful entrepreneurs.
- Develop communication skills, with a strong emphasis on the importance of developing an effective argument.
- Investigate the nature of enterprise capabilities in not-for-profit organisations

The qualification offered through EBC's A Taste for Enterprise is suitable for candidates of all ages and is designed to appeal to a wide audience of learners in the voluntary and community sector, including both paid workers and volunteers.

Portfolios of evidence of the work done in the community are built up by candidates who are supported by EBC's assessment team. Assessment can take place in your own 'work' place with the emphasis on real work activities.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Induction for all candidates.
- Development of all learning materials in line with NCFE requirements.
- On-going support for candidates in preparation for portfolio accreditation submission.
- Flexible delivery to meet individual candidate needs.
- Full programme organisation.
- Full post programme evaluation.

'BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A CREATIVE APPROACH TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS'