

VALUING VOLUNTEERING



Valuing Volunteering seeks to recognise the efforts of people involved in working in their communities as volunteers.

The value of the work carried out by these often unsung heroes is now recognised at local, regional and national level and the input these people have on helping to create vibrant, thriving communities is invaluable.

Valuing Volunteering offers the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification, accredited by the national awarding body NCFE, which recognises individuals' efforts as volunteers within a community or organisation. The programme offers participants the opportunity to gain a NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Volunteering. The NCFE is the UK's longest established awarding body which aims to equip individuals with the mix of skills, knowledge and understanding required to bring them closer to fulfilling their personal goals.

The qualification offered through Valuing Volunteering is an ideal one for those who are contemplating undertaking volunteering activities or who already have some experience. It is also suitable for anyone already working in a voluntary organisation who wish to formalise and further develop their existing experience and skills.

Supported by EBC assessors, candidates are assessed in two areas, both of which are mandatory. These are:

- Preparation and working as a volunteer
- Personal skills development and team work for volunteers

To secure this qualification candidates will have been able to demonstrate and evidence a range of criteria. This includes being able to:

- Investigate the structure of their chosen volunteer organisations.

- Research the services, products or activities provided by their chosen organisation.
- Research their role in supporting their 'adopted' organisation and the skills they need as a volunteer.
- Investigate their chosen organisation's support mechanisms and any constraints or restrictions they may, or will, encounter as a volunteer.
- Recognise, and be able to explain, the importance of teamwork within their 'adopted' organization and their roles as part of any team.

Voluntary work takes place in a wide range of settings and with a wide range of people and concerns. The qualification offered through EBC's Valuing volunteering programme is designed for people wanting to gain recognition for their voluntary activities in either whole communities or for a single organisation.

Candidates do not need to have any formal qualifications to complete the qualification, but they must be working as volunteer in their community.

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.