
BTEC Qualifications in STEM Leadership

STEM Leadership Skills qualifications

What is STEM Leadership Skills?

Edexcel has been working with the Centre for Science Education at Sheffield Hallam University to develop a series of STEM leadership units that sit within the WorkSkills suite and can be combined to create STEM Leadership Skills qualifications.

The STEM qualifications

The STEM suite consists of 10 units (five unit titles, each available at Level 1 and Level 2 and worth two credits) that can be combined with other optional units from across the WorkSkills framework to build the following qualifications:

- Edexcel BTEC L1 Certificate in STEM Leadership Skills
- Edexcel BTEC L2 Certificate in STEM Leadership Skills

Background to STEM

STEM Leadership Skills develops personal and leadership capabilities with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The aim is to:

- Increase motivation to learn STEM subjects
- Improve the chances of learners applying these skills in the workplace
- Raise the expectations and aspirations of learners
- Give added value to their work in STEM subjects

Support has been received from the STEM community, with ongoing interest and involvement from The Comino Foundation and the SSAT. The Royal Society of Chemistry has offered student sponsorship grants, and the Spacelink Foundation are furthering their interest in the design and publishing of resources to support learners. Other projects such as the Climate Futures project (The Comino Foundation) and the Personal Capability Programme are also providing funding to resource new materials to support the delivery of the qualification.

Other organisations such as the National and Regional Science Learning Centres, Hands on Science and STEMPOINTS are linking their work to the qualification and profiling STEM leadership skills within their programmes.

What is the benefit to centres?

This gives, for example, science departments the opportunity to gain the equivalent of 3 GCSEs if they already offer the GCSE awards in Science and Additional Science or BTEC First Certificate in Applied Science, and 5 GCSEs if they already offer BTEC First Diploma in Applied Science.

How do centres sign up for STEM?

Centres that already deliver WorkSkills will automatically be given qualification approval for the STEM qualifications. They are then free to make registrations in the normal way.

Centres that are new to WorkSkills will need to gain qualification approval in the normal way via Edexcel Online before they can make registrations. You can find out about how to offer the qualifications, how to become an approved centre and enquire about the availability of training, by email: workskills@edexcel.com

For further information about the support available for the STEM qualifications, visit the Personal Capabilities website at www.personalcapabilities.co.uk or contact Lynne Bianchi at Sheffield Hallam University by telephone on 0114 225 4870 or by email l.m.bianchi@shu.ac.uk

Further information is also available on the Edexcel website www.edexcel.com/workskills

What are the rules of combination?

For the Level 1 Certificate in STEM Leadership Skills:

CORE UNITS (learners must achieve all units)	
Unit title	Credit value
Developing Personal Skills for Leadership	2
Learning with Colleagues and other Learners	2
Practising Leadership Skills with Others	2
Communicating Solutions to Others	2
Learning from more Experienced People	2

OPTIONAL UNITS (learners must choose a combination of units to the value of 3 credits)	
Unit title	Credit value
Working in a Team	3
Self Assessment	2
Planning an Enterprise Activity	1
Running an Enterprise Activity	1
Producing a Product	1

For the Level 2 Certificate in STEM Leadership Skills:

CORE UNITS (learners must achieve all units)	
Unit title	Credit value
Developing Personal Skills for Leadership	2
Learning with Colleagues and other Learners	2
Practising Leadership Skills with Others	2
Communicating Solutions to Others	2
Learning from More Experienced People	2

OPTIONAL UNITS (learners must choose a combination of units to the value of 3 credits)	
Unit title	Credit value
Working in a Team	3
Self Assessment	2
Planning an Enterprise Activity	1
Running an Enterprise Activity	1
Producing a Product	1