

Fundamental Principles, Operational Principles and Code of Practice

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award China

Version: 1.0

Introduction

The Award concept is one of individual challenge. It presents to young people a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which encourages personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility to themselves and service to their community.

The unique flexibility of the Award makes it ideally suited to easy adaptation and integration into different cultures and societies. The basic principles of the Award remain the same but the activities and delivery continue to evolve and adapt to suit the changing demands of modern society and the varying needs of young people. The Award is now an international programme recognised and used by organisations working with young people throughout the world.

1. Fundamental principles

- The criterion for gaining an Award is individual improvement through persistence and achievement, taking into account the participant's initial capabilities and without any element of competition between participants.
- Participation is entirely voluntary and the individual participant has a completely free choice in the selection of locally available options within the four Sections.
- There is no discrimination against participation on grounds of sex, race, religion or political affiliation.

2. Operational Principles

- Participants must be between the ages of 13 and 24.

- The basic structure of the Award Programme consists of the four mandatory Sections: Service (to learn how to give useful service to others), Adventurous Journey (to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery whilst undertaking a journey in a group), Skills (to encourage the development of personal interests, creativity or practical skills) and Physical Recreation (to encourage participation in physical recreation and improvement of performance).
- The three levels of Award are: Bronze (for those over the age of 13), Silver (for those over the age of 15) and Gold (for those over the age of 16).
- The minimum period of participation for direct entrants to qualify for an Award is six months for a Bronze, 12 months for Silver and 18 months for Gold.
- At Gold level participants undertake a Residential Project (to broaden experience through involvement with others in a residential setting) away from home.

3. Code of Practice

- To maintain comparable standards of operating practice as advised by The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award China NAO.
- To manage the Award fairly and impartially in all respects.
- To ensure that the Award is open to all, subject to the age parameters.
- To allow participants to transfer from previous associated Award deliverer to the current one in order to continue their Award and recognize the validity of their achievements entered in ORB.
- To manage the Award under the Operational Guidelines.