

CFI Level 2 Integrative Education qualifications

# Student Guide

Award, Certificate, Diploma and Extended Diploma

# Welcome

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Welcome to your student guide for the Level 2 Integrative Education (IE) qualifications.

We hope you get a lot out of studying for these qualifications, and that you really enjoy your learning.

Throughout your time on this course, you'll be completing projects and making a portfolio of work. It will show off your strengths, develop your skills and knowledge, and improve those areas of learning in which you feel less confident.

The reason we have called it 'Integrative Education' is because we believe you should be able to see your learning reflected in the world around you.

This way of learning goes beyond the individual subjects you might be used to seeing on your timetable, like Maths, English, History, etc., because the world isn't neatly divided into these subjects. 'Integrative' means bringing things together to create one system.

We hope that by bringing together your learning, it will create an education for you that is relevant, exciting, meaningful and useful.

Your teachers will guide you through all the different parts of the qualification, in a way that best suits both your individual learning, and the way in which your school, group or organisation works.

Below you'll find an outline of the modules that you'll be looking at, as well as some FAQs. Finally, we've put a section on where to get extra help and support, should you need it.

# Integrative Education Explained

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Integrative Education means teaching outside the normal subject boundaries, ensuring the learning of the student is integrated across subjects to create a more rounded, whole learning experience.

The definition of 'integrative' is: "combining two or more things to form an effective unit or system."

When we apply that to education and learning, it becomes a multi-faceted term that encompasses many elements of the learning process, the students and the teachers.

For CFI, integrative education:

1. Engages the whole person – both teacher and student. They use and develop their mental, physical and emotional skills.
2. Connects the learner and their learning to their daily life. Their own experiences become valuable in their learning; their learning is useful in their own lives, within their particular context. The student's educational experience remains relevant for them, and continues to do so as they leave the educational setting and move out into the world.
3. Connects or combines both different subjects and the skills those subjects seek to develop.

The best-known version of integrative education (IE) is where the student learns in a way that combines or crosses over the boundaries between traditionally-divided subject areas.

Students partake in learning that requires a combination of skills and may include several subject areas. For example, a project making musical instruments that might combine musical, mathematic, physics, and handwork skills.

Arguably, integrative education:

- Better prepares students for a swiftly-changing world, one that isn't divided into subjects.
- Allows students to come up with better ideas and solutions, when looking at a project or problem as a whole, rather than by dividing their thinking.
- Encourages students to apply their skillsets in a fluid and dynamic way, rather than trying to approach something with a fixed mindset.

# Integrative Education at Level 2

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There are seven Integrative Education qualifications in total:

## Level 2 (14-16 years)

- IE Award
- IE Certificate
- IE Diploma
- IE Extended Diploma

## Level 3 (16-18 years)

- IE Certificate
- IE Diploma
- IE Extended Diploma

The qualifications are assessed using a portfolio of your best work..

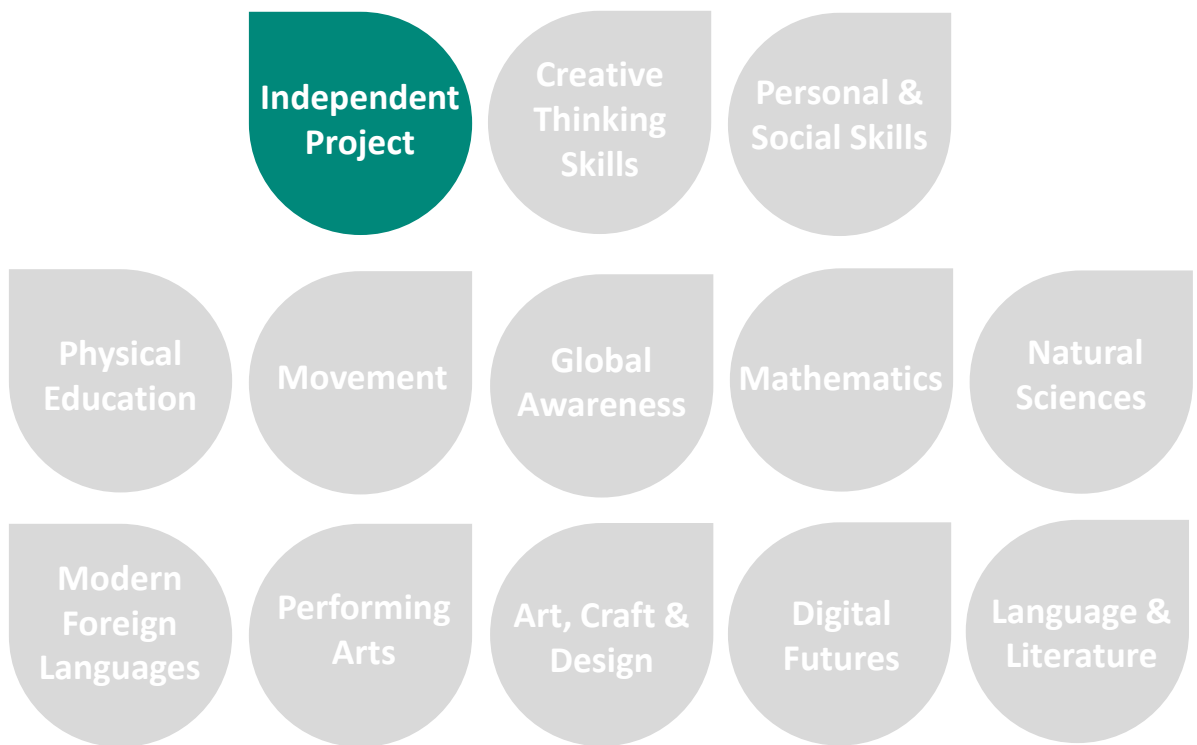
They can be taken as a standalone qualification, or in conjunction with other qualifications. For example, you can do GCSEs alongside the IE qualifications.

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# CFI Level 2 IE Award

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any one module, e.g.

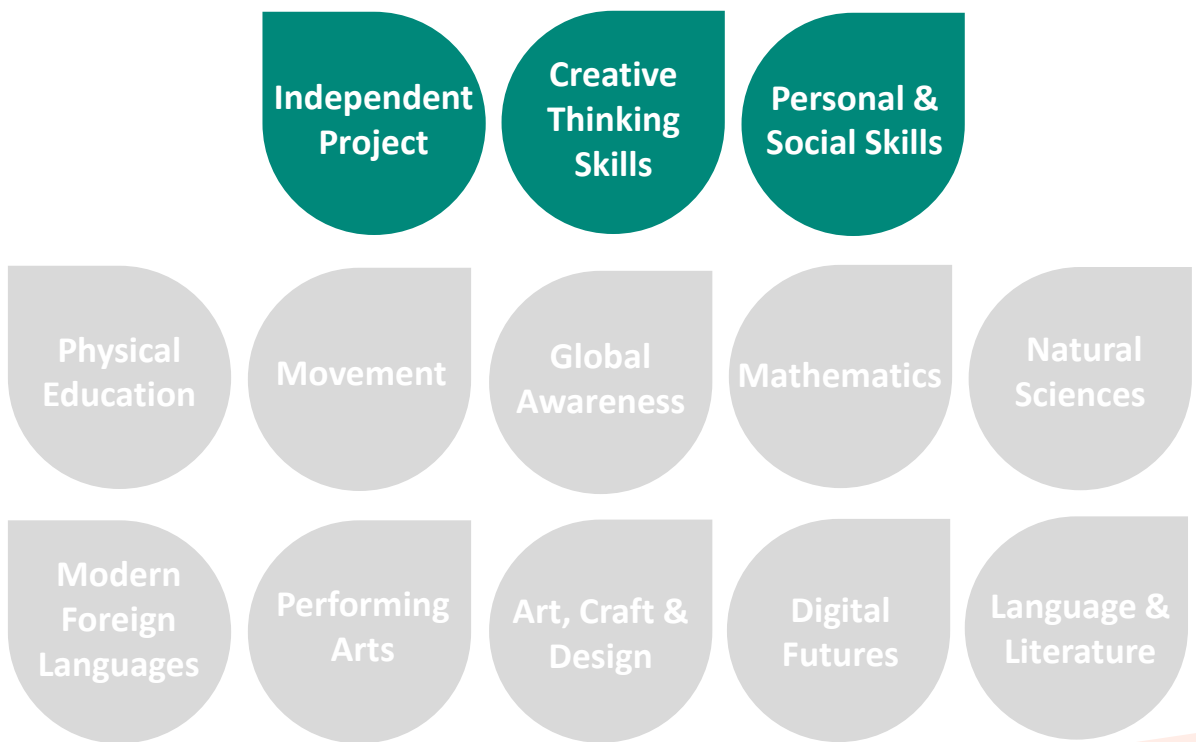


The Award is a recognised Level 2 qualification

# CFI Level 2 IE Certificate

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any three modules, e.g.

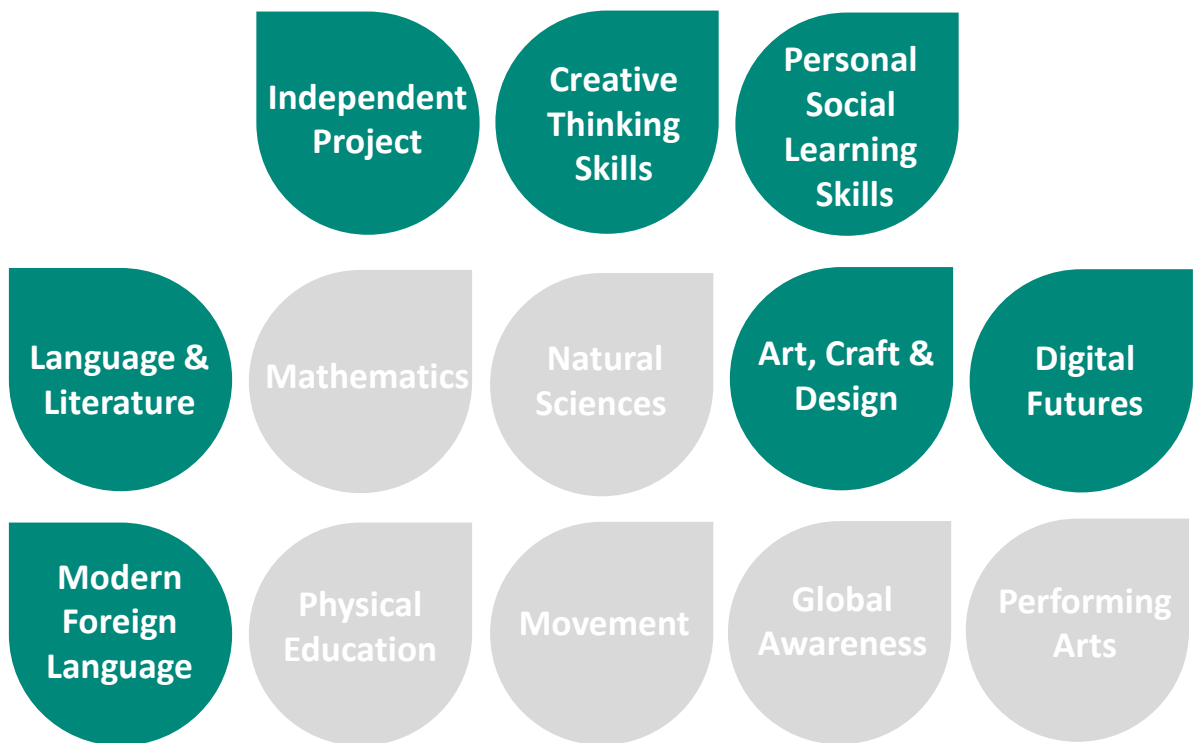


progression to further study at Level 3 in  
academic & vocational areas; independent study

# CFI Level 2 IE Diploma

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between four and seven modules, e.g.



progression to further study at Level 3 in academic & vocational areas; independent study

# CFI Level 2 IE Extended Diploma

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eight or more modules, e.g.



progression to further study at Level 3 in  
academic & vocational areas; independent study

# The Independent Project

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The Independent Project is a chance for you to delve into something that really interests you.

You will:

- Choose and complete a project on an area that interests you.
- Plan your own project (with support where you need it).
- Have the freedom to direct your own learning.

You will have a mentor to help you throughout your project.

Your final project can be written up, presented, performed or displayed.

It will include the following parts, which your teacher will go through with you:

- A plan and a title for your project.
- Your student journal, which shows reflection and your journey through the project.
- Research that you have done on your project
- Regular (at least ten) updates throughout your project.
- A final presentation about your project.
- One outcome, which can be:

One piece or pieces of writing (including a story)

OR a presentation (including your notes)

OR a performance

OR a piece you have made (showing you have worked on it)

# Project Ideas

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Here are some project ideas. You can choose from this list, or choose your own:

- 🌐 Training a puppy
- 🌐 Refurbishing a Singer sewing machine, researching Victorian-era corsets and making a corset
- 🌐 Planning and putting on a gymnastics show
- 🌐 Learning Python and creating an AI program based on the writings of a technology philosopher
- 🌐 Researching and developing card tricks, culminating in organising a performance
- 🌐 Carpentry - Designing and building a desk
- 🌐 Exoplanets - researching 72 planets with the potential to sustain life
- 🌐 Designing and selling t-shirts using screen printing
- 🌐 Exploring and researching photography, creating a journal and developing negatives

All the materials you need to frame and structure the project will be given to you by your tutors.

More ideas for projects and past examples are also available.

# Module Two: Creative Thinking Skills

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Creative Thinking Skills (Module 2) is different to the subjects you might be used to (like Maths, Art etc.) But it runs through everything you do at school, and developing these skills will help you in many areas of life. Creative Thinking Skills may be something that your teachers weave into other lessons or observe you doing as you work on your daily tasks. Or it may be a series of specific lessons or a project. You will cover:

**Connection:** The world is not neatly divided into subject areas. Often, many areas and aspects of life overlap and interweave. It is therefore useful to be able to see the connections between things.

**You'll develop your ability to connect activities, knowledge and influences.**

**Perspective:** Perspective means many different things. In this context, it means that there are many different viewpoints, or perspectives, in the world. Arguably, lots of the world's problems come from humans not being able to see things in a different way. This narrows the way they interact with the world around them.

**You'll develop your ability to explore, challenge and take on different perspectives.**

**Communication:** Communication comes in many forms; it can be written, spoken, or non-verbal. Developing your communication skills is a way to ensure you feel understood by those around you, and you can understand others as well.

**You'll develop your ability to communicate effectively in many situations.**

**Reflection:** An important part of developing as a person is looking back on the things you used to believe, and realising how those beliefs have changed. It's also about being honest with yourself, looking at where you made a decision that didn't have the outcomes you wanted. It's realising you don't need to feel bad about those decisions, but that you can act differently in the future.

**You'll develop your ability to learn from your past.**

# Module Three: Personal and Social Learning Skills

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Personal and Social Learning (PSL) Skills are important to help you through the challenges we all face from time to time.

This module will help you to:

- Nurture healthy relationships.
- Learn how to be happy and healthy.
- Navigate successfully through life's challenges.

Your teacher will gather evidence of your personal and social skills development through a variety of observations in your daily learning environment. This could include:

- Classwork and activities in other subjects.
- One-to-one tutorials, meetings or chats.
- Observations of written reflections, or personal development in your written and creative work.
- PSHE, Social Education or Learning for Life lessons.

# Module Four: Language and Literature

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By doing this module, you'll develop some key communication skills. Through studying a wide range of literature (including poems, novels, and non-fiction), you'll get a chance to broaden your horizons, develop your empathy and find new ways to meaningfully connect with others.

You'll be able to:

- Develop your vocabulary and how you use language, to express yourself and communicate effectively with others.
- Develop skills for listening, speaking, reading and writing for lots of different purposes.
- Hone your creative writing skills and analyse how other writers practise their craft.
- Read works from different times and places.
- Nurture a life-long interest in reading and in language itself.

During this course, your teacher will choose the content of what you study, to help you achieve all the things listed above. They will also ensure that your language and literature experiences are integrated with other modules, in ways that work best for you and your peers.

You'll be reading at least six texts, including:

- Novels
- Non-fiction (e.g. diaries, essays, articles)
- Poetry
- Drama (plays)

# Module Five: Mathematics

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By studying Mathematics, you will be learning about the workings of the world. Maths underpins so much of our daily lives, often in ways we don't even recognise. You'll be able to:

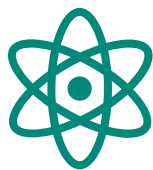
- Develop your knowledge of mathematical concepts and practices.
- Improve and extend your problem-solving skills.
- Work as part of a group or individually, to solve problems and make measurements, deductions and conclusions.

Your teacher will decide how best to integrate your maths experience with other areas of your learning, and they'll decide the content of your learning. This will include:

- A firm grasp of basic numeracy (including number relationships, place value, negative numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages.)
- Consolidating your knowledge of arithmetic, such as indices and roots.
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Statistics, probabilities and how to analyse them
- Trigonometry

# Module Six: Natural Sciences

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Natural Sciences is about understanding the environment around and within you, in the widest sense; looking more closely at yourself, nature, the world and the universe. As part of this module, you will:

- Develop your skills of observation – how to really see what is around you, make sense of it within known scientific concepts, and articulate your opinions, discoveries and ideas to others.
- Understand the history of natural sciences, how it developed, and what is happening with it today.
- Nurture your curiosity about the world around you, learning how to put that curiosity to practical use to develop your understanding.
- Study and apply both scientific method and philosophical thought.
- Work both individually and cooperatively with your fellow budding scientists.

Your teacher will decide on the content that you'll study and how best to integrate that with the other modules in the diploma. This may include:

## Biology

- Human, animal and plant physiology
- Photosynthesis and osmosis
- Ecology
- Medicine: disease, health and treatments in humans
- Microbiology
- Evolution and genetics

## Chemistry

- Organic and inorganic chemistry
- Crystallisation
- Elements, compounds and mixtures
- Atoms, molecules, ionic and covalent bonding

## Physics

- Thermodynamics
- Combustion
- Astronomy
- Radiation
- Electromagnetism

# Module Seven: Art, Craft and Design

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This module is about nurturing your creativity, learning about the creativity of others, and understanding the power of creative expression to change the world. In this module, you will:

- Learn to work with different materials.
- Use a variety of techniques.
- Learn to design and create to a brief, including time-management, following instructions, communicating effectively and fulfilling requirements.
- Recognise the context and culture of various art, craft and design movements, renowned works, and individual practitioners.

Learning to work with materials means ensuring you can work with them both safely and effectively.

The areas you study may include:

## Visual Arts

- Drawing, painting, printmaking
- Mixed media and installations
- Photography
- Filmmaking

## Design

- Graphic design
- Typography and calligraphy
- Digital design
- 3D design

## Craft

- Pottery
- Woodwork
- Ironwork
- Textiles

# Module Eight: Digital Futures

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This module will prepare you for engagement with the digital and virtual worlds that are an integral part of daily life for many. Developing your knowledge of the history of this technology, and how to navigate it both effectively and safely, are necessary skills in most of today's societies. This module will enable you to:

- Understand key parts of the historical development of information and communication technology.
- Develop skills in working with computer technology.
- Engage with computers and information technology, employing good and safe online practices.

Some of your learning may include:

- Coding and programming.
- Online safety.
- Examining computer hardware and software.
- The history of computing and IT.
- The impact of computing and IT on society and the environment.

# Module Nine: Modern Foreign Language

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In this module, you'll learn how to communicate in another language, to the point where you are confident and capable in everyday situations.

By completing this module, in the language you study you'll be able to:

- Understand more about the culture, literature and history.
- Practise the core skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- Express yourself using basic conversational skills.
- Gain cultural awareness and confidence in engaging with new people.

Some of your learning may include:

- Looking into the forms and structures you'll need to perform a certain task in another language.
- Studying a particular area of vocabulary or grammar
- Researching an area of culture related to a particular language or country, which might include:
  - Literature
  - Media
  - Music
  - Sport
  - Festivals
- Comparing more than one language

# Module Ten: Physical Education

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Physical Education helps you to improve your health and wellbeing, physically, mentally and socially.

This module will enable you to increase your physical education skills as an individual and within a group.

You may also learn more about fitness and the human body. You'll be able to:

- Get to know how to look after your body and participate in fun, active exercises.
- Be confident in participating, and developing skills in different group games, sports and team activities, including tactical thinking.
- Develop empathy and respect for the diversity of other people's experience and physical capacities.

Some of the things you might look at include:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Acquisition of skills (across a range of sports)
- Biomechanical movement
- Individual and collective psychology in the social aspects of sport
- Sports ethics
- Physical capacities, diversity and adaptation (including technology)

# Module Eleven: Movement

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Movement encompasses a huge range of possible activities and disciplines. You may focus on a martial art, a dance, something more culturally specific such as kabuki, Parkour, Capoeira.

This module aims to develop your grounding and confidence in your own posture and movement. You'll be exploring how to work with others through movement in the form of exercises and/or performances.

By partaking in this module, you'll be able to:

- Identify, understand and experience your posture, gesture and expression within your physical environment.
- Have the confidence to participate in choreographed collective movement.
- Develop empathy and respect for other people's physical presence and the qualities of space in the wider environment.

# Module Twelve: Global Awareness

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The Global Awareness module is one that responds to the changing and challenging world we are now living in. Global Awareness gives you an essential perspective on the world and enables you to grow into a responsible global citizen.

By doing this module, you'll be able to:

- Recognise, understand and experience your place in your local environment, history and culture.
- Make connections between your environment, history and culture, and the rest of the world.
- Participate in different aspects of the local or global environment and communities with understanding and respect.

This module is a truly integrative one, because you'll use skills from a variety of subjects to complete the module. Learning about Global Awareness means you'll be learning to be more confident about the following aspects:

- Key facts, concepts, models and theories across the humanities.
- How to analyse and interpret sources (e.g. primary sources) and develop your research skills.
- Forming judgements based on evidence and structured reasoning.
- How to put data in context, and how to interpret it, including creating and interpreting graphs.
- An increased awareness of different points of view / perspective.
- Humanities-based research, empathy, and seeing the world through someone else's eyes.

# Module Thirteen: Performing Arts

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Performing Arts lets you explore your creativity and expression through the medium of music, drama and/or dance.

This module will enable you to:

- Explore the history, theory and practice of performing arts.
- Experience performance and increase your cultural capital.
- Research, plan, devise, rehearse and present your own performance piece(s).
- Have the confidence to participate in performing art pieces.
- Develop empathy and connection with fellow performers and the audience.

# FAQs

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## What is integrative education?

'Integrative' means, "combining two or more things to form an effective unit or system." In education, that means combining skills from different subjects.

The idea is that you will learn in a way that combines skills from traditionally-divided subject areas.

So for example, you might complete a project making musical instruments that will develop your music, maths, physics, and handwork skills.

Integrative Education:

1. Engages the whole person, their mental, physical and emotional skills.
2. Connects the learner and their learning to their daily life. This means your educational experience feels relevant to your life.

3. Connects different subjects.

Your education will be more engaging and more meaningful when you see connections between different areas of study.

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## Will I be able to do GCSEs/other qualifications alongside this qualification?

The IE qualifications can be taught alongside GCSEs and other qualifications. As you are doing the Award or Certificate, you may be able to study several other GCSEs alongside. Talk to your teacher or facilitator about what is best for you and what they can offer.

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## Will I be able to go on to college with this qualification?

## Will I be able to go on to A-Levels, or another qualification, with this qualification?

The Certificate, Award and Diploma are all qualifications that have been recognised by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual).

## FAQs continued

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Ofqual regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England, so you are doing a qualification that has been approved and recognised.

However, as colleges and other Further Education (FE) organisations haven't always heard about IE, you may need to talk to them when you apply, to explain a little bit about what you've done.

We have created a letter for you to give to colleges, explaining the qualification and the kinds of things you've learned by completing it. Your teacher or facilitator can contact us to get a copy of this letter.

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### **Will I be able to go to university with this qualification?**

The IE qualifications are recognised by Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation). So, by doing these qualifications you are completing a course that is nationally recognised. At Level 3, the IE qualifications give you UCAS points towards going to university. After Level 2, you will need to complete a Level 3 qualification in order to apply for university, whether that is the IE at Level 3, A-levels, or another type of qualification.

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### **Will I have to take any exams?**

By doing the IE qualifications, you will be able to work in a way that best suits your abilities, whilst developing your skills in the areas you find challenging. This may mean that your teachers think you should do some exams – they are one valid way to assess learning in conjunction with other methods of assessment. However, your qualification will not be based solely on exams. You may not do any, or only a few.

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### **My question isn't here.**

Ask your teacher to contact us with your question and we'll get back to them.

# Help and Information

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## Plagiarism

Plagiarism means claiming work to be your own which has been copied from someone or somewhere else.

All the work you submit must be your own and not copied, or purchased, or taken, from anyone else. Of course, you can clearly reference the source of your information in your research.

Your teacher will explain how to provide a reference list that shows where you found your information.

If your school/centre find that your work is copied from elsewhere, it won't be accepted, and you may not pass your course.

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## Using AI

We agree with what the *Joint Council of Qualifications* advises on AI:

“While AI may become an established tool at the workplace in the future, for the purposes of demonstrating knowledge, understanding and skills for qualifications, it's important for learners' progression that they do not rely on tools such as AI ... AI tools must only be used when the conditions of the assessment permit the use of the internet and where the learner is able to demonstrate that the final submission is the product of their own independent work and independent thinking.”

Which basically means: don't use AI when you are supposed to be demonstrating your own learning, but you may use it as part of specific projects.

AI has been used successfully as part of projects done by students on this qualification, so if it's used correctly, it can be a great resource.

It's always best to check with your teacher if you're unsure.

# Help and Information continued

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## I need extra help

We hope you really enjoy doing your Integrative Education qualification.

Everyone wants you to succeed, so you will get lots of help to finish your studies.

Please ask for extra help when you need it. The qualification is set up so that you can complete your learning in lots of different ways. It is flexible to suit your needs and your ways of learning.

Your teachers, facilitators, mentors, support workers, carers and/or parents should all be able to help you with extra support. They can also contact us, the team at CFI, to provide extra support or guidance where needed.

We hope you can explore your interests and challenge yourself in new ways.

And we hope you have fun on your journey!

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## Integrative Education experiences

### Students

*“How I want to learn or how I feel like I can best learn is always considered first.”*

*“I really, really enjoyed [the Independent Project]. I learned a lot of new skills. And I was really proud of it. I felt a real sense of achievement after doing it.”*

*“We could just choose anything we were interested in, and I think if we're interested in something, it's much easier to do it and enjoy it.”*

*“I love [the IE Diploma] so much. It's so free. And I really feel like I can express myself through my work.”*

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### Teachers

*“The real potential with Integrative Education is to create young people who, without doing it consciously, look at the world from multiple directions, and see things from more than one angle.”*

Integrative Education practitioner

*“(IE) offers practitioners and students greater flexibility with their assessment methods, prioritising individual learning styles.”*

Conclusion of IE Research Project 2022-23

*“The principles behind this education (and) these qualifications...are really quite profound”*

Integrative Education practitioner



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