
BOCSI Education and Training Programmes

The underlying principle of the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland is to provide the best quality of life for people with an intellectual disability in an atmosphere that is holistic, person-centred, and respects the rights and dignity of every human being.

Education and Training are an integral part of this service which aims to empower and enable all people with a disability to achieve their maximum independence and to live a fulfilling life. The service recognises that training programmes should be equally accessible where the focus is on individual needs, support and assistance rather than eligibility criteria or definitions of disability. The courses designed and delivered should be flexible both in terms of course content and duration to cater for the wide range of individual needs and abilities. In addition, structured training programmes encourage people to aspire and work towards higher goals and options.

The Education and Training offered to individuals within the BOCSI is Rehabilitative/Vocational Training, which aim to:

- Provide Learner/trainees with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, attitude and experience necessary to progress into employment, further training or education, self-employment or other work opportunities.
- Provide a basis from which to enhance their personal effectiveness and their ability to appraise realistically their potential and prospects.
- Provide the opportunity to develop their self-advocacy skills and so become progressively more responsible for negotiating their own development within their community.
- To make a successful transition from dependence to greater independence, autonomy and occupational integration.

Programmes at this level are Learner/trainee centred, integrated and progressive, involving skill sampling and work orientation where possible. Assessment is continuous in relation to the achievement or individual goals and related where appropriate to pre-determined standards.

The training programmes aim to facilitate people with intellectual disabilities and autism to acquire the skills necessary to live an individual and independent life and to access training that is accredited and person-centred through formal and informal learning opportunities.

As outlined in the HSE *Interim Standards for New Directions, Services and Supports for Adults with Disabilities*, the following choices of personal supports are made available to all Learner/Trainees who engage with the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland Education and Training.

Programme Objectives

On programme completion the Learner/Trainee may achieve any of the following:

- QQI Validated awards; both minor and major award options.
 - Achievement of individual goals as determined during training/education
 - Further Training/Education e.g. SOLAS funded options
 - Work Experience, Work Placement, Employment (Supported/Open), Employability Services
 - Individualised/Person-Centred Programmes
 - Health Gain or Social Gains
 - HSE Funded Day Programmes
 - Access third level initiatives e.g. Inclusive Partnership Programme, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
 - Progression to other FET programmes
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On programme completion the Learner/Trainee may be able to:

- Demonstrate an enhanced independence in the home, having gained practical experience in basic cooking, cleaning, laundry and other everyday Household Skills.
- Independently shop for food, clothes and personal items.
- Access and use local community facilities and services.
- Travel independently using different means of transport, e.g., Bus, Train, Taxi etc.
- Communicate effectively i.e. be able to express thoughts and ideas, relate to people around them, initiate and finish conversations, converse in social settings and relate appropriately to daily events.
- Demonstrate the ability, with or without an advocate, to make decisions and informed choices.
- Develop and participate in new hobbies, sports and leisure facilities, local social and cultural events and local community activities.
- Demonstrate a range of specific work skills, depending on the technical training areas sampled.
- Identify what makes a good worker and know what kind of work he/she would like to do.
- Put into practice the knowledge and skills learned on the Training Programme and achieve appropriate QQI awards and relevant theories.
- Make an informed choice in future training or work career.
- Advocate on behalf of a group or for oneself.
- Appropriately integrate into own community.
- Develop their role as an active citizen and understand their fundamental right to participate in a meaningful and form of community inclusion that is both person-centred and respectful of their needs.

QQI Certificate Programmes & Requirements

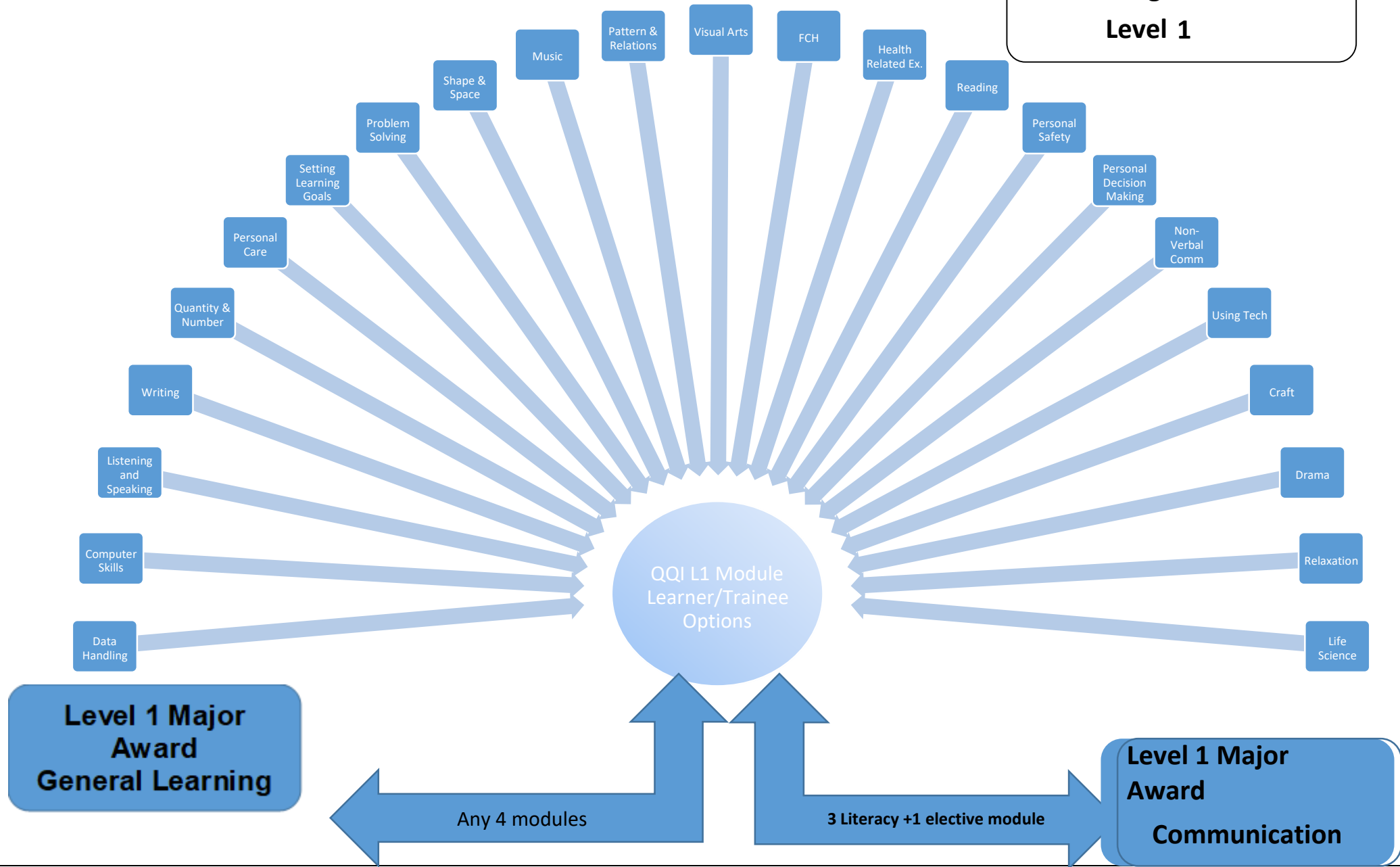
BOCSI Education and Training Programmes offer several modules from Levels 1-4 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The modules a learner/trainee studies are determined by them, their interests, and their abilities.

For each module a learner/trainee successfully completes, they will receive a Minor Award at that level from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

When a learner/trainee completes all module requirements for a certificate programme, they will receive a Major Award at that level in General Learning from QQI.

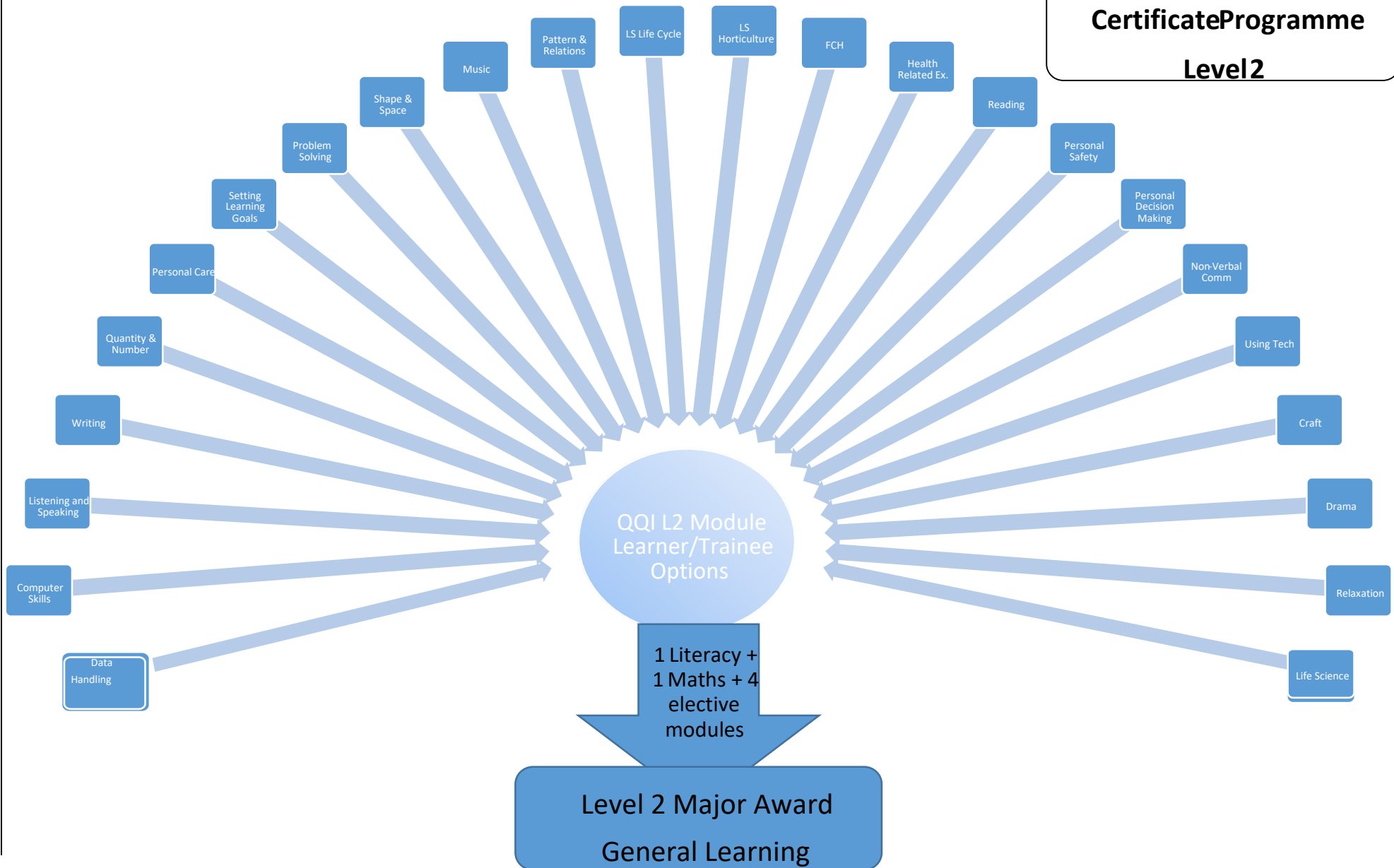
Details on certificate and programme requirements are outlined in the diagrams on the following pages.

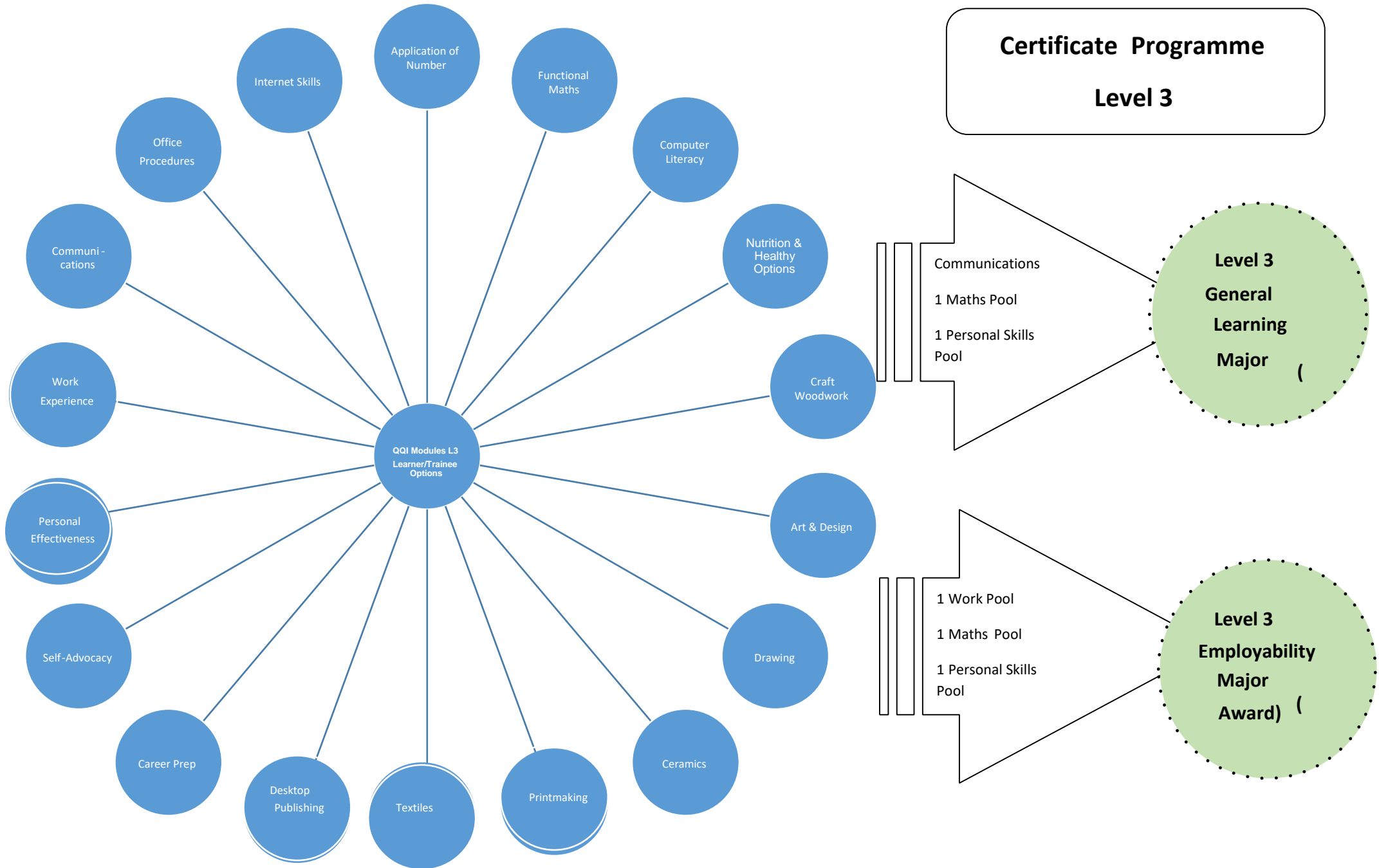
**Certificate Programme
Level 1**

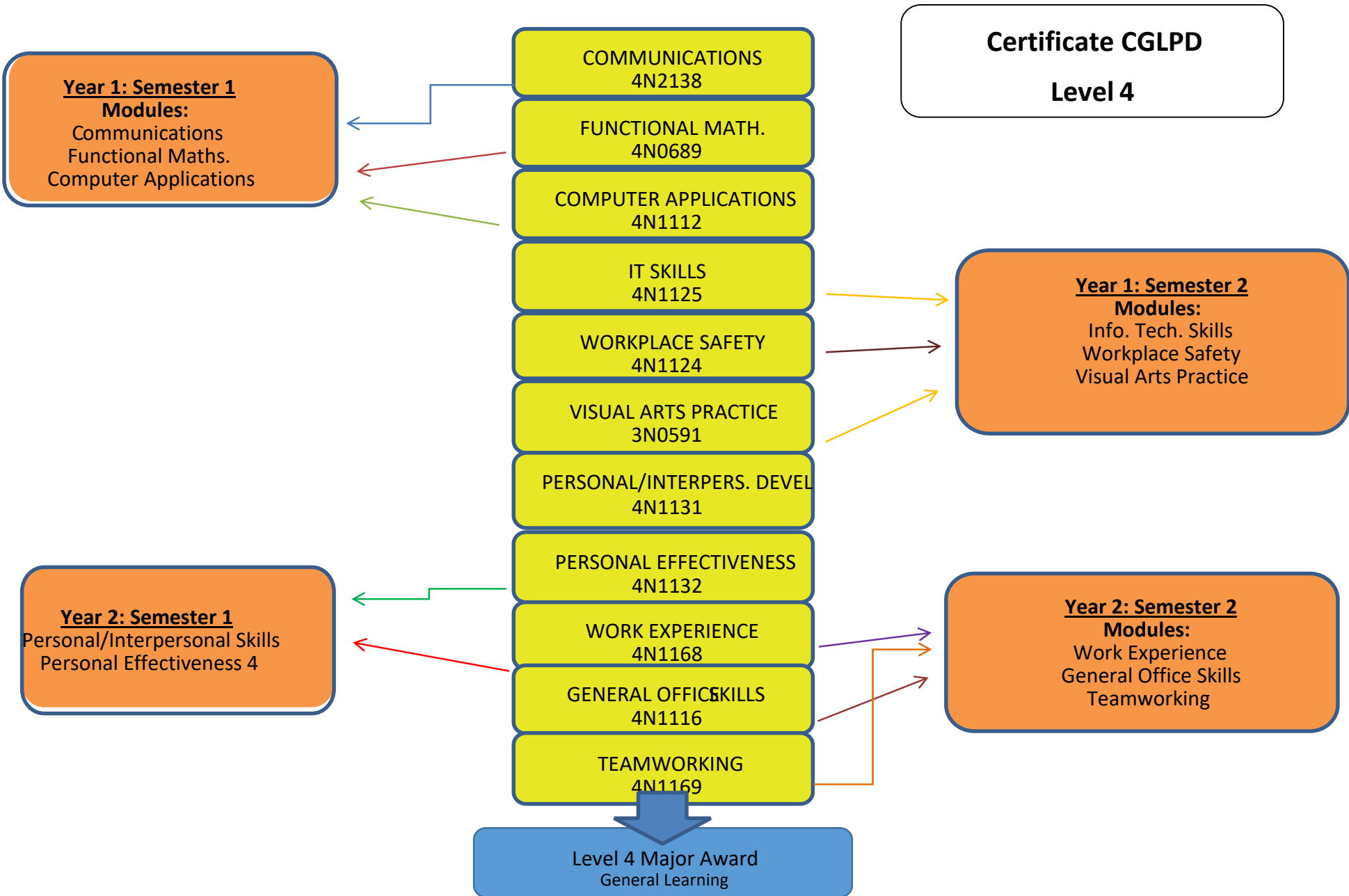


Certificate Programme

Level 2







Training Approach

All participants on the programme have equal opportunity to access all modules available.

- The principle of empowerment and choice of the individual underpins all aspects of training and development.
- Central to this is the person-centred approach to training adopted by staff.
- Individual Training Plans are developed in conjunction with each Learner/Trainee/trainee and stakeholders and reviewed continuously throughout the Training Programme; we recognise that training needs may change over time.
- Recognising that each participant may move through the programme at a different pace and achieve to different levels, the training approach has to be truly individualised to facilitate a wide range of abilities.
- Facilities and supports are provided which allow access to all people with a disability.
- The Programme has an advocacy committee, which is a forum for participants in the programme to raise issues or concerns and bring them forward to a platform where they can be listened to and responded to.
- A pro-active approach is adopted with parents, guardian, advocates, allied health care, and other stakeholders in order to promote the training objectives and re-enforce learning.

This contact is only made with the consent and knowledge of the participants.

- As the participant progresses the learning process is delivered to the individual through a combination of QQI components and informal learning experiences in a community/inclusive setting and when necessary direct to the home.
 - The person with a disability entering the training environment is always viewed in terms of their ability, strengths and interest rather than their disability and the respect and dignity of each person is respected in all aspects of the training delivery.
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