

## **Purpose Statement**

### **SEG Awards Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills – 600/1050/2**



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## Overview

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The suite of Skills and Education Group Awards Counselling qualifications have been in operation for over 20 years and were developed in response to the need to provide a structure for the approval of counsellor training programmes.

The Level 2 suite offers an excellent range of qualifications which provide you with an introduction, for those who have had no previous experience of, or training in the field of counselling. The Level 2 Award and Certificate in Counselling Skills enables you the opportunity to develop a range of introductory counselling skills, techniques, and theoretical knowledge. All of which are developed through the following themes: communication, reflection, theories and diversity. These qualification provide a useful progression route into further study and it is not a license to practice.

The SEG Awards Level 3 Counselling qualifications (Certificate and Diploma) are designed for those seeking progression to become a qualified professional counsellor or for individuals who wish to acquire counselling skills for use in other work areas, e.g. nurses, social workers, teachers. Themes that are covered include counselling theories, ethics and diversity, and personal awareness. The purpose of this qualification is to provide you with a useful vocational progression route into further study and is not a license to practice.

The SEG Awards Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling supports learners to develop and demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding of Counselling, towards achieving professional status as a counselling practitioner. It is also suitable for learners in work roles where counselling skills are needed for example: nursing, teaching, social work, voluntary sector, the police and armed forces.

## Benefits for learners

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Undertaking these Level 2 qualifications allow learners to:

- Enhance and improve your verbal and written communication skills
- Develop a basic understanding of the counselling concepts
- Develop an understanding of the importance of continuously developing self-awareness. Which is particularly important for learners who may wish to progress to further study and qualifications leading towards becoming a counsellor
- Demonstrate core counselling skills in a helping relationship
- Develop knowledge and understanding of counselling theories
- Demonstrate ways to address difference and diversity in counselling skills practice
- Achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification that is vocationally focused
- Prepare for progression onto appropriate, higher level qualifications

## Who is the qualification for?

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The SEG Awards Level 2 Award in Counselling is a qualification designed to prepare individuals (16+) for further learning and training through the development of knowledge and skills in counselling.

This qualification is suitable for you if you have no previous experience of using counselling skills. Its versatility appeals to a wide range of potential learners and the target market includes those:

- Returning to study
- Seeking a career change
- Undertaking voluntary work
- Enhancing career prospects through extra qualifications
- Thinking of training as a professional counsellor
- Seeking development of enhanced social skills

The qualification allows you to make a more informed choice as to whether or not to embark on a demanding vocational training towards a possible career in counselling or an allied career, e.g. welfare advice work, where counselling skills would be useful. It is also intended for those who wish to improve their listening and communication skills.

Although there are no formal entry requirements, you should be aware, either by interview or other suitable methods, that the course involves experiential learning and self-awareness exercises, which will be demanding of the self in interaction with others.

This 8 credit qualification has two mandatory 4-credit units. All are vocational and relate to the sector in the title. Both the minimum and maximum vocational content is 100%.

Skills and Education Group Awards expects approved centres to recruit with integrity on the basis of a learner's ability to contribute to and successfully complete all the requirements of a unit/s or the full qualification.

## **What does the qualification cover?**

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The SEG Awards Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills qualification covers the following two topics:

**Counselling Skills and Personal Development** – In this unit learners will have an opportunity to reflect on their personal and future development and identify potential sources of support.

**Using Counselling Skills** – In this unit learners will have an opportunity to develop counselling skills in a helping relationship and learn to establish appropriate boundaries.

The content of the qualification will support you to develop and expand your counselling skills, knowledge and understanding, at level 2.

Centres will adopt a delivery approach which supports your development, including plenty of opportunities for group work exercises.

You will produce a portfolio of evidence for example; observations, witness statements, group discussion observation sheets, case studies, reports/notes.

## What could this qualification lead to?

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### **Will the qualification lead to employment, and if so, in which job role and at what level?**

Successful completion of the SEG Awards Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills will usually lead learners onto completing the SEG Awards Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills. This qualification, or an equivalent, will be a prerequisite for entry into the SEG Awards Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Skills programme. However, for those who do not intend to continue their studies further in the field of counselling, the course can be a valuable introduction to skills transferable into a range of career and educational opportunities.

**NB Progression from a Level 2 programme onto a Level 3 programme is not automatic. Learners are advised to check with the centres regarding selection procedures which may require further evidence of a learner's suitability to progress to Level 3. This programme demands that learners can demonstrate understanding in extended written form.**

## Will this qualification lead to further learning?

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This Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills is not intended to train counsellors and you will not be qualified to practice as a counsellor on completion. To do this, you will need to undertake further training, onto higher level of study and skills acquisition. An example of which includes Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills, Level 3 Certificate or Diploma in Counselling Skills, which leads through onto the SEG Awards Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling or other such equivalent qualifications. Postgraduate and post qualifying qualifications in counselling studies are available to enhance the practice, skills and knowledge of a practising counsellor. You may also progress towards national accreditation status with professional lead bodies.

**If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification or it is available at different skills levels, why should a student take this particular one?**

The SEG Awards Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills is part of a small suite of qualifications:

- Level 2 Award in Counselling Concepts – 500/9145/1
- Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills – 600/1051/4

The reason for having the varying sizes of qualification in the suite at level 2 is to meet the various needs of you the learner.

The Level 2 Award in Counselling Concepts is an introductory qualification which provides you with an opportunity to develop a basic understanding of counselling. You will be able to compare and contrast counselling with other forms of helping activities. Through experiential learning you will develop an understanding of what counselling training entails. This will assist you to make a more informed choice as to whether or not you are suited to undertake vocational counselling training as opposed to other types of training. Progression is possible from this qualification onto the SEG Awards Level 3 Certificate in counselling Skills (500/9286/8) but is not automatic.

The Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills provides you with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge to progress into further learning and training. This qualification is also an introduction into counselling.

If you complete the SEG Awards Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills you will be able to credit transfer any units successfully completed to the Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills.

The Level 2 Certificate is for you, if you want to build on either of the introductory Level 2 Awards and want to develop a broader perspective of Counselling. You will develop knowledge of how to meet your own support needs in order to contribute to a helping relationship. This will enable you to understand how personal and/or professional support can be used to highlight issues arising from the use of counselling skills practice. You will also develop an understanding about anti-discriminatory practice, the impacts of diversity on counselling relationships and ways to address differences and diversity.

**For further information visit**

**<https://skillsandeducationgroupawards.co.uk>**