

Endorsement policy

Purpose

YMCA Awards provides an Endorsement Service for organisations offering Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes that align with the standards and values of YMCA Awards. Endorsement is a quality mark that recognises training courses, workshops, and development programmes that offer valuable knowledge and skills beyond regulated provision.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- Organisations seeking endorsement of non-regulated learning programmes.
- Employers and industry bodies developing CPD training for professional development.
- Centres already approved by YMCA Awards wishing to extend their offer with endorsed programmes.

Benefits of Endorsement

For training providers endorsement can differentiate their offer in the market, supporting the growth of learner numbers and recognition of the outcomes being achieved.

For employers with in-house CPD programmes, endorsement evidences commitment to investing in high quality training and people development, which can support reducing staff turnover and increasing morale.

Benefits include:

- Recognition for high standards of teaching, resources and support
- Recognition by an international brand and regulated awarding organisation
- Use of the YMCA Awards Endorsed Logo.
- Certificates with dual branding; your organisations logo and YMCA Awards Endorsed logo.

Eligibility Criteria

YMCA Awards will not endorse a programme that covers the same outcomes as a regulated qualification and will not endorse a programme that aims to identify similarities to a regulated qualification.

To be eligible for endorsement, a programme must:

- Have clear learning outcomes.
- Be delivered by qualified trainers with relevant industry certification and expertise.
- Include appropriate learning resources and assessment methods (where applicable)
- Have appropriate quality management and monitoring for teaching and outcomes

- Provide learner support mechanisms to facilitate engagement and success
- Meet legal and ethical standards.

Application Process

1	Initial enquiry Prospective applicants should contact YMCA Awards to discuss suitability using awards.support@ymca.co.uk .
2	Application Submit an application form and all of the required supporting evidence.
3	Desk-based review YMCA Awards completes an initial review of the application form and supporting evidence. Further evidence or question responses may be needed at this stage.
4	Full content review YMCA Awards subject expert completes a full review of content against learning outcomes, learning resources and assessment materials.
5	Approval decision YMCA Awards provides a written report for the full content review completed and an approval decision..
6	Annual review and renewal YMCA Awards conducts periodic reviews to support with maintaining endorsement status. Endorsement expires every 12 months and will need to be renewed.

Quality Assurance and Monitoring

Endorsed providers must:

- Maintain training quality and adhere to YMCA Awards' standards.
- Participate in annual quality reviews and renewal.
- Notify YMCA Awards of any significant programme changes
- Ensure compliance with YMCA Awards branding and marketing guidelines.

Fees and Duration

Endorsement is valid for 12 months and requires renewal annually.

Initial application review	£150
Content review: one programme up to 30 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) (lasting up to one week)	£250
Content review: one programme between 31 and 60 GLH (lasting up to two weeks)	£500
Content review: one programme between 61 and 100 GLH (lasting up to three weeks)	£750
Quality assurance evaluation visit (where required)	£250
Registration / certification fee per learner	£10
Annual endorsed centre renewal	£300
Replacement certificate fee	£5

Withdrawal of Endorsement

Withdrawal of endorsement can be made by either party in writing, approved organisations can send formal notification of their intent to discontinue with an endorsed programme via email to awards.support@ymca.co.uk.

YMCA Awards reserves the right to withdraw endorsement if:

- A provider fails to maintain quality standards
- Misuse of the YMCA Awards logo or brand is identified
- Significant programme changes occur without prior approval
- There is evidence of malpractice, misconduct, or learner complaints
- A provider fails to pay any invoiced fees in line with agreed payment terms.

Providers will be given written notice for any decision made by YMCA Awards to withdraw endorsement, notification will outline any actions to be taken by either party as a result of any withdrawal.

Immediately following receipt of a withdrawal decision, organisations must cease to advertise their programme as having YMCA Awards endorsement and remove the YMCA Awards endorsed logo from all materials, including teaching, assessment and marketing resources.