



Qualification Specification

GA Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser, Intense Light Source Systems and LEDs for Aesthetic Practitioners

(610/4148/8)

This qualification is subject to the GA Centre Assessment and Standards Scrutiny and General Moderation policy.

This GA qualification is delivered exclusively in partnership with Skin Group International Ltd.

Section 1: Qualification Overview

1.1 Introduction

Gatehouse Awards (GA) qualifications are designed to give candidates the skills to be active in the modern labour market and progress in their career and/or into higher level study.

This qualification forms part of the Level 2 to Level 7 Aesthetic Sector Pathway: Non-Surgical Skin Procedures for Aesthetic Practitioners, which has been developed by Skin College (a division of Skin Group International Ltd), in partnership with GA.

This document provides centre staff, candidates and employers with an overview of the qualification content as well as the assessment and quality assurance requirements for this qualification.

Further information containing detailed assessment guidance is available to approved GA centres.

This qualification is regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations (Ofqual) in England and is part of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). All versions of this qualification are listed on the Register of Regulated Qualifications which is operated by Ofqual at <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>.

1.2 Qualification Title, Qualification Number and Important Dates

Qualification Title and Level	Qualification Number	Operational Start Date	Operational Review Date
GA Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser, Intense Light Source Systems and LEDs for Aesthetic Practitioners	610/4148/8	25/04/2024	April 2028

1.3 Qualification Aims and Objectives

This qualification is designed to enhance the learner's job prospects and provide the underpinning knowledge for a successful career in a clinical working environment.

This qualification can be used flexibly to meet learner needs. Depending on the context of the learning and the needs of each individual learner, the qualification can:

- prepare individuals to progress to a qualification in a specific subject area at the same, or at a higher level, or a qualification requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding
- prepare learners for employment

- support a role in the workplace
- encourage engagement in learning

Where learners wish to enter the aesthetic sector, this qualification can be used to provide a foundation of underpinning knowledge to enable progression into the specialism of non-surgical skin and hair procedures using laser, IPL and LED treatments.

1.4 Qualification Structure and Overview: Title, GLH, TQT, Level, Credit Value and Summary Syllabus Content

The structure of this qualification is as follows:

GA Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser, Intense Light Source Systems and LEDs for Aesthetic Practitioners (610/4148/8)				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time*
1. Core Knowledge for Laser, IPL and LED	H/651/1386	1	9	1
		Total Credits 1	Total GLH* 9	TQT* 10

Qualification Title: GA Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge Core Knowledge for Laser, Intense Light Source Systems and LEDs for Aesthetic Practitioners

Qualification Structure:

The Syllabus for the mandatory unit consists of four specific topic areas:

- Topic 1: The properties of and effects on skin tissue of laser, IPL, and LED
- Topic 2: Aesthetic applications of laser, IPL and LED
- Topic 3: Legislation and regulatory requirements for the use of laser, IPL and LED for aesthetic treatments
- Topic 4: Safe working practices when using laser, IPL and LED devices.

The overall learning outcomes, criteria and indicative content for each topic are:

- understand the characteristics of laser, IPL and LED

LASER; Light, Amplification, Stimulated, Emission, Radiation; how laser light is created; types of laser; the properties of laser light; intense pulsed light (IPL).

- understand the effects of laser, IPL and LED on skin tissue

Anatomy and physiology of skin; mode of action of types of laser and their application; absorption of light by tissue components; effect of laser light and IPL on the skin structures.

- understand the application of laser, IPL and LED for aesthetic treatments

Types of aesthetic treatments; types of laser light for treatments; effects of different treatments; suitability of different skin types for treatments.

- understand legislation and regulatory requirements for the use of laser, IPL and LED

Legislative requirements; regulatory requirements; training and qualification requirements; safety standards and guidelines; risk assessments; inspections.

- understand hazards and safety precautions when using laser, IPL and LED devices

Electrical hazards; ocular hazards; fire hazards; smoke plume hazards; safety precautions; Laser Protection Adviser; risk assessments; risks and safety precautions for specific skin types.

- understand equipment management when using laser, IPL and LED devices

Equipment management; manufacturer and supplier requirements; safe installation; maintenance.

*Guided Learning Hours (GLH): Definition

The activity of a learner in being taught or instructed by – or otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

**Total Qualification Time (TQT): Definition

The number of Guided Learning Hours assigned, plus an estimate of the number of study hours a candidate will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but, unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

The number of study hours a candidate is expected to undertake in order to complete each unit is expressed in the '**Study Time**' above. This, including the GLH, provides the Total Qualification Time, or TQT, and represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a candidate to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of this qualification.

The estimates for Guided Learning Hours and Total Qualification Time above have been produced with due regard to information gathered from those with experience in education and

training and is in line with guidance published by Ofqual on the allocation and expression of Total Qualification Time and Guided Learning Hours.

Level

The qualification within this specification is designated at Level 4 on the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) according to the Level Descriptors for knowledge and understanding, which build on those used within the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). This means that this qualification is considered by GA to lead to the outcome as follows:

Achievement at Level 4 reflects the ability to identify and use relevant understanding, methods and skills to address problems that are well defined but complex and non-routine. It includes taking responsibility for overall courses of action as well as exercising autonomy and judgement within fairly broad parameters. It also reflects understanding of different perspectives or approaches within an area of study or work.

1.5 Rules of Combination

There is one mandatory unit within this qualification.

There are no further rules of combination.

1.6 Intended Audience

This qualification is ideal for learners who work in, or intend to enter, a role in aesthetic practice, carrying out non-surgical skin and hair procedures using laser, IPL and LED in a clinical working environment.

It is also an ideal qualification for individuals in supporting roles within the same clinical setting, such as receptionists, clinic managers, or assistants, who may not directly perform the treatments but are exposed to the equipment and need to understand proper safety protocols and operational procedures.

This qualification is designed for adult learners and forms part of the Level 2 to Level 7 Aesthetic Sector Pathway for Non-Surgical Skin Procedures for Aesthetic Practitioners.

1.7 Age and Entry Requirements

This qualification is intended for learners aged 18 and above.

Due to the nature of the qualification content, those undertaking the qualification must also have a proficient level of English and maths.

There are no further entry requirements.

We recommend that learners hold, or are working towards, formal English language and maths qualifications of at least Level 2, e.g.

- GCSE English Language and maths (A* - C / Grade 4 or above), or equivalent

If English is not the learner's first language, an English language level of International English C1 (CEFR) is required.

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to study at Level 4. It is therefore recommended that prior to commencing a programme of study leading to this qualification, learners receive detailed advice and guidance from the training provider in order to ensure the programme and qualification will meet their needs.

1.8 Recognition of Prior Learning and Transfer of Credits

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a method of assessing whether a learner's previous experience and achievements meet the standard requirements of a GA qualification, prior to the learner taking the assessment for the qualification, or part of the qualification, they are registered for.

Any prior learning must be relevant to the knowledge, skills and understanding which will be assessed as part of that qualification, and GA will subsequently amend the requirements which a learner must have satisfied before they are assessed as eligible to be awarded the qualification.

Where there is evidence that the learner's knowledge and skills are current, valid and sufficient, the use of RPL may be acceptable for recognising achievement of assessment criteria, learning outcome or unit(s), as applicable. The requirement for RPL in such instances must also include a consideration of the currency of the knowledge gained by the learner at the time they undertook the prior learning.

RPL cannot be guaranteed in instances where industry practice or legislation has significantly changed in the time since the prior learning was undertaken / a previous award was issued.

1.9 Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations

Assessment for this qualification is designed to be accessible and inclusive. The assessment methodology is appropriate and rigorous for individuals or groups of learners.

If you have learners with particular needs you should refer to the GA Candidate Access Policy, available on the GA website, which contains information about Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations. This policy document provides centres and centre staff with clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the achievement of the qualification.

1.10 Relationship to Other Qualifications & Progression Opportunities

This qualification forms part of the Level 2 to Level 7 Aesthetic Sector Pathway: Non-Surgical Skin Procedures for Aesthetic Practitioners, which has been developed by Skin College (a division of Skin Group International Ltd), in partnership with GA.

The Pathway consists of a spiral curriculum and provides a progressive suite of knowledge and practical skills-based qualifications, designed to build the essential skills and competencies of learners who currently, or aspire to, work in the Aesthetic Sector, predominantly in a clinical working environment. Progression through the Pathway deepens and integrates learning and deals with issues in an increasingly complex way as the level of qualification undertaken increases.

All qualifications within the Pathway have been designed and developed in line with all relevant National Occupational Standards and with due regard to the standards and guidance of relevant regulatory and standard-setting bodies.

The GA Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser, Intense Light Source Systems and LEDs for Aesthetic Practitioners is an ideal qualification from which a learner might progress into a role within a salon or clinic, onto higher level study or higher level practical occupational training or employment or self-employment.

1.11 Language of Assessment

This qualification is offered in English. Further information concerning the provision of qualification and assessment materials in other languages may be obtained from GA.

1.12 Grading and Recording Achievement

All learning outcomes and assessment requirements must be met before a learner can be considered having achieved this qualification.

These qualifications are not graded on a scale. Learners are assessed as Pass or Fail. Learners who aren't successful can resubmit work within the registration period.

1.13 Qualification Availability

This qualification is available in the UK and internationally. If you would like further information on offering this qualification, please contact us. Our contact details can be found on our website, www.gatehouseawards.org

Section 2: Qualification Delivery, Assessment & Quality Assurance Model

2.1 Teaching and Learning Requirements

Courses leading to this qualification can consist of e-learning, distance learning or classroom-based courses offered through GA approved centres.

Learners must have suitable access to teaching staff as well as technical support. Specialist staff, high quality learning materials and access to assessment opportunities are essential.

Further details and guidance on the content of teaching and learning can be accessed via the Ark (GA's online Learner Management System, available to all GA Approved Centres).

2.2 Assessment & Quality Assurance Model

This qualification is an externally-assessed qualification. This means that learners submit work online and it is externally assessed and moderated by GA staff.

Where learners have achieved the learning outcomes and qualification requirements, the centre is NOT required to provide further evidence or assessment and internal moderation records.

Detailed information is available in the *GA Syllabus, Assessment & Internal Moderation Handbook* for the component unit (or units) of this qualification, available to GA Approved Centres.

2.3 Assessment Requirements

Candidates are expected to complete the GA externally issued online e-assessment.

Candidates are assessed as pass or fail.

Candidates are provided with a period of 24 weeks to complete and submit all the activities within their e-assessment.

Where a candidate does not pass on their first submission, they will be provided with an opportunity to complete the assessment again and re-submit their work for assessment.

The E-assessment consists of the following four components:

E-Assessment Component	Number of questions	Number of marks available	Pass mark
Core Knowledge for Laser, Intense Light Source Systems and LEDs for Aesthetic Practitioners	35	36	75% (27/36)

The candidate must also have access to the following resources:

Hardware:

- PC, laptop, Mac or Macbook, iPhone or iPad/other tablet with fast processor

Software:

- Windows 8.1 or above
- macOS 10.14 Mojave or above
- iOS (or iPadOS) 11.00 or above

A high-speed Broadband Internet Connection is also required.

2.4 Registering Candidates and Unique Learner Numbers (ULNs)

Learners must be registered through the Ark, the GA online Learner Management System. Each approved GA centre is provided with a user account to allow approved staff access to the online system. Each approved GA centre is provided with a user account to allow approved staff access to the online system.

Owing to the Total Qualification Time of this qualification, the validity period of registrations made will be 24 weeks. Should a learner not have achieved in the timescale, a new registration is required.

Where the Unique Learner Number (ULN) of a candidate is known, this should be provided at the point of registration in order for GA to issue updates to the Learner Record Service.

2.5 ID Requirements

It is the responsibility of the centre to have systems in place to confirm each learner's identity.

Learners are required to declare that all work submitted for assessment is their own work.

2.6 Record Keeping

Records of learner's details and any records of Reasonable Adjustments, Special Considerations and records containing learners' personal details must be kept by the centre in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 (including GDPR and all relevant privacy regulations) for a minimum of 2 years. All records must be easily retrievable and made available to GA or the Regulator upon request.

Records of all internal quality assurance and moderation activity undertaken must be kept and made available to GA upon request.

2.7 Quality Assurance Requirements

GA is committed to providing a high level of quality assurance for this qualification, including a thorough centre and qualification approval process, external assessment and moderation and visits to centres to conduct quality assurance monitoring.

These activities will focus on ensuring that the centre continues to meet the Centre Approval Criteria and that:

- the management arrangements at the centre are sufficient
- staff and physical resources are in place and sufficient
- the centre has appropriate policies and procedures in place
- the delivery and internal quality assurance arrangements are sufficient
- record keeping and administrative arrangements meet requirements
- any actions have been carried out by the centre

Through the above activities, GA will provide centres with support, advice and guidance relating to the delivery, assessment and quality assurance of this qualification.

Additional support visits can be requested, for which there may be an additional charge.

Section 3: Staff and Resource Requirements for Centres

In order to deliver this qualification, a centre must ensure that they have the following resources in place.

3.1 General Staff Requirements

The knowledge and experience of all staff involved in the delivery and quality assurance of this qualification will be considered during the approval and re-approval process and at EQA visits.

Centres must ensure that they hold up-to-date and detailed information about their staff and must make records available to GA upon request. The information GA expects the centre to hold for each member of staff includes, as a minimum:

- current up to date CV
- copies of relevant qualification certificates
- relevant and up to date CPD (Continuous Professional Development) records

Centres must ensure that there are an adequate number of staff members to provide a safe environment for learners and clients.

Centres must also ensure that they have the management and administrative staffing arrangements in place which are suitable to support the registration of learners and the receipt of results and certificates.

3.2 Requirements for Teachers

Those involved in delivering training to candidates working towards this qualification must have knowledge and competency in the subject as well as knowledge and competency to train based on qualifications and experience.

It is the centre's responsibility to ensure that all staff involved in the delivery and assessment of these qualifications are suitably qualified.

Teachers must:

- hold a recognised teaching or training qualification
- hold evidence of relevant teaching experience in an education or training context
- have access to appropriate guidance and support
- participate regularly in continuing professional development activities and be able to evidence contemporaneous proficiency and the requirements of the *GA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Revalidation for Centre Staff*.
- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of the subject being delivered

Teachers may be working towards a relevant equivalent teaching qualification under the guidance of a suitably qualified and experienced teacher.

Unit-specific additional requirements for teachers are outlined in the *GA Syllabus* for the individual units within this qualification. This document is available to GA Approved Centres.

3.3 Venue Requirements

When training premises are used in the delivery of teaching and assessment of this qualification, centres should, wherever possible, provide suitable access in line with Disability Discrimination, Diversity & Equality law and regulations and any other regulations which apply.

The centre must maintain up-to-date health and safety policies and procedures to maintain client, learner, staff and visitor safety at all times.

3.4 Equipment

Centres must ensure that all products and equipment used in the delivery and assessment of this qualification must be authorised by GA and confirmed as fit for purpose and compliant with current Health and Safety legislation and any other relevant regulations. This will be considered at approval and during the on-going monitoring of centres.

Where specific products and equipment is required for the delivery and assessment of a GA qualification, the suitability of the products and equipment at the centre will be considered during the centre and qualification approval process and at External Quality Assurance Visits.

3.5 Teaching and Learning Resources

Whether delivering a programme of learning as a classroom-based or e-learning course, centres must ensure that their teaching and learning resources are high quality and are relevant, up-to-date and of industry standard, in order to allow learners to adequately prepare for assessment. This will be considered at approval and during the on-going monitoring of centres.

All delivery and assessment resources should be inclusive of the principles of equality and diversity and the safeguarding of learners.

3.6 Results and Certification

Once the candidate has submitted the e-assessment, their work is marked by GA staff.

The results are available for authorised centre staff to view on the Ark, typically within 10 working days. Results enquiries should only be submitted in instances where the timescales for issuing results have been exceeded.

Certificates will automatically be issued to candidates who have met the requirements for the full qualification they are registered for. If a candidate has failed one or more units, a Notification of Results will be issued informing the Candidate of which units they have achieved / not achieved.

Certificates will only be issued to learners who have achieved sufficient credits and met the rules of combination for the qualification they are registered for. If a learner has not achieved sufficient credits or failed to meet the rules of combination, the qualification certificate will not be issued. Certificates are usually issued within 10 working days of the award of the qualification.

The qualification certificate will indicate both the title and the level at which the qualification is achieved.

Replacement certificates are available upon request.

Amendments to certificates are available upon request but may require the centre to provide evidence of the need for any amendment (e.g. learner proof of identification) and will involve the return of the original certificate. Replacements and amendments may incur an additional charge.

3.7 Direct Claims Status (DCS)

Direct Claim Status is not available for this qualification.

3.8 Appeals and Enquiries

GA has an appeals procedure in accordance with the arrangements for regulated qualifications.

General enquiries can be made at any time and should be directed to a GA Centre Administrator.

3.9 Ongoing Support

There are a number of documents on the GA website that centres and learners may find useful: www.gatehouseawards.org. The website is updated regularly with news, information about GA qualifications, sample materials, updates on regulations and other important notices.

Within the centre, a named Examinations Officer is responsible for ensuring that all information and documents provided to centre staff and learners are correct and up to date.

GA must be kept up to date with contact details of all changes of personnel so centres can be provided with the best level of support and guidance.

At the time of approval, centres are assigned a designated Centre Administrator who is their primary point of contact for all aspects of service or support.

Learners should always speak to a member of staff at the centre for information relating to GA and our qualifications prior to approaching GA directly.

Contact details for GA can be found on the GA website www.gatehouseawards.org.

Document Specification:					
Purpose:	To detail the specification of the GA Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser, Intense Light Source Systems and LEDs for Aesthetic Practitioners (610/4148/8)				
Accountability:	GA Governing Body		Responsibility:	GA Compliance Manager	
Version:	1	Effective From:	25/04/2024	Indicative Review Date:	April 2028
Links to Ofqual GCR:	E3; G6; G7; H2	Other relevant documents:	GA Centre Handbook GA Candidate Access Policy GA Malpractice & Maladministration Policy GA Syllabus, Assessment & Internal Moderation Handbook (specific for the units within this qualification) GA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Revalidation for Centre Staff.		