Peer Research Network

Powered by The Young Foundation

Level 2 Award in Peer Research

Informed by experience
We gain greater insights through community-led research

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About us

The Young Foundation's Peer Research Network brings together people and organisations that are delivering, commissioning or interested in peer research. We are an NCFE recognised centre, offering a Level 2 qualification. We are a not-for-profit, delivering training and events to raise quality and drive innovation in the sector

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The Level 2 Award in Peer Research

Our qualification has been developed to meet the specific needs of our learners and has been accredited by NCFE demonstrating the quality and rigor. NCFE is an awarding organisation recognised by the qualification regulators for England (Ofqual), Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA Regulation). This is an unregulated qualification and is not a nationally recognised qualification

This qualification has been accredited as a Customised Qualification and we have benchmarked the qualification's learning outcomes and assessment criteria at Level 2 (using a national framework's level descriptors) to allow you to demonstrate the difficulty and depth of study.

On completion of the Customised Qualification, learners will receive a certificate of achievement. The certificate is evidence of the knowledge and skills gained by completing the qualification. This qualification has been accredited by NCFE under the Customised Qualification and the certificate of achievement will be issued directly by NCFE.

Informed by experience
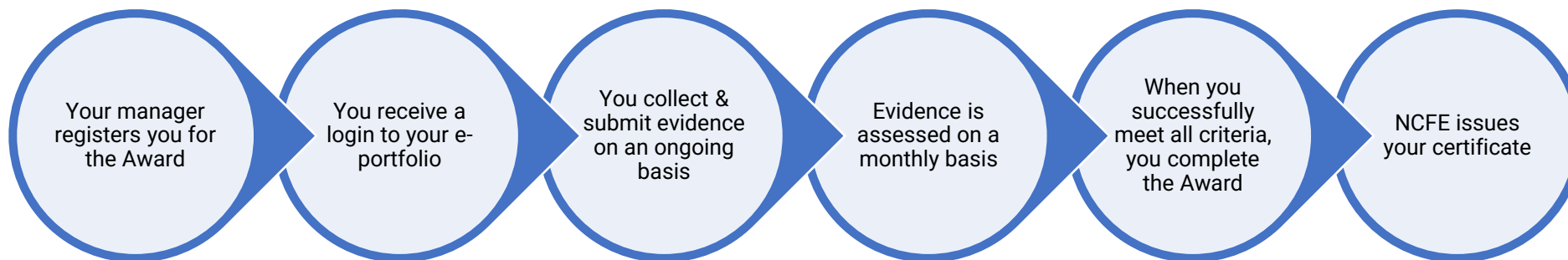We gain greater insights through community-led research

ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW

- **Level 2 qualification**

- **Accredited by NCFE**

- **Designed to be accessible**

- **Assessment based primarily on peer research undertaken**

- **Mix of compulsory & optional modules**

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Customised Qualifications

Image: Free-Photos on Pixabay

The journey to achieving the Award

The main stages of the journey you will follow are shown in the diagram.

Your manager registers you for the Award → You receive a login to your e-portfolio → You collect & submit evidence on an ongoing basis → Evidence is assessed on a monthly basis → When you successfully meet all criteria, you complete the Award → NCFE issues your certificate

The time you have to complete the Award will depend on the duration of your role as a peer researcher and any requirements from your organisation. You should discuss with your manager/supervisor/mentor the time-frame within which you will need to gather and submit your evidence.

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The modules

You will need to complete four modules:

- Three compulsory modules
- One optional module

Depending on your organisation and peer research project, you may not have to decide which optional module you want to do at the start.

Until your manager/supervisor/mentor confirms which optional module you want to complete, you will see all modules in the e-portfolio.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

THREE COMPULSORY MODULES

Fundamentals of research
- Describing methods
- Recruiting participants
- Using digital data collection methods
- Self / project management

Research integrity
- Ethics
- Safeguarding
- Data protection

Research analysis and communication
- Data analysis
- Sharing findings back to others
- Reflective practice

PLUS ONE OPTIONAL MODULE

Research interviewing
- Listening and questioning skills
- Minimising bias
- Dilemmas in research

Group discussions
- Group facilitation skills
- Listening and questioning skills
- Minimising bias
- Dilemmas in research

Creative methods
- Describing creative methods
- Listening and questioning skills
- Minimising bias
- Dilemmas in research

What evidence you need

You should be able to produce most of the evidence you need through your day-to-day role as a peer researcher. You will be able to submit examples of the work you have done, with short accompanying statements of explanation. For example:

- **Extracts from transcripts** – with examples of questions highlighted
- **Recruitment materials** – showing how information was provided
- **Photos or video** – eg of your role in a session, or role-play to show your skill

Some modules will also require you to:
- Complete a short online assessment
- Provide a statement from your manager to confirm that you did something

Note:

The next section of the handbook covers each module and what we are looking for.

The term 'manager' covers a range of roles including supervisor and mentor but means the person at the organisation you work for/ volunteer with who supports you in your role.

PEER RESEARCHER SKILLS – EVALUATING & EVIDENCING

Peer researchers have the option to achieve a formal recognition of their skills

We can demonstrate to funders & improve the evidence base about the benefits of being a peer researcher

We can continuously assess & improve our training and support for peer researchers