

Rationale for ITEC Level 3 Diploma in Holistic Massage

Aims and objectives

The ITEC Level 3 Diploma in Holistic Massage comprises of ITEC units:

- 30-40 Anatomy and Physiology
- 2 Holistic Massage
- 22 Professional Conduct and Business Awareness

All units are mandatory and each has 3 elements– theory, practical and case studies except for Units 30-40 and 22 which are theory only.

The main aim of the ITEC Level 3 Diploma in Holistic Massage is to enable candidates to provide treatments for the purposes of relaxation and stress release.

It also aims:

- to provide skills at Level 3 in the National Qualification Framework for those interested in the Complementary Therapy/Care industry
- to provide opportunities for staff in the Complementary Therapy/ Care industry to gain a Level 3 qualification
- to qualify candidates as Massage Therapists at Level 3 in the Complementary /Care industry
- to sustain the interest of candidates wanting to work in the Complementary Therapy industry
- to encourage knowledge and understanding for the Complementary Therapy/Care industry at Level 3
- to provide opportunities for candidates to focus on the development of the major Key skills and the wider Key skills in a Therapy context such as communicating with clients, working with others and problem solving
- to provide opportunities for candidates to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in employment as a Massage Therapist.

The candidate will study the theory of massage treatments as well as anatomy and physiology of the whole body. The underpinning knowledge and skills required to successfully perform a Massage treatment are also required.

Case studies are also required to be completed for this award. The case studies form the internal assessment and should be assessed throughout the training by the tutor using the ITEC Case Study Guidance sheet. The case studies are then verified by an ITEC Examiner at the end of the course during the visit for invigilating the practical examination. The case studies ensure that a variety of clients must be consulted and treated in all the above areas and the outcomes of the treatments must be documented in order to gain experience of working with a variety of clients and conditions whilst candidates are still under supervision. Detailed rationales for the type of massage treatment and outcomes must be shown, as well as after care.

All units are mandatory and should be taught concurrently and examined concurrently.

- Unit 30-40 Anatomy and Physiology paper of 1 hour duration with a total of 50 questions
- Unit 2 Holistic Massage has a paper of 50 multiple choice questions of 1 hour duration
- Unit 22 Professional Conduct and Business Awareness have a combined paper of 1 hour duration of 25 questions each, with a total of 50 questions
- A Practical exam conducted by an ITEC Practical Examiner for unit 2
- Internal Assessment of ALL case studies by the College Lecturer and External Verification by the ITEC Practical Examiner.

As indicated above all aspects of the award are examined externally by ITEC Practical Examiners.

Recommended prior learning

It is recommended that candidates should have achieved a level of education equivalent to five GCSEs at grades A*-C prior to commencing the ITEC Level 3 Diploma in Holistic Massage, however exemptions may be made for adult returners with experience of the work place.

Opportunities for progression

Once candidates have achieved the ITEC Level 3 Diploma in Holistic Massage they may progress on to other ITEC or equivalent awards at level 3, for example:

- Spa Treatments
- Aromatherapy Massage
- Reflexology
- On Site Massage
- Indian Head Massage
- Lymphatic Drainage
- Sports Massage

This award qualifies graduates to operate their own clinic or home visiting practice. Graduates can also gain employment in Salons, Health Club, Health Farms, Spas and Liners and various aspects of the Care Industry.

Professional indemnity and public liability insurance can be obtained via ITEC Professionals and other Industry Associations who recognise the ITEC Diploma.

Relationship to National Occupational standards

As there are currently no National Occupational Standards for Unit 2 Holistic massage, by which to map the massage unit, ITEC has ensured that best practice in the workplace has been reflected in the syllabus. ITEC has linked the qualification to the relative job role as well as ensuring that the syllabus reflects the required level of knowledge and ability for the Therapist.