



DIPLOMA IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY

Introduction

The Diploma in Packaging Technology is a nationally recognised qualification for those wishing to pursue a career in the packaging industry, or for those who are already in the industry and who wish to extend their knowledge and expertise. The qualification is broad, and provides an opportunity to study the principles of packaging, packaging materials and packaging processes. Students can study for the complete qualification, or individual units if they prefer.

The Diploma can also provide a very useful complementary qualification for those on HNC/D or degree programmes in packaging design.

Courses leading to the Diploma can be organised by providers who have gained Centre and Scheme approval by the Packaging Industry Awarding Body (PIABC). To achieve this they need to apply to PIABC and to demonstrate their ability to deliver high quality education leading to the qualification. Centres are expected to employ robust quality assurance processes, and PIABC will appoint its own moderators to ensure the effective operation of these processes, and the maintenance of standards of quality.

The Diploma in Packaging Technology aims to be a nationally recognised qualification which provides learners with a broad knowledge of the principles, materials, processes and other elements of packaging production and use. Those achieving the Diploma will be able to apply this knowledge to solving problems and making decisions associated with the technical and aesthetic performance, cost, safety and legality of packaging materials and packed products.

Candidates will normally be expected to have a minimum of 1 GCE A level and 5 GCSEs at grade A – C, including one science subject, plus the key skills of numeracy, communication and information technology, or alternatively the Certificate in Packaging. Overall, it is expected that courses leading to the qualification will take approximately 120 hours. In addition, students will be expected to carry out additional reading and other work to complete each unit.

Success in this qualification prepares students for progression in the packaging industry to a position where they can assume responsibility for packaging in a company at any point in the supply chain. Success also provides the student with an entry level qualification for the MSc in Packaging Technology at the University of Loughborough and Brunel University.

Award summary

The course is divided into five units:

Unit 1 The Fundamental Principles of Packaging

This Unit will introduce learners to the subject of packaging by examining what packaging is used for and what it does for the product and the user, both within its broad social and economic context and its more specific functional and aesthetic context.

Unit 2 *Packaging Materials and Components I*

In this Unit learners study three of the common packaging materials: glass, metals, and paper/board.

Unit 3 *Packaging Materials and Components II*

In this Unit learners study plastics as a packaging material. Pack closures and the factors affecting seal integrity are also covered in this Unit, along with adhesives and the typical materials used for labels.

Unit 4 *Packaging Processes*

This Unit covers printing and decorating processes for packaging materials, together with packaging machinery and packaging line operations.

Unit 5 *Managing Packaging Development*

This Unit builds on Units 1-4, and introduces participants to many of the management functions associated with the design, development, production and use of packaging materials and components.