



Guide for Gold Award Participants

A note from the Founder of the Award,
His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT:

Welcome to your Award challenge

Taking part in the Award isn't easy – it requires commitment over time – but it is simple to get started and after all your time and effort you will have achieved something special of which you can be proud and which universities and employers rate highly.

As an Award Participant you will have the chance to:

- Design your own Award program
- Set your own goals and record your progress
- Make a positive impact on the lives of others through community service
- Learn valuable practical and social skills for career development
- Take up the challenge of an Adventurous Journey
- Connect with other Award Participants at home and abroad

You can continue with activities you're already taking part in, such as sports or volunteering, and count these towards achieving your Award, or your Award could be an opportunity to try something new and develop a passion for something different.

The **Gold Award** is the final level of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award but it doesn't need to be the end of your Award involvement. You could consider becoming an Award Leader, Adventurous Journey Supervisor or Assessor, or a supporter of the Award.

Buckingham Palace



It is one thing to succeed in academic subjects, but I am sure that you will find that meeting the demands of the Gold Award will broaden your experience of life, and enable you to make choices as a responsible citizen in the opportunities available in life away from work.



Start here!

The Award's structure really is quite simple.

So you've decided to start your Gold Award. To begin with you need to set up your Award by choosing an activity to do in each of the four sections. You can start a new activity or develop your skills further in activities you have already been doing.

Remember that your Award should be balanced so choose activities from a range of areas.

Service

Challenge yourself to be a responsible, caring member of the community. See pages 10–11



Physical Recreation

Challenge yourself to improve your health, fitness and performance. See pages 12–13



Skills

Challenge yourself to improve your skills and widen your interests. See pages 14–15



Adventurous Journey

Challenge yourself to journey and explore the world around you. See pages 16–17



Gold Residential Project

Challenge yourself to journey and explore the world around you. See pages 18–19



Your Award program

You'll create your own program, choosing activities for each section of the Award.

Your Award Leader can offer advice if you need it.

This is your Award and it is entirely up to you what you do for each section. It is all about setting yourself a challenge and feeling great when you see yourself progress and achieve your goals.

You can take this as an opportunity to start an activity that you have always wanted to do or develop your skills further in the activities you are already involved in – your Award, your choice!

Next step, you have to find an Assessor for each section and agree your S.M.A.R.T goals for the sections with them. This person should be knowledgeable or experienced in the activity and can't be a relative of yours. Your Award Leader will confirm whether your Assessors are suitable for your chosen activities.

When you are ready, register your Award, selected activities and your goals for each section on the Online Record Book (ORB) (see pages 6–7).

Timescales

You can start your Gold Award if you are on or after your 16th birthday. You'll need to do your activities in each section regularly for a minimum amount of time, for an average of an hour a week:

Physical Recreation	minimum 12 months	} Plus an extra 6 months if you have not achieved your Silver Award
Skills	minimum 12 months	
Voluntary Service	minimum 12 months	
Adventurous Journey	4 days + 3 nights	
Gold Residential Project	5 days + 4 nights	

Remember to regularly log your activities on the Online Record Book (ORB). See pages 6–7.

How to record your Award

The Online Record Book (ORB) is an easy-to-use online system in which you will record your activities and achievements as you work towards your Award.

- **Sign in to the Online Record Book**

To access the Online Record Book, go to www.onlinerecordbook.org.

- **Register your chosen activities**

See pages 10–17 for some activity ideas, or come up with your own, and then speak to your Award Leader, who will need to approve your choices. Don't forget to then enter the info and your goals on the ORB.

- **Find your Assessors**

Find someone (not a relative) who is an expert in your choice of activity (such as a coach). Your Award Leader will need to agree on your choice of Assessor for each section. You must record your Assessors' details on the ORB.

- **Do the activities**

Do your activities regularly for the set amount of time. Log your activities regularly on the ORB and follow your progress on the progress bar.

- **Assessor reports**

When you've finished a section, you must ensure that you have a signed Assessor report uploaded on your ORB.

- **Celebrate!**

When you've completed all five sections, your Award Leader will submit it for approval to The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation and they will authorise your **Gold Award** – congratulations!

ORB Frequently Asked Questions

What's my username?

Your username will be the email address you used when you first registered on the Online Record Book.

I've confirmed my email address, but still can't log on.

Your Award Leader has to authorise your access to the Online Record Book so check with them if this has been done already.

Can I change my password?

Yes. Click on where it says '[your name]' and a box will pop up. From here you can change your password, update your personal details and also change your profile picture.

I've got evidence I want to save, can I save it in the Online Record Book?

Yes, you can upload photographs, videos and scanned documents.

Help, I've forgotten my password!

Click on the 'Forgot your password?' link and you will be emailed.

How are the percentages worked out for my Award

For the Skills, Physical Recreation and Voluntary Service Sections of the Award, you must undertake regular activity over a set period of time. On the Online Record Book, all logs are recorded in quarter, half and full hours. The general requirement for Skills, Physical Recreation and Voluntary Service is to undertake regular effort of one hour of activity per week or two hours per fortnight over the required time frame. You can't achieve your Award by working more intensely over a shorter time.

My Assessor needs to sign off my logged activities, how can they do this?

Once you've completed a section, you can either download and print a summary of your activities for your Assessor to sign, send a report form directly via email or ask them to provide another form of proof, then just scan it in and upload it to your library. If you don't have access to a scanner, speak with your Award Leader about other ways of getting your summary onto the Online Record Book.

Achieving your Award

You will have achieved your Gold Award when:

- You have done your activities for each section for the minimum time period
- You've recorded all your activities and uploaded evidence into the ORB
- Your Assessors are happy with your progress and have made their reports. Once you've completed your Award make sure you submit it to your Award Leader on the ORB.

Your Award information will automatically be passed by your Award Leader through the ORB to be checked that everything is correct. All being well you'll be told that you've achieved your **Gold Award**.

Congratulations!

You can now receive your certificate and badge. Ask your Award Leader where and when your Award presentation ceremony will take place – this is an opportunity to celebrate and to be recognised by your family and friends for your achievement!

Don't forget to mention your Gold Award in your university and job applications.

The Sections

The following pages contain basic information about each section you'll complete in order to achieve your **Gold Duke of Edinburgh's International Award**.

We'll give you some ideas to get you started when you are trying to decide what to do for each Section. Remember that these are only suggestions of activities that other people have done in the past. Use them to help you think about what interests you or what you'd like to try.



Voluntary Service



Through the Voluntary Service Section you can volunteer in your community, meet people and see how your service benefits those around you.

Volunteering over a period of time enables you to meet people within the community whom you might not otherwise engage with and realise the positive difference you can make to your community. It can also help improve skills such as team work, communication and self-confidence.



"I have always been an outgoing, compassionate person and I think doing the Duke of Ed was an active way to follow through with helping the community. My volunteering got me interested in that line of work. It was quite eye-opening for me, as soon as I started, I actually really loved it."

*Lauren
Gold Award Holder*

Types of activities

The list of possible activities is almost unlimited and is often dictated by available resources or opportunities. To ensure the essential balance of overall Award, you should be careful not to pick activities that are too similar to your chosen **Physical Recreation** or **Skills** activities.

There are many people and organisations that are willing to provide you with opportunities for practical service. These include: social workers, doctors, religious leaders, schools, hospital or prison authorities, youth departments, conservations groups, local government authorities, voluntary youth organisations, animal welfare organisations, service clubs, and agencies which work internationally and both national and international non-governmental organisations or agencies.

Your Award Leader should encourage you to do some research in your local area to identify a suitable opportunity and activities should generally fall into the following categories:

Voluntary Service activities

- Supporting people in the community
- Youth work
- Community education and health education
- Environmental service
- Charity work
- Supporting a local emergency service

If you are struggling to come up with an idea of what to do for your **Voluntary Service** section, there are a number of resources available to you. You can speak to your Award Leader, chat with other participants or check out the Award's website (<https://dukeofed.com.au/about-the-award/sections-in-detail/>).

Physical Recreation



The Physical Recreation Section of the Award encourages you to improve your health and fitness, whatever your starting point. You could choose to do a team sport, solo sport or any healthy activity. It could be something you already do regularly, have tried before or something completely new to you.

The Physical Recreation section should make you feel healthy and happy, and should help you build valuable team skills, self-esteem and confidence. It's also great fun!



"My physical recreation activity was to learn to play ice hockey. I had only ice skated a handful of times, but after 6 short weeks I was participating in my first ice hockey tournament, which made me feel proud of myself. I have really enjoyed the challenge of learning ice hockey and have learned many new skills and I enjoy the teamwork."

*Aidan
Gold Award Holder*

Guide for Gold Award Participants

Types of activities

The list of possible activities is almost unlimited but you should be careful not to pick activities that are considered, in Award terms, to be **Skills** section or a **Voluntary Service** section activity (or at least ensure there is a balance to your programme). Essentially, the chosen activity should be physically challenging or demanding for you.

The types of activities for the **Physical Recreation** section can be grouped broadly into the following categories:

Physical Recreation activities

- Ball and racket sports
- Athletics
- Cycling
- Water sports
- Winter sports
- Martial arts
- Animal Sports
- Fitness activities
- Adventure sports
- Surfing
- Dancing Gymnastics

If you are struggling to come up with an idea of what to do for your **Physical Recreation** section, there are a number of resources available to you. You can speak to your Award Leader, chat with other participants or check out the Award's website (<https://dukeofed.com.au/about-the-award/sections-in-detail/>)



Through the Skills Section you can develop your personal interests, and practical and social skills.

You could choose to improve on an existing skill or try something new. It's all about having a go, learning something and getting better at it, giving yourself a sense of achievement and well-being. Colleges, universities and employers like to see that you have life skills too!



"The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award was an extraordinary opportunity for me to further develop my passion for singing and song writing over several years of dedicated commitment to mentoring sessions, rehearsals and performances."

*Lauren
Gold Award Holder*

Types of activities

The list of possible activities is almost unlimited but participants should be careful not to pick activities that are considered , in Award terms, to be a **Physical Recreation** or a **Voluntary Service** section activity.

The types of activities for the **Skills** section can be grouped broadly into the following categories:

Skills activities

- Music
- Sports-related (eg leadership, coaching and officiating)
- Arts and crafts
- Nature and the environment
- Animals
- Media and communications
- Games
- Life, technical and vocational skills
- Performance Skills

If you are struggling to come up with an idea of what to do for your **Skills** section, there are a number of resources available to you. You can speak to your Award Leader, chat with other participants or check out the Award's website.

(<https://dukeofed.com.au/about-the-award/sections-in-detail/>)

Adventurous Journey



Types of activities

Here's a list of ideas to inspire your Adventurous Journey expedition or exploration.

Adventurous Journey

- Exploring the natural world: glaciations, erosion, geology, coastal studies, river valleys, plant studies, bird studies or animal studies, insect studies
- Exploring historic land use: prehistoric man, historical periods
- To investigate the survival or extinction of a language
- Exploring human impact: visitor pressure in national parks, pollution monitoring, surveys of numbers of walkers in remote areas
- To carry out health surveys or health education in remote areas
- To complete a particularly demanding journey by foot, cycle or canoe/kayak
- To investigate group dynamics in challenging conditions
- To kayak the entire navigable stretch of a river
- Following an ancient pilgrimage trail
- Cycling along an ancient trail

For the Adventurous Journey Section you'll need a sense of adventure and discovery as you go on a team journey, expedition or exploration.

Each Adventurous Journey includes:

1. Preparation and Training
2. Practice Journey
3. Qualifying Journey

Its a tough challenge but you will have the opportunity to learn more about the wider environment, as well as to develop self-confidence and team work.



"I have gained the confidence to talk in front of large groups of people, to travel solo to remote places in the world, developed a business whilst in school and I have become a leader within social groups and communities. I owe my personal growth and amazing life experiences throughout the Award."

*Carl
Gold Award holder*



Gold Residential Project



For the Gold Residential Project Section you'll have the opportunity to build on the many skills developed during your Award.

It will involve you undertaking a shared activity or specific course with people you don't know that will build on a talent you've developed in another section, learn something completely new on an intensive course or do something to help others. It's a big, exciting and very fulfilling experience that will leave you with a great sense of achievement.

Types of activities

There are many different opportunities for completing a **Gold Residential Project**. Some suitable categories are listed below. It is worth re-emphasising that the activity must be purposeful and not be considered as a holiday. These may include:

Personal training courses

- Musical camp or trip
- Skill based camp
- Language camp
- Environment and conservation projects
- Service to other people and communities
- Activity based

If you are struggling to come up with an idea of what to do for your **Gold Residential Project**, there are a number of resources available to you. You can speak to your Award Leader, chat with other participants or check out the Award's website :

(<https://dukeofed.com.au/about-the-award/sections-in-detail/>)

Any questions?

If you have any questions about your Award, talk to your Award Leader first – they are there to help you.

You can also find further information via dukeofed.com.au

Share your Story

We want every young person aged 14 to 24 in the world to have the opportunity you've had to participate in the Award. We hope you enjoy your experiences!

Don't forget to let us know how it goes and share your stories and photos!

<https://dukeofed.com.au/resources/award-stories/share-your-story/>

You can also connect with us via social media:



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