

Häufig gestellte Fragen (FAQ)

- [1. What is an INGOT?](#)
- [2. How are INGOTs different from other available qualifications?](#)
- [3. How are the INGOTs related to the UK National Qualifications Framework \(NQF\)?](#)
- [4. What is the awarding body for INGOTs?](#)
- [5. What do I have to do to become an INGOT assessor?](#)
- [6. How is quality assurance guaranteed for the certification of the INGOTs?](#)
- [7. How can those in countries around the world access the INGOTs?](#)
- [8. How does certification take place?](#)
- [9. Where can I find the details of the assessment requirements for the INGOTs?](#)
- [10. How much work is involved for the Gold INGOT \(Level 2\)?](#)
- [11. What facilities are there for students to store their work and develop their own e-portfolios?](#)
- [12. I have to certificate lots of individuals, won't this cause me a lot of detailed administration?](#)
- [13. Do I need to keep portfolios of paper based evidence?](#)
- [14. Can students use Microsoft Office to achieve their INGOTs?](#)
- [15. Do you have an INGOT certification for young children or those with learning disabilities?](#)
- [16. Summary](#)
- [17. Fees](#)

1. What is an INGOT?

The INGOTs are a new family of qualifications based on the UK Qualifications and Credit Framework referenced to the European Qualifications Framework. INGOT is an acronym for International Grades - Open Technologies. We support our qualifications using Open Source Software and Open Standards and we promote the use of Open Systems throughout all our work. The long term benefits of open systems are lower costs and greater freedom for information and associated technologies. However anyone can participate using any current software with which the assessment criteria can be met.

In English the word INGOT is associated with a metal bar of high value. The INGOT certificates provide motivating, flexible, coherent progression routes from complete beginner to professional level expertise in a range of skills and knowledge. They prepare the learner for citizenship in a rapidly changing technological world by learning through community participation. There are currently qualifications available from P scale 1 through to Level 2 Diplomas.

2. How are INGOTs different from other available qualifications?

INGOTs share some things in common with other qualifications but our online based marbook and web based accreditation system means that we can offer The Schools ITQ at a fraction of the cost of other awarding bodies. INGOTs meet the requirements of recent developments in competence based learning supported by the EU Lifelong Learning Programme and are backed by EU finance. Our policies on inclusion mean that formally accredited qualifications can be achieved by young children and learners with special needs allowing wider participation and improved accessibility to higher level qualifications for more people.

3. How are the INGOTs related to the UK National Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)?

The INGOTs are made up from units in the QCF which have been developed by e-skills, the Sector Skills Council for Business and IT. They are directly related to the National Occupational Standards. The QCF is referenced to the European Qualifications Framework.

4. What is the awarding body for INGOTs?

The awarding body is The Learning Machine Ltd. TLM is accredited by the UK qualifications regulator OFQUAL. The INGOTs are endorsed by the UK Sector Skills Council for Business and IT and are supported by an EU Transfer of Innovation grant from the Life Long Learning programme.

5. What do I have to do to become an INGOT assessor?

You need to contact TLM to arrange training. For experienced IT teachers this is a short course typically taking half a day. You can get started by downloading the [handbook](#) [1] and reading through it, watching the [screen cast videos](#) [2] from the front page of the web site and going over the [on-line assessor training course](#). [3] There is further detail in the [How Tos](#). [4] There are example schemes of work [here](#). [5]

6. How is quality assurance guaranteed for the certification of the INGOTs?

There are several aspects that collectively contribute. Assessors are trained and sign an agreement to uphold standards, samples of evidence of the candidates meeting the criteria are taken randomly for external moderation, centre visits are made by TLM to check systems and procedures,

7. How can those in countries around the world access the INGOTs?

Ingots is a web based accreditation system, therefore the only requirements are for internet access through a web browser. We have projects in a number of countries around the world. Contact us for more details.

8. How does certification take place?

Certification is achieved when the learner has completed tasks or course work that complies with our criteria. Then certification is printed direct from our web site. Certificates can be directly authenticated at no charge from the web site. This means you can be confident that a certificate is genuine as forgery of qualifications certificates is a significant issue.

9. Where can I find the details of the assessment requirements for the INGOTs?

Häufig gestellte Fragen (FAQ)

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The details for the assessment requirements for the ITQ INGOTs are linked [here](#). [6]

10. How much work is involved for the Gold INGOT (Level 2)?

The Guided learning hours for our Level 2 accreditation is shown on the assessment criteria pages and varies depending on the units taken and the exact qualification. It can be from 10 hours of work for a unit certificate to 300 hours for a Diploma. We can accredit and recognise prior learning as long as there is convincing and reliable evidence to back up any claims.

11. What facilities are there for students to store their work and develop their own e-portfolios?

TLM offers a full eportfolio and blogging system from our web site. There is a comprehensive system for learners to pass evidence to assessors and to receive feedback.

12. I have to certificate lots of individuals, won't this cause me a lot of detailed administration?

Our online markbook has been designed to facilitate the speedy processing of batch certification. Once learnt, the on-line systems should provide significant time savings when compared with other portfolio methods of assessment.

13. Do I need to keep portfolios of paper based evidence?

No, the Ingots philosophy is to have all course work web based. Eliminating the need for time costly procedures of making and forwarding paper based evidence and reducing environmental damage. We will accept paper based evidence initially to help centres make the transition from old to new systems easily.

14. Can students use Microsoft Office to achieve their INGOTs?

Ingots is a totally software agnostic system and therefore ALL known software packages can be used. The only constraint is that there is evidence that the criteria have been met.

15. Do you have an INGOT certification for young children or those with learning disabilities?

Ingots has a coherent progression route that starts at P1 and moves through all stages to level 2 Diplomas. This means that all learners can be included. We have certificated children as young as 5 and adults in their 80s. Many of our centres are specialist organisations for learners with Special Needs.

16. Summary

Ingots qualifications :

- are competency based and outcome specific, not determined by any particular teaching course.
- encourage assessment for learning with student self-assessment, peer assessment and mentoring as key aspects.
- are designed to reduce bureaucracy and enhance the professional role of the teacher/assessor.
- provide progression in both breadth and the demand in skills and knowledge through a

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Häufig gestellte Fragen (FAQ)

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- structured system of certificates that correspond to Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 in the UK Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) with direct links to the National Occupational Standards. (Level 3 to be developed soon)
- can be easily and directly authenticated using theINGOTs.org web site.
 - are independent of age and suitable for use with young children or mature adults based solely on their competence against the criteria.
 - employ assessment that is appropriate for the skills and capabilities assessed. ie practical "doing" skills are assessed by practical tasks in purposeful contexts and direct observation.
 - give credit for co-operative attitudes to work and encourage students to take part in productive projects to produce useful resources and support for others.
 - are low cost. Often less than half the cost of traditional qualifications.
 - are not tied to proprietary software and can be achieved with entirely free and open digital resources. The INGOTS are vocationally related qualifications for anyone working in an office environment and for learning about the growing importance of open standards and open source software in the IT and IC industry sector.
 - are international and where relevant and there is demand, we will gain recognition from the National Regulatory Authorities in particular countries. The basic INGOT assessment criteria are universal. In the UK, they are mapped to the National Occupational Standards (NOS) at Level 1 and Level 2. They also cover large sections of the programmes of study associated with the UK National Curriculum and provide assessment opportunities fitting the National Curriculum assessment levels.
 - were originally developed in collaboration with members of the OpenOffice.org community, SchoolforgeUK, The Open Source Consortium, The Association for Free Software, and over 50 INGOT Academies in 10 different countries.
 - Chief Executive and lead designer is Ian Lynch who was responsible for assessment as part of the team that set up the UK's first City Technology College. He has extensive experience of inspecting schools as a Registered Inspector accredited by the UK Office for Standards in Education and in needs assessment as an assessor for the UK National Professional Qualification for Headteachers. He also has a MSc in Education Management and he has provided extensive education support for the OpenOffice.org community worldwide.
 - Principal Moderator is Joan Knott who is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Assessors and has extensive experience as Senior Moderator for Statistics for one of the largest Awarding Bodies in the UK and in commissioning commercial e-learning resources to support the schools' curriculum.
 - support training assessor trainers in any country in the World, normally free of charge if the country demonstrates it has a viable business plan to expand the INGOT programme and will support translation of the web site, certificates and the handbook into their language.
 - are designed to reduce administration to an absolute minimum.

17. Fees

Our current fees structure can be found at <http://www.theingots.org/community/fees> [7]

Quellen-URL: <http://de.theingots.org/community/faq>

Verweise

- [1] <http://community/handbook2>
- [2] <https://theingots.org/community/videotraining>
- [3] https://theingots.org/community/assessor_training1
- [4] <https://theingots.org/community/howto>
- [5] <https://theingots.org/community/sow>
- [6] <https://theingots.org/community/ITQassessment>
- [7] <http://www.theingots.org/community/fees>