



Transcend Level 4 Award in Commercial Drone Operations

Qualification Specification

Version 01: 31 March 2025



Qualification Purpose Statement

Qualification Scope			
<p>The Transcend Level 4 Certificate in Commercial Drone Operations is an Ofqual regulated occupational qualification. It sits in sector subject area 1.4 Public Services and is solely awarded by Transcend.</p> <p>This qualification is designed for members of the armed forces, veterans and other public servants to evidence commercial drone operator and remote pilot duties. It is most relevant to veterans who developed these skills during their military career and who aspire to increase their employability prospects with civilian employers.</p> <p>This qualification is developed and delivered collaboration with British Training Board [BTB] as the independent licensing body for education providers of military professionals and veterans across the UK. It is integral to the Transcend BTB MVP¹ Education Portfolio. This Portfolio includes a range of occupational qualifications that align to the BTB Military Skills Translator and BTB Initiatives for Military Professionals, Veterans, Public Servants [MVP] and their families.</p>			
Qualification regulation	This qualification is regulated by Ofqual. It is published as Level 4 qualification on the Register of Regulated Qualifications and is equivalent to a Level 5 on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) .		
	Qualification number [Ofqual]	610/4879/3	Qualification sector
	Qualification start date	31 Mar 2025	Qualification TQT
	Qualification review date	31 Mar 2029	Qualification GLH
	Qualification credit	08	Qualification DSH

¹ [Military Professionals, Veterans, Public Servants \[MVP\]](#)

Qualification purpose	<p>The purpose of the qualification is to confirm occupational competence</p> <p>The sub-purpose of the qualification is to confirm competence in an occupational role to the standards required</p>
Qualification objective	<p>The qualification objective is to provide a benefit to learners by preparing them to fulfil the role of a Drone Operator and Remote Pilot (RP).</p> <p>The qualification is designed specifically to align to a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) recognised programme. Successful learners will be recommended to apply to the CAA for an operational Authorisation within the Specific category. The CAA stipulates that learners should achieve a level of pilot competency before they are eligible to act as a Remote Pilot (RP) in charge of an Unmanned Aircraft System [UAS] [Drone] for Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) operations within the Specific category of operations. The critical elements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theoretical knowledge/general airmanship. • practical flight proficiencies on the class of Drone that is applied for. • minimum amount of flying experience on the relevant class of Drone. <p>This qualification is designed for learners who use Unmanned Aircraft for commercial or medium risk purposes in a specific industry and associated role. Remote Pilots are required to operate in a range of industries and environments.</p> <p>This qualification underpins competencies required in the following job roles noting that the list is not exhaustive Inspector [for example wind turbines], Photographer, Scaffolder, Surveyors, Engineer, Roofer.</p>
Qualification awarding	<p>This qualification is solely awarded by Transcend Awards Limited as the recognised awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual.</p>
Qualification partner	<p>This qualification is developed in collaboration with industry specialists the British Training Board [BTB] as the technical partner. The BTB is an independent educator of military professionals and veterans across the UK.</p> <p>This qualification is subject to consultation with armed forces trainers, military professionals, veterans, and equality experts. The collaboration and consultation groups remain in place for the lifetime of the qualification to ensure it remains fit for purpose.</p>

Qualification providers	<p>This qualification is delivered in collaboration with British Training Board [BTB] Awards as the independent licensing body for education providers of military professionals and veterans across the UK.</p> <p>To deliver this qualification education providers must have a BTB licence and be able to meet the Transcend Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval Conditions. Due to the nature of the qualification, it is delivered by providers that have evidence of the BTB Licence, and are recognised as centres and approved to offer the qualification by the awarding organisation.</p> <p>Recognised centres are required to deliver the qualification in accordance with the BTB licence and the Transcend Centre recognition and qualification delivery conditions to maintain their status. All providers must contact British Training Board [BTB] Awards to access the licencing scheme prior to making a recognition or approval submission to the awarding organisation.</p>	
	Applicant centres	Recognised centres
	Access the Transcend Awarding Website to submit a centre recognition enquiry to initiate the process.	Access the Transcend Awarding Management System [TAMS] to create and submit the Transcend Recognised Centre Extension Request Form.

Qualification participants + progression	<p>The pre-requisite to registration requires learners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be accurately identified • at least 16 years of age • be able to communicate effectively in English [written, spoken, listening and writing] • own a drone and have insurance. <p>There are no additional pre-requisites to certification other than the attendance on the full course of training and successful achievement of all assessment activities.</p>	
	Education progression routes	This qualification is integral to a progressive suite of qualifications which are set to launch in September 2025.
	Employability progression routes	This qualification is designed specifically to align to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) recognised programmes which enables successful learners to be recommended to apply to the CAA for an operational Authorisation within the Specific category.
Qualification support	This qualification endorsed by BTB Armed Force Associates.	

Qualification Structure

This qualification is comprised of three mandatory units. Learners are required to have successfully achieved all mandatory units in order to be awarded the qualification certificate.

Units		Level	GLH	DSH	TUT	Credit
Unit 01	UAS Remote pilot purposes	4	08	02	10	01
Unit 02	UAS Remote pilot proficiencies	4	22	18	40	04
Unit 03	UAS Remote pilot operator authorisations	4	20	10	30	03
Summary			50	30	80	08

Qualification Delivery Specification

Qualification Delivery Conditions	
<p>This qualification must be delivered in accordance with the Transcend Recognised Centre Conditions and the supplementary Qualification Delivery Conditions outlined here. This qualification sits with the Transcend BTB MVP Education Portfolio and the BTB Licenced workforce, venues and approaches have been agreed as meeting the required conditions. These are subject to continuous review by the awarding organisation to ensure the qualification is accessible and remains valid. The qualification unit specifications must be sourced via the BTB as a licensed practitioner.</p>	
Qualification resource conditions	Qualification coordination conditions
<p>The qualification resources are comprised of:</p> <p>BTB Licensed Tutors, Assessors, IQAs BTB Licensed Training Venues and Facilities</p>	<p>The qualification coordination must comply with:</p> <p>BTB Approved Engagement, Eligibility and Access SOP BTB Approved Agreement, Attendance and Achievement SOP</p>
Qualification delivery conditions	Qualification assessment conditions
<p>The qualification must be delivered in accordance with the:</p> <p>BTB Approved Delivery Models and RPL SOPs BTB Approved Standardised and Personalised Programmes</p>	<p>The qualification must be assessed in accordance with the:</p> <p>BTB Approved Assessment strategies and methods BTB Approved Assessment tasks and marking guidelines</p>
Qualification IQA conditions	Qualification IQA conditions
<p>The qualification must be internally quality assured in line with the:</p> <p>BTB Approved IQA Monitoring Approach BTB Approved IQA CASS Moderation Strategies</p>	<p>The qualification must be externally quality assured in line with the:</p> <p>Transcend EQA Monitoring approach Transcend EQA CASS Moderation Strategies</p>

Appendix: Qualification Specification Version Control

This document is subject to version control. All changes will be tracked here and confirmed as an updated version.

Version	Publication date	Publication details
Version 01	31 Mar 2025	Publication 01