



# **Open Awards Level 4 Enquiry Information Pack**

## Contents

Welcome	Page 3
Learner Journey	Pages 4 & 5
Overview	Page 6
Aims	Page 7
Entry Requirements	Page 8
Qualification & Benefits	Page 9
Benefits continued	Page 10
Prices	Page 11
Contact	Page 12

## Welcome

Thank you for your initial enquiry regarding the new Open Awards (formerly known as OCN) Level 4 Forest School Trainers Award. Please find enclosed information containing all you need to know regarding your enquiry.

When you decide you would like to continue please contact where will then be sent the *Benchmarking* questionnaire in order for you to self evaluate your current level of practice, skill and experience.

FSE is the largest training providers in the UK and we provide services all over the country in order to meet the growing demands for Forest School training provision.

FSE is committed to maintaining its reputation as a quality Forest School training organization and we are working in partnership together with Open Awards and Silver Fox Ltd to bring you this qualification.

By engaging in the Level 4 training programme you are committing to work hard to maintain this reputation. In exchange Archimedes will support you and help you to deliver the quality service you demand for your clients and customers.

We hope you enjoy reading this pack and look forward to hearing from you. If you require any additional information you will find all our contact details on the back page.

## Learner Journey

The following 2 pages consist of a learner journey which will show you all the stages involved in the level 4 training process. There are 5 stages which are as follows:

Stage 1	Expression of interest and benchmarking process
Stage 2	Licence agreement and pre course administration
Stage 3	Training to be a Trainer
Stage 4	Training to be an Assessor
Stage 5	Qualification as an Archimedes Forest School Trainer

\* Please note you have 12 months to complete your portfolio and submit to us from the date of your initial training week or there may be late registration charges that you may have to pay

## Overview

Since its introduction to the UK in the 1990's Forest Schools has gained a reputation for making a difference to children's lives and is now moving into its second decade of development.

Widening government agendas and concerns about the education of children from all walks of life becoming increasingly impacted by the pressures and cultural changes in the way society functions, Forest Schools is providing increasingly diverse opportunities for educators to make a supporting curriculum available that can help children build positive attitudes and values about themselves, about learning and the environment in which they live.

In response to this the original level 4 Archimedes Forest School Trainers Award was developed in partnership with the Open Awards and Silver Fox Ltd.

We aim to work with organisations both in the private, voluntary and public sectors to establish benchmarks of quality and provision for all those wishing to pursue a career or provide training within their organisations. These benchmarks will provide endorsement for trainers and establish boundaries of good practice ensuring that all trainers passing on their wealth of experience will be working to the high standards of good practice that we have become known for.

This qualification will be assessed in a number of ways and in order to be considered all applicants will complete a learning log of experience to establish the quality of their knowledge, understanding, skill and experience in all the key areas of Forest School ethos, design, delivery and evaluation.

All responses will be assessed against the identified benchmarks and where experience is below the required benchmark criteria an Action Plan will be agreed in order to fill existing gaps in practice. This may enable a candidate to prepare for that year's cohort, otherwise if a longer developmental process is required, a following one.

FSE knows that Forest Schools is unique in its motivation, ethos and concept and in order to maintain the quality of trainers and training providers we want to ensure that all those who attend are committed to this good practice and promote the wellbeing of all individuals they work with both physical and psychological.

## **Aims**

The remit for this qualification is for FSE to work in partnership with Open Awards and Silver Fox Ltd in order to set a robust and relevant quality training award standard for Archimedes Forest School Trainers to set up satellite centers throughout the UK. Through competent, experienced trainers, the fundamentals of Forest School can be passed on to practitioners and sustained.

It will provide standards in all 5 key points of the core elements of the Forest School Awards from Entry Level through to Level 3. These areas will be:

## **Skills**

- Normal Operating Procedures
- Emergency Action Planning
- Practical Skills
- Tools
- Fire
- Cooking and Boiling Water
- Shelters
- Activities

## **Setting**

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Health and Safety
- Risk Assessment
- Management Planning and monitoring

## **Pedagogy**

- Learning Theory
- Accelerated Learning
- Emotional Intelligence and Self Esteem
- Schemas and Play
- Neuroscience and Behaviour

## **Professional Training**

- Training, Facilitation and Assessing

## **Outcomes**

- Forest School Ethos
- Programme Design and Delivery
- Observation and Evaluation Tools

## Entry Requirements

This qualification requires all those who attend to hold a teaching qualification, a Level 3 Forest School Practitioners Award and have worked delivering Forest School programmes to a diverse client group for a desired minimum of 250 hours.

If you do not meet all the criteria below we will work with you to develop an Action Plan in order to enable you to proceed further. Please contact us to discuss this.

- Level 3 Forest School Practitioner Award (this can be from any training organisation or board, e.g. Open College Network, Open Awards, NCFE, BTec but you will only be trained and qualified to deliver Archimedes Open Awards training courses under license.)
- Minimum 250 hours of Forest School delivery
- Delivery to a variety of client groups
- Public Liability and indemnity Insurance (you or your organisation)
- Valid ITC/REC First Aid Certificate.
- Teaching Qualification in accordance with DFES - Level 3 Preparing to Teach in the Life Long Learning Sector City and Guilds 7303)
- Be committed to undertake 36 hours Continual Professional Development (CPD) training each year – to include 1 Revalidation Day with Archimedes per 18 month period. Attendance is compulsory to maintain their Archimedes Trainer status in accordance with DFES guidelines, this is for Quality Assurance purposes, ensure competency, share knowledge and research and to ensure that Archimedes Standards are maintained. Costs are on page 11.
- Registered for Data Protection
- Will sign a license agreement which
  - Permits qualified trainers to utilise FSE training materials
  - Requires the submission of portfolios through the Moderation process at Silver Fox Ltd for Internal Moderation, which in turn will be Externally Moderated by Open Awards
  - Requires trainers to promote best practice and follow FSE Quality Assurance procedures and adhere to safety guidelines at all times

## Qualification Details

This qualification has been established for those with the experience and passion to begin the Forest School journeys of others. It is also for those that wish to work with us and understand the benefit of being part of the FSE family and as such want to work with our approaches and ethos to create truly immersive and transformative learning experiences for life long development.

**Once qualified you will be able to provide independent Open Awards Forest Schools Training Awards from Entry Level up to Level 3 to your chosen client group using exclusively the supplied FSE Training materials.**

This qualification does not qualify you to deliver any other courses or use any other course material other than those approved or provided by FSE, more concise details of which will be provided in your licence agreement.

For each person you then train you will receive a full package of training materials and resources (including all printed portfolios, hand-outs, and health and safety documents). In short, all the learner materials that you will need in order for you to start training your client group as soon as you are qualified. Costs are per person and details of this can be found below.

From time to time we may contact you to deliver training on an employed or freelance basis as an FSE Forest School Trainer. You are under no obligation to accept any work offered.

## Benefits

- You will become a part of our organisation and therefore will benefit from the Archimedes brand, establishing itself as a training company with a reputation for quality standards. Archimedes is committed to quality in terms of training delivery, Forest School training procedures, assessment processes and expectations of its practitioners after the training process has been completed.
- You will be using our tried and tested course materials that have been delivered and refined by over the past decade.
- You can get started straight away and can be delivering training as soon as you are qualified
- You can bring down the cost of training Forest School practitioners within your organisation by delivering the training yourself in house.
- Set up your own training organisation and deliver Forest School courses in your area without having to write, reproduce or obtain accreditation for your own training material.
- As a new FSE Forest School Trainer undertaking the development process you can be sure that you will get the support that you require and we are there to support you through the training process and into your Forest School Training future. It is a two way process that will guarantee to prospective clients they can be assured of the quality they have come to expect with FSE.

## **Benefits for You**

- All Training and Assessment including
  - Folders and Mentoring
  - Level 4 Portfolio
  - Level 3 Portfolio
  - Level 2 Portfolio
  - Level 1 Portfolio
  - Induction Training (1 week)
  - Developmental Training (up to 5 weeks)
  - Assessor Training (2 weeks)
- Registration, moderation and certification through Silver Fox Ltd and Open Awards.
- Course listings on forestschoools.com and other FSE websites
- Syndication on our mailing lists and newsletters
- One moderation per 12 months covering each award level you deliver.
- Continued support throughout your learning process
- A Starter Tools Pack for you to start your training

## **Benefits for Your Learners (Level 3 example)**

- Level 3 Portfolio for each learner including
  - Handbook
  - Learning Log
  - Scheme of Work
  - Reading lists
- Level 3 Supplementary material for each learner including
  - Risk Assessments
  - Session Planning
  - Programme Outlines
  - Environmental impact assessments
  - Schemas information
  - Accelerated learning techniques
  - Digital resources and portfolio version
- Registration, moderation and certification of all learners through Silver Fox Ltd and Open Awards.

## **Course Dates and Venue**

See our website diary at [www.forestschoools.com](http://www.forestschoools.com)

## Level 4 Course Price

All prices include vat at 20% for 2011 onwards.

For Open Awards Level 4 Forest School Trainers Award. (Includes Tools Pack)

Total	£2,790.00
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## Further costs to consider

Revalidation Day (including vat)

Total	£115.00
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## For each person you train

Forest Schools Open Awards Award (including vat)

Level 3	£310.00
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Level 2	£140.00
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Level 1	£99.00
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**Financial Benefit Example** – approximate costs applied for training only

Deliver training using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party training organisation

16 x Level 3 practitioners @ £799.00 = £12,784.00

Deliver the training yourself

Level 4 Training = £2,790.00

16 x Level 3 practitioners @ £310.00 = £4,960.00

Total £7,750.00

Saving £7,824.00 for each full course you deliver yourself compared to using a third party to train your learners as well as having covered the cost of your Level 4 training.

**To request a booking form or to discuss this course please contact**

[info@forestschoools.com](mailto:info@forestschoools.com)

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