

The International Award

What is the International Award (Duke of Edinburgh Award)?

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a personal development programme for young people that is both challenging and rewarding. It is open to all those between the ages of 14 and 25, regardless of background or ability. It is run by the International Award Association, and various branches of the scheme operate in over 100 different countries. Universities and many employers regard The Award as an extra qualification, as it provides evidence for important skills that are needed in a work environment i.e. persistence, determination, leadership, motivation and good organization.

The Award is about individual challenge over an extended period of time. To gain The Award at Bronze, Silver or Gold level, each participant must complete four sections, where they learn to help in the community, develop skills and self-confidence, participate in physical activity and experience the challenge and team work of outdoor expeditions.

There are three levels of The Award, each involving a progressive degree of commitment:

- Bronze (for those aged 14 and over).
- Silver (for those aged 15 and over).
- Gold (for those aged 16 and over).

There are 4 sections of The Award at Bronze and Silver level and 5 at Gold level:

- Service – to learn how to give useful service to others.
- Skills – to encourage the development of personal interests, creativity or practical skills.
- Physical Recreation – to encourage participation in physical recreation and improvement of performance.
- Adventurous Journey – to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery whilst undertaking a journey in a group.

There is also an additional requirement at Gold Level:

- Residential Project – to broaden experience through involvement with others in a residential setting.

Timescale:

Level	Physical Recreation	Skills	Service	Plus	Adventurous Journey
Bronze	3 months	3 months	3 months	All participants must do an extra 3 months in either Physical Recreation or Skills or Service.	2 days + 1 night
Silver	6 months	6 months	6 months	Non-Bronze holders must do an extra 6 months in either Physical Recreation or Skills or Service	3 days + 2 nights
Gold	12 months	12 months	12 months	Non-Silver holders must do an extra 6 months in either Physical Recreation or Skills or Service Plus additional requirement of 5 day / 4 night Residential Project.	4 days + 3 nights

A few facts:

- Over 225,000 young people are working towards The Awards at any time. The number of entrants has risen by about 30% over the last five years and continues to rise.
- Donations, project funding and sponsorship accounts for 66% of income, most of which comes from companies.
- HRH The Duke of Edinburgh is the Patron of the charity and HRH The Earl of Wessex, himself a Gold Award holder, is a Trustee of the Award.
- The Award is now run in over 100 countries around the World.
- Bronze Awards gained per year (on average): 38,932.
- Silver Award gained per year (on average): 13,527.
- Gold Award gained per year (on average): 5,605.
- New Entrants per year: over 270,000.
- Current International Participants: almost 600,000.
- Awards gained Worldwide since 1956: almost 6 million.

The International Award at Jerudong International School

Jerudong International School is an Independent Operating Authority for the International Award in the Asia Pacific Region. The Bronze Award has been running at JIS for a number of years, in 2005 the Silver Award was established and in September 2006 the Gold Award was introduced at JIS and into Brunei for the first time.

The first JIS Gold Award Group visited Kenya in July 2007, completing the Adventurous Journey and Residential Project aspects of The Award programme. The 2007 group established links with sponsors in Brunei and with a Maasi community in Kenya. The challenge for future groups will be to continue the establishment of long-term sustainable development links with this community in Kenya.