

# Fundamental Principles, Operational Principles and Code of Practice

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**The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation**

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Version: 1.0

## Version control

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Version	Date	Author	Notes
1.0	09/08/2019	Operations	<a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding.</a>

## Relevant policies

1. Memorandum of Understanding, International Award Association
2. Guiding Principles
3. Key Governing Documents Terms of Reference



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## 1. Fundamental Principles

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- 1.1 The criterion for gaining an Award is individual improvement through persistence and achievement, taking into account the participant's initial capabilities and without any element of competition between participants.
- 1.2 Participation is entirely voluntary, and the individual participant has a completely free choice in the selection of locally available options within the four Sections.
- 1.3 There is no discrimination against participation on grounds of sex, race, religion or political affiliation.

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## 2. Operational Principles

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- 2.1 Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 24.
- 2.2 The basic structure of the Award Programme consists of the four mandatory Sections: Service (to learn how to give useful service to others), Adventurous Journey (to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery whilst undertaking a journey in a group), Skills (to encourage the development of personal interests, creativity or practical skills) and Physical Recreation (to encourage participation in physical recreation and improvement of performance).
- 2.3 The three levels of Award are: Bronze (for those over the age of 14), Silver (for those over the age of 15) and Gold (for those over the age of 16).
- 2.4 The minimum period of participation for direct entrants to qualify for an Award is six months for a Bronze, 12 months for Silver and 18 months for Gold.
- 2.5 At Gold level participants undertake a Residential Project (to broaden experience through involvement with others in a residential setting) away from home.

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## 3. Code of Practice

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- 3.1 To maintain comparable standards of operating practice as advised by the Foundation.

- 3.2 To manage the Award fairly and impartially in all respects.
- 3.3 To ensure that the Award is open to all subject to age parameters.
- 3.4 To allow participants from any other Award Operator to continue their Award
- 3.5 Undertake to recognise the validity of achievements entered in Record Books issued by other Award Operators or to accept the electronic transfer of a participant's records through the Online Record Book system or equivalent, in so far as it is possible under national law.
- 3.6 To manage the Award under the Operational Guidelines approved in 2003 and revised in 2018.