

SIAS Qualification Specification

SIAS Level 2 Award in Applying Sustainability and Net Zero Practices

Qualification Number: 610/6613/8

Operational Start Date: 24th October 2025

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Version History

This is a live document and as such will be updated when required. It is the responsibility of the approved centre to ensure the most up-to-date version of the Centre Qualification Guide is in use.

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	23/10/2025	First published
1.1	26/11/2025	Wording to progression opportunities updated
1.2	11/12/2025	Regulated by CCEA Regulation

Introduction

Welcome to SIAS

SIAS is an Awarding Organisation regulated in England by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and in Northern Ireland by the Council for Curriculum, Examination and Assessment Regulation (CCEA Regulation).

We exist to drive positive change, and across STEM industries globally, we empower learners to achieve their full potential.

As the leading Awarding Organisation for the technical science, manufacturing, engineering and low carbon sectors, we are disrupting through innovative and collaborative approaches.

Our mission is to deliver transformational experiences and solutions that support the skills agenda.

Feedback

Customer experience and feedback is very important to us. We're always open to suggestions when it comes to enhancing and improving our services. If you have any comments or feedback on our services or products, please contact our team at info@siasuk.com or call us on 01925 515211.

About this Specification

This document has been developed to provide information for learners and centres undertaking, delivering or quality assuring this qualification.

Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval

To deliver this qualification, the centre must be recognised by SIAS.

Recognised centres must apply for approval for each qualification they intend to offer. Qualification approval must be obtained prior to conducting any learner assessments.

For details of our centre recognition and qualification approval process, visit our website or contact us at info@siasuk.com.

About this Qualification

Key Facts

Qualification Title	SIAS Level 2 Award in Applying Sustainability and Net Zero Practices
Qualification Number	610/6613/8
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	16
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	30
Assessment Methods	Centre Devised Assessment
Operational Start Date	24 th October 2025
Review Date	23 rd October 2028
Operational End Date	-
Certification End Date	-
Regulation	This qualification is regulated by Ofqual and CCEA Regulation.

Qualification Objective

This qualification aims to provide learners with an introduction to sustainability, net zero strategies, and responsible business practices. It builds foundational knowledge of climate change, carbon emissions, and how businesses can respond through efficient, ethical, and forward-thinking approaches. It enables learners to identify and address an environmental issue in the workplace, plan and implement a realistic improvement, and evaluate its impact, linking sustainability to business performance, carbon reduction, social value, and emerging environmental standards such as Net Zero and ESG.

Entry Requirements

This qualification is available for learners aged 18+.

It is suitable for learners who are in employment. Learners should have access to a workplace or realistic simulated environment in order to complete the qualification.

No specific prior qualifications are required. However, learners would benefit from:

- An interest in environmental sustainability.
- Basic literacy skills to Level 2 Functional Skills or equivalent.

Centres should take reasonable steps to ensure learners are able to complete this qualification, for example by carrying out an initial assessment to confirm they can work at the appropriate level.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the process of recognising previous, informal or experiential learning which could contribute to a qualification or unit. SIAS supports the use of RPL, and centres must work to the principles included in the SIAS RPL Policy which is available on the SIAS website. This policy should be reviewed alongside this guide and all other relevant SIAS qualification documentation.

Qualification Structure

To achieve the SIAS Level 2 Award in Applying Sustainability and Net Zero Practices learners must achieve all mandatory units contained in the table below:

Ofqual Unit reference	Unit title	Level	GLH	TQT
D/651/8260	Foundations of Climate Change, Sustainability and Net Zero in Business	2	4	8
F/651/8261	Applying Sustainability in the Workplace	2	12	22
TOTAL			16	30

Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Note: Values for Total Qualification Time, including Guided Learning Hours, are calculated by considering the different activities that learners would typically complete to achieve and demonstrate the learning outcomes of a qualification. They do not include activities which are required by a learner's teacher based on the requirements of an individual learner and/or cohort. Individual learners' requirements and individual teaching styles mean there will be variation in the actual time taken to complete a qualification. Values for Total Qualification Time, including Guided Learning, are estimates.

Some examples of activities which can contribute to Total Qualification Time include:

- independent and unsupervised research/learning
- unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience
- unsupervised e-learning
- unsupervised e-assessment
- unsupervised coursework
- watching a pre-recorded podcast or webinar
- unsupervised work-based learning
- all guided learning.

Some examples of activities which can contribute to Guided Learning include:

- classroom-based learning supervised by a teacher
- work-based learning supervised by a teacher
- live webinar or telephone tutorial with a teacher in real time
- e-learning supervised by a teacher in real time
- all forms of assessment which take place under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training, including where the assessment is competence-based and may be turned into a learning opportunity.

Grading

This qualification is assessed as Pass/Fail.

Delivery and Assessment

Geographical Coverage

This qualification is regulated in England.

Use of Language

All learners must be assessed in English unless the qualification specification states that another language will be accepted.

Progression Opportunities

Following completion of this qualification, learners will be able to progress into further qualifications and training in sustainability and net zero practices.

Assessment Guidance

All SIAS assessments will be accessible and produce results that are valid, reliable, transparent and fair.

To achieve the qualification, learners must successfully pass the 2 mandatory units listed below:

Component	Set by	Marked by	Suggested assessment method(s)	Grading
Unit 1: Foundations of Climate Change, Sustainability and Net Zero in Business	Centre	Centre	Assessment methods that can be used for this unit include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Choice Examination • Presentation and Questioning • Portfolio of Evidence • Project. 	Pass/Fail
Unit 2: Applying Sustainability in the Workplace	Centre	Centre	Assessment methods that can be used for this unit include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio of Evidence • Presentation and Questioning • Project. 	Pass/Fail
Overall Award				Pass/Fail

All assessment results will be subject to moderation and monitoring by SIAS to ensure standards are maintained and outcomes remain fair and consistent.

Centres should have systems in place to verify a learner is ready to undertake their assessment.

Centres must ensure that no part of the assessment process, including invigilation or internal quality assurance is conducted by anyone with a personal interest in the assessment outcome.

Learners who do not achieve a pass will be permitted to retake the assessment up to two times. A resit may only be undertaken for an assessment that has previously been failed.

Documentation to support the qualification assessment process can be accessed from the SIAS Pinnacle system.

ID requirements

It is the responsibility of the centre to have systems in place to ensure that the person taking an assessment is the person they are claiming to be. All centres are therefore required to ensure that each learner's identification is checked before they undertake the assessment.

SIAS recommends the following as proof of a learner's identity:

- a valid passport (any nationality)
- a photocard driving licence
- another photographic ID card, e.g. employee ID card, student ID card, travel card etc.

Centre Requirements

All SIAS centres must be approved by SIAS to deliver the qualification(s) they wish to offer. This is to ensure centres have the processes and resources in place to deliver the qualification(s). Further information can be found in the SIAS Centre Handbook.

When a centre applies to offer a qualification, they will need to provide evidence that they have sufficient resources and infrastructure in place for delivery of that qualification:

- evidence of trainer, assessor and IQA competence and knowledge.
- details of available resources.

Information regarding the induction and continuing professional development must be made available to SIAS by centres through the external quality assurance process.

Tutor/Trainer requirements

For the SIAS Level 2 Award in Applying Sustainability and Net Zero Practices tutors/trainers are required to demonstrate they:

- have relevant occupational knowledge and competence.
- hold a recognised education and training qualification or have equivalent training experience.
- have completed recent, relevant CPD activities for the subject area.

Evidence includes:

- CV and relevant occupational qualifications and experience.
- Up-to-date CPD record including certification from any courses attended.

SIAS recommends as best practice for tutors/trainers to hold or be working towards a relevant education and training qualification. This includes:

- Level 3 Award in Education and Training or equivalent including Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Sector (PTLLS), CertEd/PGCE, L4 Certificate in Education and Training, L5 Diploma in Education and Training.

Where this is not the case, SIAS will look at alternative sources of evidence for training competence, such as professional qualifications, relevant work experience or internal training records. For further guidance, please contact us.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Centres are expected to support their staff, ensuring that their subject knowledge remains current and is up to date with best practice.

Quality Assurance Guidance

All SIAS qualifications require centres to have in place a robust mechanism for the quality assurance of training delivery and invigilated assessment arrangements.

External Quality Assurance

External quality assurance will be undertaken by SIAS. Centres will be required to provide documentation and other evidence to support this process upon request. Please refer to our Centre Handbook for further details.

Equality and Diversity

Delivery of any SIAS qualifications must comply with equality and diversity legislation. Learners should not experience any barriers to achievement in respect of: -

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnerships
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation

Reasonable Adjustments

All learners must be treated fairly and equally and be provided with every opportunity to achieve our qualification(s). For more information or guidance, please refer to the SIAS Reasonable Adjustments Policy available on our website.

Health and Safety

SIAS are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of learners. Due to the nature of some of the sectors SIAS work in, there can be a high level of risk which we expect centres to manage effectively. Centres must take appropriate measures to assess and manage these risks and implement procedures so that qualifications are delivered safely, minimizing risks to learners and those involved in the assessment process as much as possible. Working environments must comply with all required health and safety standards.

Qualification Content

Unit 1: Foundations of Climate Change, Sustainability and Net Zero in Business

Unit Reference	D/651/8260	
Level	2	
GLH	4	
Aim	This unit introduces learners to the causes of climate change, the environmental impact of business activity, and the importance of Net Zero goals. The unit also explores how businesses can benefit from sustainability, unlock new carbon neutral opportunities, and involve staff in everyday environmental action.	
Assessment Methodology	Centre-Devised Assessment	
Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	
1. Know the causes and effects of climate change, and the importance of net zero goals.	1.1	Recognise the basic science behind climate change.
	1.2	Identify the impact of climate change on business and society.
	1.3	Define what 'Net Zero' means and the UK's Net Zero target.
	1.4	Identify environmental laws or policies influencing business behaviour.
	1.5	Recognise common misconceptions about climate change.
2. Know how businesses can become more efficient and benefit from sustainability.	2.1	Identify how business activities contribute to carbon emissions.
	2.2	Identify ways businesses can reduce waste and use resources more efficiently.
	2.3	Identify new opportunities and markets linked to sustainability in business.
	2.4	Identify actions staff can take to support sustainability in the workplace.
3. Understand ways to assess a business's or work setting's / team's current	3.1	Explain what is meant by a carbon footprint.
	3.2	Identify tools to collect data on business / work setting energy performance.

environmental impact.		
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Unit 2: Applying Sustainability in the Workplace

Unit Reference	F/651/8261	
Level	2	
GLH	12	
Aim	This unit enables learners to identify and respond to an environmental issue within a business or workplace environment. Learners will suggest a realistic improvement to help sustainability, create an action plan, implement it, and measure its impact. The unit connects sustainability with business benefits, carbon reduction, social value, and emerging environmental standards such as Net Zero and ESG.	
Assessment Methodology	Centre Devised Assessment	
Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	
1. Be able to identify an environmental impact in a workplace process.	1.1	Identify a workplace task, activity or process with environmental impact.
	1.2	Explain how the task or process could be more sustainable.
2. Be able to propose and justify a sustainability improvement within the workplace.	2.1	Suggest an improvement, innovation or solution that could reduce carbon, waste or energy.
	2.2	Describe the expected environmental, business and social benefits.
3. Be able to plan and implement a simple sustainability project.	3.1	Create a basic action plan to trial the sustainability project.
	3.2	Implement the improvement and / or innovation in a real or simulated workplace setting.
4. Be able to measure the impact and reflect on outcomes of the sustainability project.	4.1	Use a basic tool or method to track environmental impact.
	4.2	Evaluate the project and suggest any potential improvements.
	4.3	Describe how the project supports Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) aims.

Resources

SIAS provides the following additional resources for this qualification:

- Centre Qualification Guide
- Qualification Achievement Record

Further Information

For information about SIAS and general enquiries please see our website: www.siasuk.com

or contact:

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