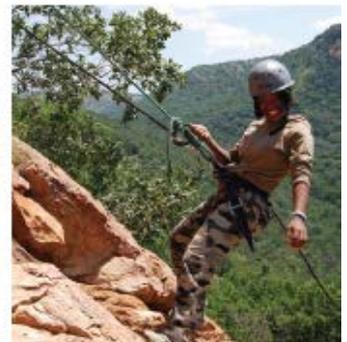


# The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award



## About The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (the Award) equips young people for life. It is the world's leading youth achievement award. **In 2013 more than one million young people around the world took part in the Award, in over 140 countries and territories.**

By creating opportunities for young people to develop skills, get physically active, give service and experience adventure, the Award can play a critical role in their development outside the classroom. It also allows their achievement to be consistently recognised worldwide, giving young people unique international accreditation of their experiences.

The Award is transforming individuals, communities and societies around the world. Young people who do the Award become more confident and resilient, and develop skills in areas such as **communication, problem solving and leadership**. This in turn impacts on their communities, who see improvements in areas including employability, health and well-being, and educational attainment.

**In the past sixty years, millions of young people have participated and received Awards, with millions more benefiting from its impact in communities around the world.**

The Award is open to all young people regardless of their background and circumstances. Award projects around the world involve young offenders, street children and post conflict communities. **The impact of the Award on these and many more young people is extraordinary - it transforms their lives.**

## Doing the Award

The Award, with its instantly recognisable levels of Bronze, Silver and Gold, is voluntary, non-competitive and available to anyone aged 14–24. It is about individual challenge.

The Award is delivered around the world by schools, colleges, universities, employers, social clubs, uniformed and non-uniformed youth organisations, young offenders' institutions, religious organisations, sports clubs, and a whole host of other civic organisations.

Young people design their own Award programme, set their own goals and record their own progress. They choose a Service, Physical Recreation, Skills activity, go on an Adventurous Journey and, to achieve a Gold Award, take part in a Residential Project. **The only person they compete against is themselves, by challenging their own beliefs about what they can achieve.**

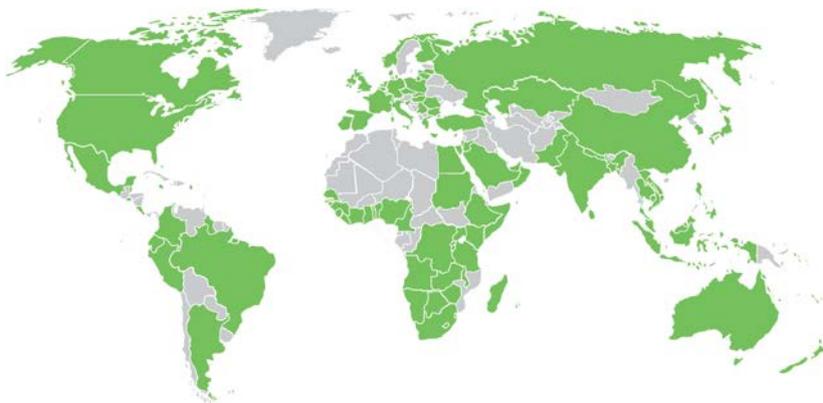


## The Award around the world

The Award was launched in the UK in 1956 as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. From the very beginning the Award attracted interest from outside the UK, as its flexibility ensured that it could be adapted to any culture or environment. By the early 1970s the Award operated in around 30 countries. In 1988 The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association was established to manage the growth and quality of the Award internationally. The work of the Association is carried out by The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation.

Outside the UK, the Award is known by a variety of titles, including the President's Award, the National Youth Achievement Award and the Head of State Award; the umbrella term for all of these programmes is The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Whilst the names of individual operating authorities often differ from nation to nation, the Award and its unique reputation with employers, policy makers and influential leaders remains unchanged and consistent.

As an international framework which remains the same wherever it operates, the Award is a unique global currency through which young people can demonstrate their achievements and value.



■ Countries and territories where the Award operates (as at 2013)

**The Award is offered in more than 140 countries and territories**

## Award key facts

- ➔ The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was founded in 1956 by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
- ➔ In 2013 more than one million young people around the world took part in the Award, in over 140 countries and territories. In the past sixty years, millions of young people have participated and received Awards, with millions more benefiting from its impact in communities around the world.
- ➔ In 1988 The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association was established to manage the growth and quality of the programme internationally.
- ➔ The International Council is the governing body of the Association. The Council is chaired by HRH The Earl of Wessex. The work of the Association is carried out by The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation (the Foundation).
- ➔ The Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales (1072453). The Foundation's headquarters are in London and it has regional offices in the Americas, Africa, Asia Pacific and EMAS (Europe, Mediterranean and Arab States). The Foundation drives and supports the Award's global growth, so more young people can undertake the world's leading youth achievement award.
- ➔ The Foundation's long term ambition is that by 2026, when The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award celebrates 70 years, every eligible young person will have the opportunity to participate in the Award.
- ➔ Every day, more than 1,500 young people start their Award journey.
- ➔ More than 170,000 volunteers, support young people around the world to achieve their Award.



## Award benefits

The Award provides a range of benefits for a number of audiences, including:

### Young people

- The Award allows young people with existing good access to non-formal education to challenge themselves and discover the world around them.
- For young people with partial/potential access to non-formal education, the Award helps to boost their skills and develop leadership potential.
- Young people that are marginalised and at risk can exceed their own expectations by doing the Award.

### Employers

- Due to an over reliance on exam/test scores, young people often lack the skills, behaviours and attitudes that employers want.
- The Award provides young people with confidence, resilience and skills in areas such as **communication, problem solving and leadership** – exactly what employers look for when distinguishing candidates.
- The Award also provides a ready-made internal development programme for staff aged up to 24, helping employers to retain their talent.

### Youth groups

- The Award can be used by any group or organisation working with young people. It offers youth agencies and organisations a way of gaining international accreditation for development activities with young people.
- It is based on enduring principles and robust methodology, but is flexible enough to be used with any group of young people, whatever their needs. It is supported by an extensive global network that ensures its quality and provides access to youth development expertise, training and best practice.