



Conflict of Interest Policy

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Reviewed 27th October 2024 by Emily Field, Vocational Manager

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to relevant individuals on handling possible conflicts of interest that may arise at New Leaf Triangle (NLT) as an Alternative Education provider with assessors and moderators of accredited units and qualifications.

This policy applies to all staff and other individuals whenever they interact or potentially interact with any of NLT's operations.

This policy:

- defines what is meant by conflict of interest and sets out the roles and responsibilities for managing conflict of interest
- provides illustrations of potential conflict of interest situations.

Scope

It is the policy of NLT that Tutors, Assessors and Internal Verifiers acting on behalf of NLT must be free from conflicts of interest that could adversely affect their judgment or objectivity to the organisation in conducting business activities and assignments.

NLT recognises that tutors and assessors may take part in legitimate financial, business, charitable and other activities outside of their recognised roles at the college, but any potential conflict of interest raised by those activities must be acknowledged, disclosed, and in relevant cases properly managed.

It is the responsibility of each individual to recognise situations in which they have a conflict of interest, or might reasonably be seen by others to have a conflict; to disclose this conflict and to take such further steps as may be appropriate and set out in more detail under the procedure below.



Definition of conflict of interest

A conflict of interest is a situation in which an individual, or organisation, has competing interests or loyalties. Conflicts of interest can arise in a variety of circumstances in relation to awarding organisation activity, for example:

- where the training delivery function and the awarding function rest within one organisation and the functions are not strictly delineated
- when an individual has a position of authority in one organisation which conflicts with his or her interests in another organisation
- when an individual has personal interests that conflict with his/her professional position
- a conflict of interest may generally be defined as a conflict between the official responsibilities of a tutor, assessor, and internal verifier and any other interests the particular individual may have and as such could compromise or appear to compromise their decisions
- a person who is connected to the development, delivery or award of qualifications by the organisation has interests in any other activity which have the potential to lead that person to act contrary to his or her interests in that development, delivery or award in accordance with the awarding organisations conditions of recognition
- an informed and reasonable observer would conclude that either of the above situations was the case
- tutors and assessors working with a business that is in direct competition to NLT
- tutors and assessors participating in the appointment, supervision evaluation or assessment of a person with whom the person, has close or familial ties
- tutors and assessors having a close or familial relationship with the registered learner, or learners' family whilst being involved in decisions about the outcome of their accreditation or qualification or where the person whose remuneration is in part determined by the outcome of the assessment.

Roles and responsibilities

All relevant staff undertaking assessment ('assessors'), moderation ('moderators' or 'verifiers') and other individuals have a responsibility to be aware of the potential for a conflict of interest.

Such situations must be carefully managed to ensure that any conflict of interest does not detrimentally impact on the standards of NLT and its awarding and inspecting bodies as well as public confidence.



It is the duty of all tutors and assessors to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest, to their line managers or a Director, in writing. The information submitted is then evaluated to identify if any further action is required and a written record of the outcome of the evaluation is kept and a copy will be provided to the concerned individuals. [This information is held in the conflict of interest log. Conflicts of interest should be declared to the awarding governing body in line with their own procedures. For Open Awards, they should be notified in writing by submitting their Declaration of Conflict of Interest form as soon as the conflict is identified. In the case of a conflict of interest being identified during a scheduled exam, this should be within 24 hours of the examination taking place.](#)

If the individual concerned has any changes to their declared circumstances, they must inform their line manager immediately in writing, so that the conflict of interest can be evaluated, and the register updated.