



NAFD Education Benefits

NEW FUNERAL DIRECTING QUALIFICATION SYLLABUS REFLECTS A CHANGING PROFESSION

As part of the new career pathway that has been developed by the National Association of Funeral Directors, and to reflect changes in how the profession operates and the needs of bereaved people, the funeral directing qualification has been redesigned and relaunched for 2021.

The DipFD is designed for employees working in the funeral service who

have previously been awarded the Diploma in Funeral Arranging and Administration, the new NAFD Funeral Arranging and Administration certificate, or have undertaken a pre-qualifying assessment of existing knowledge.

The aims of the qualification syllabus for the funeral directing qualification are to:

- enable qualification progression following successful achievement and award of the NAFD Funeral Arranging and Administration certificate, or previous holders of the NAFD Diploma in Funeral Arranging and Administration;
- develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of learners employed as funeral directors;
- provide a development option for other employees working in the funeral service wishing to progress into a funeral directing role;
- enable the Association to assess registered learners to ensure they have acquired adequate knowledge, understanding and mastery of the required knowledge and skills associated with funeral directing.

Within each module there are a range of learning units and associated learning and assessment outcomes. Within each learning unit there are a range of embedded knowledge, skills and competencies designed to equip funeral directors with everything they need to thrive in their chosen role.

The modules of study in the qualification are categorised under twelve units:

1. Funeral Directing within a Commercial Environment
2. Standards of Professional Practice and Premises
3. Maintaining and Monitoring Health and Safety
4. Care, Preparation and Presentation of the Deceased
5. Managing Communication
6. Bequeathal
7. Repatriation
8. Burial at Sea
9. A Funeral for more than one Deceased
10. Final Planning prior to Conducting the Funeral
11. Manage and Conduct the Funeral
12. Exhumation of Human Remains



Karen Vanstone, Education Development Manager for the NAFD, explained the strategy underpinning the development of the revised curriculum for the DipFD: “The DipFD has long been considered the pinnacle of educational achievement in the sector and it’s vitally important that it both explores and then assesses the wide range of knowledge, skills and competencies needed to be a first class funeral director in 2020.

“To qualify a student with a funeral directing qualification, we are not only looking for advanced levels of knowledge of the processes and procedures related to funeral directing, we also want to see the candidates developing the cognitive and practical skills required to assimilate and use this information to deliver funerals and manage and solve routine problems and, to supervise, coordinate and lead multifunctional teams too.

“This means that having the right mindset, as well as the right skillset, is vitally important and so, in addition to showcasing their technical competency in the examinations, students will be coached and assessed in the development of great communication, team work

and planning and organisation skills, taught how to focus on achieving outcomes through functional leadership/supervision and the importance of knowledge sharing and learning. We will also be looking for evidence of analytical thinking, sound judgement and decision-making and a commitment to continuous process improvement.

“Fundamentally, though, the role of a funeral director is to build a trusted team of people who can carry out the care of

a deceased person and arrangement of a funeral with compassion and empathy for their grieving loved ones. Therefore, the new curriculum has an increased focus on interpersonal skills such as relationship building, client orientation, emotional resilience and persuasion and influencing.

Students can now register for the new funeral directing qualification. Please visit nafdeducation.org.uk to find out more.

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