



# Young Offenders & The International Award



*challenging  
young people  
everywhere*

# The International Award: a Programme for All Young People










The Award is an exciting self-development programme available to **all young people** worldwide, equipping them with life skills to **make a difference** to themselves, their communities and the world. Anyone aged between 14 and 25 can experience challenge and adventure, acquire new skills and make new friends. The Award is in over 120 countries and currently has almost 700,000 participants.

The Award has had **proven success** with disadvantaged and disengaged young people, and has shown excellent results with young offenders. This programme works.

The Award Programme was first introduced to young offenders in the UK in the 1980s and now operates in prisons in 21 countries around the world.

**Last year, over 6,000 young offenders in nearly 200 institutions participated in the Award Programme as part of their rehabilitation and reintegration.**

## The International Award: Benefits for Young Offenders

-  Build self confidence
-  Enhance existing skills and knowledge and learn new ones
-  Make a positive difference to society and gain a sense of responsibility
-  Earn the trust of the wider community, helping to rehabilitate and reintegrate
-  Learn to overcome obstacles in a series of small steps
-  Improve relationships with other young offenders and staff
-  Learn life skills – persistence, team work, communication, problem solving

### The Reward

Age 14 +








Age 15 +



Age 16 +



## The International Award: Benefits for Institutions

-  Huge effect on reducing recidivism – for example, one project in Scotland saw a 75% reduction in re-offending rates; in Kenya 0% of Award participants abscond (versus 10% for the 'non-Award' prisoners) and they have had no Award participants re-offend
-  Encourages inter-agency co-operation and engagement with wider community
-  Adds value to existing prison programmes
-  Gains positive publicity for the work of the institution
-  Builds positive relationships with the local community



# The International Award: A Self-Development Programme

The Award Programme **changes lives**. It empowers young offenders to realise their own potential, experience success and become actively involved in their own **development and rehabilitation**. Young people make choices of activities within the four Sections of the Award Programme – Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey. Helped by an adult mentor, they **set goals** and then work towards achieving them. Because young people set their own goals, any young person can experience success. The Award is not about achieving set standards: it rewards **persistence and achievement**.



**“The benefits of the Programme have been achieved in a way we as staff could not have organised. It is down to the structure of the Award that the young people have blossomed.”** *Amy Foster, Whakatakapokai Care & Protection Residential Centre, New Zealand*

At the end of the prescribed time frame (a minimum of 6 months for Bronze, 12 for Silver and 18 for Gold Level) the participant receives an **internationally recognised certificate** and medal, often at a public ceremony with other young people. This can have a profound effect on a young offender’s self confidence and self respect.

## The International Award: Re-integrating Young Offenders

The Award is delivered by a large variety of organisations, including schools, workplaces, youth groups, vocational training centres, adult prisons as well as young offenders’ institutions. Participants can start the Award with one organisation and finish with another. This means that the young offenders, on release, can continue with the Award – helping their **re-integration** into society and **reducing recidivism**.



**“Keep in focus the moment when the young person returns to the community. This must not be an end, rather a beginning.”**

*Paul Boateng, British High Commissioner to South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*



*"I'm definitely going on to do the Silver Level and I'll continue it when I get out. I never ever thought I'd achieve all of that. It's so cool, man! I ain't ever won anything before." Bronze Award holder, Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre, UK*



*"Before participating in the Award I never, in all my wildest dreams, thought I would be capable of handling such challenges. It is an experience which I will treasure for the rest of my life." Young offender and Award participant, Hong Kong*

*"I am going to challenge myself to use the skills learnt to make a difference in my life." Dominica State Prison inmate and Award participant*

*"I was an active prison gangster and was sentenced for a very bad crime, but when the Award crossed my path, it changed my life for ever. My whole vision that I had of life changed... Life in general is not easy, but you need to take one step at a time. I have learnt through Award Programme to respect other people, appreciate nature and be reliable and honest at all times." Ex-offender, after leaving a prison in South Africa*

*"The enthusiasm for this Programme amongst the Correctional Centre management, volunteers and offenders is inspirational." Loretta Jacobus, Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, South Africa*

**For more information and contact details for the Award in your country, contact Andrew McMEnamin: [amcm@intaward.org](mailto:amcm@intaward.org)**

**The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association**  
Award House, 7-11 St Matthew Street, London, SW1P 2JT  
Tel +44 (0)20 7222 4242 Fax: +44 (0)20 7222 4141  
[sect@intaward.org](mailto:sect@intaward.org)  
[www.intaward.org](http://www.intaward.org)

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