

Awarding Open Badges to your students



Introduction

The TechFuture Classroom and TechFuture Girls projects all provide students with opportunities to earn Digital or Open Badges. Students can also earn badges that have been created and endorsed by employers, awarded for demonstration of a range of digital, technical and employability skills.

Students aged 13 and above can earn Open Badges, which can then be shared through their own Mozilla Open Badge Backpack account. The backpack allows students to collect Open Badges from other locations, and store them altogether. Our platform also allows students to incorporate any other Open Badge into their profile on the Classroom. For more information on the Mozilla Backpack account and how to use it, see the associated guide.

Students aged 13 and below can earn Digital Badges on our site and see these in their own profile page, but cannot share them. The same rules apply to this age group as with all social media accounts. Under-13s should not attempt to open a Mozilla Backpack account.

How the process works – automatic verification

Feedback on the pilot phase of our Badge Academy showed that complicated verification processes for badges works against both teachers and students wanting to use them. However, employers who support and endorse them believe them to be a very powerful demonstration of knowledge and skills. So it became important that we found the most straightforward way for badges to be awarded to students.



There are two types of badges on our site. Automatically verified badges are easy to spot – they have a red icon next to them.

These badges are awarded to students for completion of e-learning. Providing they have reached the end of these modules, and achieved 80 percent on the assessment quizzes that appear within the modules, the platform recognises their achievement and the badge is awarded. Students receive a message that they have received the badge, and they can then see it within their own profile.

The majority of badges on the Tech Partnership Badge Academy are automatically awarded.

Evidence-based verification

For some badges, it is necessary for students to complete larger tasks and for that evidence to be scrutinised for badge verification. An example is the O2 Wearable Tech – Design badge where students have to show they have created prototype designs either on paper or on CAD software for their wearable tech device.

There are two ways in which this can happen on the Badge Academy. Students can upload their evidence which can then be accessed by the assessor and verified as meeting the criteria for the badge. Teachers acting as verifiers will be able to see their students on the Academy and quickly tick the evidence as



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being suitable for award of the badge. The platform will then award the badge to the student, and send a message to tell them the badge has been achieved.

The second way is through submission of a code on to the platform, which is provided to teachers only. On entering the code into a question on the site, associated with the badge, it is immediately awarded. This type of evidence submission is used on badges where participation in an event generates a badge.

Teachers who are awarding badges through the evidence-based verification process will be provided with information about what is expected for award for each badge.

There is a list of all available badges available separately, which clearly indicates which are automatically verified and which require input for evidence-based verification.

If you have questions or queries about the Badge Academy, contact helpdesk@techfuture.com and we will do our best to respond within 48 hours.