

## The WSET Level 4 Diploma Certificate in Wines and Spirits

The Diploma course is available as an online distance learning course, so even if students cannot conveniently get to a course centre they can still access the learning and assessment for the Diploma qualification.

<b>London Wine &amp; Spirit School - Level 4 Diploma Online Distance Learning</b>	
<b>Entry requirements</b>	Students should hold the Level 3 Advanced Certificate.
<b>Study Programmes</b>	The course is split into 6 Units of private study, each split into 2 week blocks including regular feedback activities and practice examination questions, as described below.
<b>Method of Study</b>	All students will have access to the on-line tutor – it is therefore compulsory for candidates to have internet access and an email account.
<b>Before course start</b>	Revision of Intermediate Level Materials.
<b>Unit 1 (4 weeks of guided study) The Global Business of Alcoholic Beverages</b>	Acquire personal research skills and use these to study the global and UK drinks markets and the marketing of alcoholic drinks.
<b>Unit 2 (8 weeks of guided study) Wine Production</b>	A detailed theoretical study of viticulture, vinification, maturation, treatments and packaging.
<b>Unit 3 (24 weeks of guided study) Light Wines of the World</b>	Acquire specialist product knowledge and commercial understanding for the major light wine producing regions. Split into 4 elements studied at different points during the course: Element 1 (6 weeks) - Northern France, Germany and UK Element 2 (6 weeks) - Southern France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Central & South-East Europe Element 3 (6 weeks) - Africa, Australasia and Asia Element 4 (6 weeks) - The Americas.
<b>Unit 4 (6 weeks of guided study) Spirits of the World</b>	Study the production methods and acquire in-depth product knowledge and commercial understanding for the following spirit categories: Brandy, Whisky, Rum, Tequila and Mezcal, Vodka, Flavoured Spirits and Fruit Spirits.
<b>Unit 5 (4 weeks of guided study) Sparkling Wines of the World</b>	Study the production and acquire in-depth product knowledge and commercial understanding for the major sparkling wines of France, Spain, Italy, Germany and the New World.
<b>Unit 6 (4 weeks of guided study) Fortified Wines of the World</b>	Study the production and acquire in-depth product knowledge and commercial understanding for the major sparkling wines of Spain, Portugal, France, Greece & Cyprus and the New World.
<b>Study Materials</b>	Students will receive a full Diploma course study pack consisting of the unit study guides, tasting cards and copies of the Oxford Companion to Wine and Distilling Knowledge.
<b>Duration of course</b>	2 years (recommended), extendable to up to 3 years.
<b>Recommended Private Study</b>	A minimum of 600 hours private study is recommended for this course.
<b>Tutorial Day</b>	A 1-day tutorial day introducing the diploma level tasting technique is included towards the beginning of the course. Students may change their tutorial to an alternative date during the first 2 weeks of the course, subject to availability.
<b>Examination Days</b>	Unit 1: Closed book case study based examination and a course work assignment: Unit 2: A 100 question multiple choice examination: Unit 3: Closed book examination in two parts: Part 1 - A tasting examination of 12 wines: Part 2 - A three hour closed book written theory paper: Unit 4: A closed book combined theory question (3 paragraph questions) and a blind tasting of 3 spirits Unit 5: A closed book combined theory question (3 paragraph questions) and a blind tasting of 3 sparkling wines Unit 6: A closed book combined theory question (3 paragraph questions) and a blind tasting of 3 fortified wines  A mark of 55% required in all examinations to pass.
<b>Certification</b>	All students will receive a record of achievement for each unit examination passed. Students who pass all unit examinations will receive a Diploma suitable for framing and a lapel pin.
<b>Post Nominal</b>	Students who pass the WSET Diploma are entitled to become a member of the Institute of Wines and Spirits on payment of membership fees and are entitled to the post nominal AIWS (Associate of the Institute of Wines and Spirits).