

## London Wine & Spirit School - Level 4 Diploma Online Distance Learning Course Synopsis

<b>Entry requirements</b>	Students should hold the Level 3 Advanced Certificate. It will be assumed that students have basic computer literacy and internet navigation skills.
<b>Study Programmes</b>	The course is split into 6 units of study each split into 2 week blocks including regular feedback activities and practice examination questions, as described below. Additional private study time is set aside for revision and any additional required research.
<b>Method of Study</b>	This course is taught through a programme of online activities with guidance and support from an allocated online tutor. There are no fixed times for the course, although students are advised to check in to the online classroom website on a daily basis.
<b>Before course start</b>	Revision of Advanced 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, Whisk(e)y, 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 fortified wines of Spain, Portugal, France 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. Additionally, a set of 12 tasting glasses will be provided at the tutorial day.
<b>Duration of course</b>	2 years.
<b>Recommended Private Study</b>	A minimum of 600 hours private study is recommended for this course. Students are advised to schedule a minimum of 10 hours for their study each week.
<b>Tasting Tutorial</b>	An attended tutorial introducing the Diploma level tasting technique is included towards the beginning of the course.
<b>Examinations</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>System Requirements</b>	As this course is taught online, students will require access to a computer with the following minimum requirements: Internet Explorer 7, Firefox 3 or equivalent with Javascript support and pop-ups enabled Adobe Acrobat 7 or equivalent Adobe Flash 9 Internet access (broadband recommended)
<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 and are entitled to the post nominal AIWS (Associate of the Institute of Wines and Spirits).

\* Students are advised to book at least 4 weeks ahead of the start date, to allow for materials to be delivered and pre-reading.