

NCFE Online Assessment Requirements

NCFE Online Assessment is an Internet based solution enabling individuals to complete an assessment test online direct from a Microsoft Windows based workstation.

A centralised server is responsible for allocating an assessment paper for an individual and an Internet enabled workstation located within a centre would enable the individual to complete the assessment paper securely, offering an immediate result once the assessment had ended.

Recommended Assessment Workstation Requirements

Requirements
Microsoft Windows Vista and all latest security patches
Microsoft Windows XP Home / Professional with a minimum of SP2 and all latest security patches
Microsoft Windows 2000 with a minimum of SP4 and all latest security patches
Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6, 7 or 8 and all latest security patches
Intel Pentium 4 or equivalent 512 Mbytes Memory (1Gbyte recommended) SVGA at a resolution of a minimum 800x600
Broadband / Cable Internet connection at a speed of 512 Kb/1 Mb. Lower speeds may result in a degradation of performance

Please note: NCFE does not support Windows 7.

Workstation Components of the NCFE Online Assessment System

To enable an assessment workstation to connect to the NCFE Online Assessment Server, a Windows based application is required. This application, NCFE Online Assessment Candidate Interface, is installed on a workstation using a Windows based setup package.

Once installed, the application will create a desktop icon which will start the application and attempt to establish a secure connection to the NCFE Online Assessment Server.

Once connected, an individual candidate would input their first name, last name and password as provided by the centre via an assessment entry slip. The application will enable the candidate to answer their assessment questions and view any images associated with the questions. The candidate will receive a result once the assessment has ended.

The application requires a minimum of 1.5Mbytes of disk space and requires local administrator privileges for installation.

For optimal performance please ensure that Online Assessment systems are connected via Ethernet ports.

Server Components of the NCFE Online Assessment System

If the centre wishes to use a proxy server or firewall, they must ensure that the address <https://www.ncfeonline.org.uk> is added as an exception. This ensures that the candidate workstation has direct access to the online assessment database.

Remote Candidate System (RCS) Minimum Requirements

The Remote Candidate System (RCS) is a member of the NCFE Online Assessment family of products and enables a candidate to complete an assessment without needing connection to the Internet.

A centre would download a secure assessment data file to the assessment workstation. The candidate password provided by the centre would unlock the assessment questions.

Requirements
Microsoft Windows Vista and all latest security patches
Microsoft Windows XP Home / Professional with a minimum of SP2 and all latest security patches
Microsoft Windows 2000 with a minimum of SP4 and all latest security patches
Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6,7 or 8 and all latest security patches
Intel Pentium 4 or equivalent 512 Mbytes Memory (1Gbyte recommended) SVGA at a resolution of a minimum 800x600

Installing the Remote Candidate System (RCS)

The RCS application is installed using a Windows based setup package. Two versions are provided.

- ◆ User attended installation (user must click a series of buttons to complete the installation)
- ◆ Unattended installation (no dialogs are displayed during the installation as it runs silently)

The RCS application requires administrator privileges during the installation and it is recommended that the user account completing the installation be granted the correct level of privileges during this stage.

Installing with Windows Vista

We are aware of an issue with the User Access Control (UAC) within Windows Vista. UAC was added to Microsoft Vista to increase the level of security for a user account. UAC removes the ability for an application to create any additional files (outside of the initial installation of the application) within its own application folder that is located within the Program Files folder.

RCS is installed into C:\Program Files\NCFE\RCS

If UAC is enabled, any files created by the application are actually stored into:

C:\Users\[username]\Apps\Virtual Store\Program Files\NCFE\RCS

NCFE recommend that UAC be disabled for the user account that will be using RCS. The following PDF provides some clear instructions on the ways in which the UAC can be disabled.

https://www.ncfeonline.org.uk/oa/support/documents/rcs_uac_problem.pdf