

CHOOSE THE WINE SCHOOL
THAT WILL HELP **YOU**
SUCCEED!

Diploma



WSET
WINE & SPIRIT
EDUCATION TRUST



5

VITAL QUESTIONS

**you should ask of a
WSET LEVEL 4 DIPLOMA SCHOOL
BEFORE YOU ENROLL**

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WHO WILL HELP ME?

1 DOES THE SCHOOL HAVE A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE WSET DIPLOMA PROGRAM AND ITS STUDENTS?

Your questions— whether administrative-related, specific to exams, or study help— are all important. Knowing upfront what kind of support you'll be getting is critical to success. You may want to find out:



- ☐ How many people are on the Diploma team at the school?
- ☐ Are there dedicated advisors and who are they?
- ☐ Who is the person I should call about general administrative questions?
- ☐ Who should I call about exam dates and registrations?
- ☐ Who is my nominated WSET educator? (the person who is in charge of teaching)
- ☐ Can I contact them to ask questions when I am struggling with study material?
- ☐ Which days of the week are these contacts available?
- ☐ Will I receive a response within 48 hours?

One of the most frustrating situations for many Diploma candidates is not getting responses to their questions. You want to make sure that the school you are considering does not send you the study material and then not speak to you again until exam day. Find out who will be there to assist you as you make your journey through your studies. While WSET Diploma requires substantial home study, your school should be your partner in reaching your goals every step of the way.

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WHO ARE MY MENTORS?

2 WHO WILL INSTRUCT THE CLASSES?

The Diploma is a specialist-level qualification and in order to succeed you need to have instruction from industry leaders and experts in their field, who are also excellent communicators and teachers. Who is associated with the school may be indicative of the quality of education and experience to be gained.

- ☐ Ask for a roster of instructors at the school.
- ☐ How does the school train educators? It's not enough to be an expert – can the instructors engage students & provide feedback according to the best practices in adult education?

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HOW DO THEY FOSTER LEARNING?

3 WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL PROVIDE FOR STUDY SUPPORT?

FOR IN-CLASS STUDENTS: Lectures (seminars/classes) are part of most Diploma courses, but that is just one part of learning. Be sure to ask:

- ☐ What interactive activities can I expect? Don't be afraid to ask for examples; you want to ensure that the program sets you up for success.
- ☐ Are they testing your knowledge during class? Are they engaging and using teaching tools to promote your understanding?
- ☐ Are there preparatory exercises for tasting exams?

- ☐ Are there opportunities to submit tasting notes for correction? The WSET corrects tasting notes as part of a student feedback program, but not all schools include this in the price of the course.
*Be sure to ask: Is the WSET feedback included in the course fees?

In addition, the WSET submission and feedback schedule runs a little too close to exam dates. See about getting earlier feedback directly from your school (in addition to the WSET's feedback).

- ☐ Are there exercises for writing theory essays?
- ☐ Are there hand-outs that summarize helpful information or tips on studying?
- ☐ Are there any additional opportunities such as webinars to view from home, or additional tasting or theory in-class sessions that you can attend if you want extra help?

FOR ON-LINE STUDENTS: You should also expect additional learning opportunities other than the online classroom. It's all a part of your school setting you up for success!

- ☐ Are there tasting webinars that you can watch so you understand how to write a successful tasting note?
- ☐ Are there theory webinars and exercises for theory success? (You may want to see if the school you are considering offers mock exam question exercises and feedback with advice on how to provide the best answer.
- ☐ Is there any help in organizing my studies? Knowing how to study for the diploma is a big part of success, and you want to make sure that your school is there to assist you in this foundational way.

WHAT IS THEIR COURSE SCHEDULE?

4 HOW OFTEN DO THEY ADMIT STUDENTS, AND HOW OFTEN DO THEY OFFER THE DIFFERENT UNITS OF DIPLOMA?

If the school does not offer multiple dates a year for each of the units, you could have large gaps of time between units that stretch your Diploma program across several years. Alternatively, you may have units that are too close together, not leaving you with the proper amount of time for studying and proper preparation for each unit. With options at your fingertips, and a school that partners with you for success, you will be in good hands, and able to complete the Diploma on a schedule that best works for you.

- ☐ Ask to see the school's schedule. Any good school will have their calendar-year schedule readily available at the start of each year, to allow for student planning and success.

HOW DO THEY HELP ME PROFESSIONALLY?

5 DOES THE SCHOOL OFFER CAREER GUIDANCE?

The school should not drop you as soon as you finish a course! Your school should care about you and your goals, and act as a connector between key industry leaders, members, and your dreams. Your school should be your partner in success by promoting networking with your peers & industry experts through classes, online forums, and social networks.

- ☐ Ask whether the school you are considering has a job board or other opportunities to promote and present your qualifications, and whether there are networking opportunities even after you have successfully completed Diploma.
- ☐ Does the school offer advanced education for your continued professional development in order to keep current even after graduating with the Diploma?

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS? NEED ADVICE?



N A P A V A L L E Y
WINE ACADEMY

CALL OR EMAIL ANY ONE OF OUR DIPLOMA TEAM MEMBERS TODAY:



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