Practical Beekeeper Standard

Responsible honey bee husbandry means supporting colony health and welfare, helping honey bees thrive and maintaining knowledge as evidence, threats and guidance change. BeeEducated recognises the learning, judgement and commitment behind that work.

The Practical Beekeeper Standard describes the knowledge and practical skills required for competent beekeeping. Candidates demonstrate these through authentic activity, decisions, records and reflection across 16 competency areas. Certification recognises assessed achievement; attendance or payment alone does not establish competence.

Choose the appropriate route

The general development programme may take approximately 14-36 months, depending on experience and opportunity. The 2027 Founding Cohort is a separate, selective route for experienced beekeepers able to demonstrate the full Standard within its fixed season. No minimum colony count or fixed years-of-experience threshold automatically qualifies an applicant.

Applications close	1 April 2027
Joining fee	£0
Evidence season	April-October 2027
EPA deadline	Complete before 31 March 2028, after successful Gateway
EPA fee	£345, payable after successful Gateway and an approved booking
First annual CPD	1 January-31 March 2029; free

Your certificate and verifiable credential

Successful candidates receive an A4 Certificate of Competence and a unique digital credential recording the achieved Standard and version, grade and award date. A verification link and QR code allow others to check the award. Public information is privacy-controlled. Website examples are demonstrations, not real awards. A proposed personalised suit badge remains a separate concept unless expressly included in the offer.

Continued commitment through CPD

Annual CPD supports learning and reflection as bee-health risks, evidence and guidance change. It is distinct from the original assessment and does not repeat every practical skill each year. Original achievement remains verifiable if CPD later becomes not current; CPD currency is shown separately. Payment alone does not establish current CPD status.

Your next step

Read the Standard and assessment guidance, consider your evidence opportunities, then check beeeducated.co.uk/2027-founding-cohort/ for application availability. Use the enquiry form while applications are closed. The website will link to Moodle once the application process is ready. For personal information, see beeeducated.co.uk/privacy/.

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