

**Welcome to the new format OCN Eastern Region Access to HE e-newsletter for Access tutors, Access coordinators, Moderators and Quality Managers.**



**The new format is designed to keep text to a minimum and to provide you with useful web links to information and resources available on the OCN's and other websites.**

The Summer 2008 bulletin includes:

**I look forward to receiving your feedback, or suggestions for future newsletters.**



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- Updates from the QAA, including grading
- Changes to arrangements for moderation 2008-9
- Standards of literacy and numeracy required for entry to pre-registration nursing and midwifery courses
- Access fees and charges 2008 -9
- New Access unit databank and unit quality project
- Staff development and standardisation events for Access to HE
- Plagiarism: A good practice guide
- OCN GCSE Equivalent Scheme 2008 -9

## News and Updates from the QAA

### **New Access courses database and the Learning Aims Database**

QAA and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have issued a joint statement which sets out how they will co-operate during the transition from the UCAS Access courses database to the new QAA Access courses database in August 2008. The statement includes information about the use of learning aim codes for Access courses.

### **Use of the QAA Access logo**

Once AVAs and the QAA have updated the courses information, the LSC will allocate new LAD codes for all Access to HE Diploma programmes for 2008-09, excepting those with continuing learners. The QAA deadline for course information being sent to the LSC is 1 August 2008. *Please note that it will not be possible for providers to obtain LAD codes for Access*

The QAA will shortly be publishing new guidance on the use of the QAA Access logo. From 2008-09 Access

*courses before this.*

The joint statement can be accessed [here](#).

### **Update on grading**

The latest (revised) update from the QAA on the grading of Access will shortly be available on the QAA website and includes the most recent information disseminated at the QAA Access Conference.

The document '[Grading the Access to HE Diploma: Progress towards implementation \(revised\) June 2008](#)' can also be downloaded from the OCN Eastern Region website.

moderators will have a specific role in reviewing both the use of this logo by Access providers and the accuracy of other publicity materials and guidance for Access students.

## **Changes to Access Moderation arrangements**

Changes have been made to the moderation calendar for 2008-09 in order to ensure that the same arrangements for Centre moderation and subject moderation are in place for Access courses with a January/February start. A full timetable, revised moderator report forms and guidance for moderators and providers will be issued in September 2008.

[Click here](#) for details of the new moderation timetable for Access courses starting in January / February 2009.

For Access courses which commenced in January / February 2008, it is important that final assessment meetings are arranged before the end of February 2009. Providers should arrange a date with their Access Centre moderator and notify the OCN.

## **Standards of literacy and numeracy required for nursing and midwifery courses**

The latest circular from the Nursing and Midwifery Council, issued in January 2008, is entitled 'Evidence of Literacy and Numeracy required for entry to pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes' (NMC 03/2008). Please [click here](#) to download this and other NMC circulars.

## **Access fees and charges 2008-9**

Access providers and all recognised Centres will shortly be receiving the revised OCN Eastern Region fees leaflet. Access fees for 2008-09 are confirmed as follows:

Access Learner registration fees

£100 per learner

Access Programme Validation Fees

(The validation fee includes Access programme development and approval panel fees.)

Access Programme Validation fees

£1000 per programme

Additional programme development support

£250 per half day

Access Moderation Fees

There will continue to be no charge for external moderation. However, where additional quality interventions are required by the OCN or requested by a provider, then this will incur

a charge.

Additional Access moderator visits £250 per half day  
Additional subject moderation outside the specified timetable £50 per sample

## Access unit databank

The revised Access unit databank is now available to all Access providers. It contains all current approved Access to HE Diploma units (downloadable pdfs are available) and will soon be updated with all new units approved at this year's validation panels.

All OCN Eastern Region Access centres have a username and password for the unit databank, which is found [here](#).

## Access Events

The calendar of Access events is now available. [Click here](#) for details. Access events include:

- Moderator training day (all moderators to attend) – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008
- GCSE Equivalence tutor group – 2 October 2008
- Research projects standardisation meeting (all Access providers to attend) – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008
- Uses of virtual learning environments (VLEs) – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008
- Assessment working group – 22 January 2009

## Plagiarism: A good practice guide

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the guide; published by Oxford Brookes University.

## Access unit quality and rationalisation project (AUQR)

AUQR event	Subject/s	Date
AUQR 1	Core skills / study skills	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 OCN Eastern Region, University of Essex, Colchester.

The AUQR is the next stage in refining the OCN's database of Access units, comprising a series of meetings of invited Access subject tutors, subject moderators and HE colleagues to review, standardise and agree the units which will be offered in the unit databank in each particular subject area.

Please email [Lara Edwards](#) if you would like to be invited to this event.

The full schedule of project meetings is available [here](#); this will be updated with dates and locations in due course.

## GCSE Equivalence Scheme

The revised GCSE Equivalent units for Maths, English and Science will shortly be available to download from the OCN Eastern Region website.

These units should be used from September 2008 when the old GCSE Equivalence scheme will be withdrawn from use. Providers should bring any revised assessments to the GCSE Equivalence Tutor Group on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008.



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