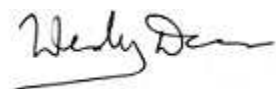


## Happy Easter.

The Access e-newsletter is an email publication designed to update you on Access matters and the OCN's role as an Access Validating Agency (AVA).

If you would like to find out more about our Access Diploma courses or pre-Access courses please contact us.



**Wendy Davis**  
Director of Access to HE

**AVA contact details:**  
Director of Access to HE  
[Wendy.Davis@ocner.org.uk](mailto:Wendy.Davis@ocner.org.uk) Tel: 07740180022

Access Support Officer  
[Lara.Edwards@ocner.org.uk](mailto:Lara.Edwards@ocner.org.uk) Tel: 01206 872514

Access Quality Reviewer  
[Sue.Hartga@ocner.org.uk](mailto:Sue.Hartga@ocner.org.uk) Tel: 07920 027371



**The Spring 2009 bulletin includes:**

- Access Grading Update
- Moderation News
- Access events, training and resources
- Star Awards 2009, nominate your stars now!

**OCN Eastern Region**  
Wivenhoe House  
University of Essex  
Colchester  
CO4 3SQ

Tel: 01206 873023  
[www.ocner.org.uk](http://www.ocner.org.uk)

## Update on Access Grading

Many thanks to all tutors and moderators who have attended the Access grading events held so far. Without your valuable contribution the OCN would not be able to implement the graded Access qualification.

### Grading Panels

The OCN is on schedule with its task of getting Access units ready for grading. To date:

- 8 grading panels have been held
- Units from 16 subject areas have been reviewed
- grade descriptors have been assigned to 593 out of 845 L3 units
- 83 Access tutors have contributed to panels
- 17 Access providers have been represented
- Final grading moderation meetings: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May, (subject moderators will agree grade

descriptors)

- Providers notified of the grade descriptors for their units - 31 May 2009
- Revised units will be added to the unit databank - 30 June 2009

Reports from the grading panels are [here](#). If you have attended a panel, please complete an evaluation form [here](#).

Access Grading Panels

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009 Social work and social policy**

South East Essex College, Southend-on-Sea, Essex

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 Business Studies, Media, Multimedia and Journalism**

Colchester United Football Club, Colchester, Essex

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 Sociology**

Barnet College, North London Business Park

A full [calendar of grading panels](#) for all subjects can be found on the OCN Eastern Region website.

To find out more about grading meetings, or to book your place at the next event please contact [Lara.edwards@ocner.org.uk](mailto:Lara.edwards@ocner.org.uk)

**Grading Guidance**

Part F of the QAA Grading Implementation handbook is now available from the [QAA website](#).

The guidance concerns arriving at the final grade for the unit. In summary:

- where there are multiple assignments for a unit, assignments are not weighted but may count equally towards the final grade. However larger assignments may use more of the grade descriptors for the unit.
- the final grade for the unit is determined by finding the mid-point of the list of grades produced from grading the assignments for that unit, e.g. PPMMD = M for the unit.
- numerical marking for maths and science units: in line with QAA regulations, the OCN has not allowed numerical marking. It is the OCN's intention that the implementation of grading will not require significant changes to current assessment practice. If a Centre wishes to change its assessment methods for any unit, it will be required to gain approval for the Access Centre moderator and the OCN.

Grading information can be downloaded from the [OCN Eastern Region website](#)

## Moderation news and events

### Subject Moderation

Many thanks to all Centres who have submitted their subject moderation samples. The majority of reports will be completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> April and copies of reports sent to Centres by 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Please note that due to a temporary shortage of moderators, reports for IT units are likely to be 2 weeks late.

### Subject Moderation - courses starting in January

Please be reminded that subject moderation samples for courses commencing in January / February should be received at the OCN no later than **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

## Centre Moderation Visits

Thanks to all moderators who have submitted their Initial visit reports. Sue Hartga has produced a very useful summary report which the OCN will be circulating to all moderators shortly.

Access centre moderators should note that reports from interim moderation visits (ACM4) are due at the OCN by **Friday 22 May 2009**.

#### **Centre moderation visits - courses starting in January**

Final assessment meetings must be arranged before the end of February 2009. If they have not already done so, Centres should arrange a date with their Access Centre moderator and notify the OCN as soon as possible.

For courses commencing in Jan 2009, initial moderator visits must be completed and reports submitted to the OCN by **3 April 2009**.

The complete moderation timetable can be downloaded [here](#)

## **Events for moderators - please note these dates in your diaries**

**Subject moderation standardisation** 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

This event will include the standardisation of grade descriptors assigned to Access units at the grading panels – all moderators are required to attend and it is very important that all subjects are represented. More details and invitations will follow shortly.

**Quality Forum** (including training on grading for moderators) 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

All moderators are required to attend.

## **Events for Access centres**

#### **Funding seminar – 23 April**

*Solving the Funding Puzzle: How to Apply the New LSC Funding Formula for Maximum Benefit*, Weston Homes Community Stadium, Colchester on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009.

If you are involved in the planning, commissioning or development of LSC funded learning provision, this seminar is for you. For a formal invitation and more information please see [the website](#) or email the OCN's [conference team](#).

#### **MOVE (Lifelong Learning Network) Conference – 19 May**

*Building on Success: Progression and Partnership in Lifelong Learning*, Rowley Mile, Newmarket Racecourse, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009. For further details see [www.move.ac.uk](http://www.move.ac.uk)

#### **Access Grading and assessment seminar – 19 June**

An update on Access grading and assessment will be held at Colchester United Football Club on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Please keep this date free in your diaries. Invitations will be sent to all Access centres and moderators.

#### **GCSE Equivalence scheme standardisation – 1 July**

To discuss delivery and assessment of the new GCSE equivalent units in maths, English and science. All Centres delivering these units are invited. More details will follow when the venue has been confirmed.

#### **OCN Admin training for Access – 4 November**

Short training sessions for Exams Officers and other Admin staff who complete forms for registering and awarding credit to Access learners will be held in Colchester on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010. Invitations will be sent to all Access centres and more details can be found on [our website](#).

**Do you know an FE Star?**

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) Star Awards 2009 celebrate the unsung heroes of FE, in both teaching and non-teaching roles. Last year's shortlist included staff from Southend Adult Community College, SEEVIC College, Colchester Institute and South East Essex College.

Nominations are open for individuals and teams until 12th June 2009. If you would like to make a nomination please visit the [LSIS website](#).

## **Access resources**

*Information and the latest guidance on Access grading can be downloaded from the OCN's website [here](#)*

*Work-based Access courses: Guidance and course development checklist can be downloaded from the Foundation Degree Forward website [here](#)*

*The following resources are available to download from MOVE (Lifelong Learning Network) website [here](#):*

*Study on Access to HE Diploma provision  
APEL Assessment report  
APEL Credit for Learning  
Progression in Practice  
Learning for credit*

## **OCN Eastern Region Access centres**

Adult Community Learning Essex, Aylesbury College, Barking College, Barnet College, Barnfield College, Braintree College, Chelmsford College, City College Norwich, Colchester Institute, Harlow College, Havering College, Hertford Regional College, Newham College, Norfolk Adult Education Service, North Herts College, Oaklands College, Redbridge College, SEEVIC College, South East Essex College, South Essex Partnership NHS Trust, Southgate College, Suffolk New College, Thurrock and Basildon College, Waltham Forest College, West Herts College.

## **Validated Access Diploma courses include:**

Accountancy, Art and design, Biological science, Business studies, Combined studies, Computing engineering, Counselling, Creative writing, Forensic science, Health and care professions, Humanities and social science, IT, Journalism, Law, Media, Mental Health studies, Nursing and midwifery, Radiography, Science, Social work, Social science, Sports science, Teaching.



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