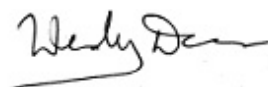


Welcome to the Summer Access Newsletter.

The Access e-newsletter is an email publication designed for Access tutors, Quality Managers, Moderators and HE admissions tutors to update you on matters related to Access 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 Business Development and Access to HE
Wendy.Davis@ocner.org.uk Tel: 07740180022

Access to HE Support Officer
Lara.Edwards@ocner.org.uk Tel: 01206 872514

Access to HE Quality Reviewer
Sue.Hartga@ocner.org.uk Tel: 07920 027371



The Summer 2009 bulletin includes:

- Latest News on Access Grading
- News and Updates on Access Moderation
- Events for Access centres
- QAA publications
- OCN staffing update
- Access Resources

OCN Eastern Region

Wivenhoe House
University of Essex
Colchester
CO4 3SQ

Tel: 01206 873023
www.ocner.org.uk

Latest News on Access Grading

From September 2009 the Access Diploma will be a graded qualification. All Diplomas awarded in July 2010 will include a grade profile listing the grades achieved on the course.

Many thanks to all the Access tutors, moderators and OCN staff who have attended the Access grading events held so far and contributed their views and expertise.

[Access units](#)

Following the grading panels, Access units were submitted for final moderation on 6th and 7th May. All Access providers have been notified of the final grade descriptors for their units and the revised unit PDFs have been uploaded to the OCN Access unit databank.

Providers may now download hard copies of units from the databank, which will include the grade descriptors, using their unique username and password (please note that a password is usually only provided to the approved OCN contact in each Centre, usually the Access

coordinator).

[Access grading and assessment briefing](#)

The meeting on 19th June was well-attended and provided an opportunity for tutors to discuss issues related to assessment and to undertake a practical session on grading assignments and units.

The next Grading and Assessment Briefing will be held on Wednesday 21 October 2009 (Colchester United Football Club). We will discuss the latest QAA guidance on assessment and resubmission, as well as reviewing Centres' grading assessment plans. We are hoping that Julie Farmer, a consultant employed by QAA to implement grading nationally, will be able to speak at this meeting.

It is essential that places are booked in advance, please contact Lara.edwards@ocner.org.uk

[Standard AVA grading documentation](#)

The OCN has set up a small project group to look at devising standard templates for assignment briefs and feedback sheets that will meet the requirements of grading. The group is meeting on 21st August and any outcomes will be circulated to providers as soon as possible.

[QAA Grading guidance](#)

Parts I, J and K of the QAA Grading Implementation handbook are now available from the [QAA website](#). The guidance concerns assessment and resubmission (Part I), award and certification (Part J) and standardisation (Part K).

In summary:

- for the purposes of this guidance 'successful submission' denotes all learning outcomes achieved at Level 3.
- once a unit has been achieved at Level 3, the grade awarded cannot be altered by further resubmission (i.e. no 'grade polishing').
- For late submissions (where there is no extension or extenuating circumstances), grades for that assignment are capped at 'pass'.
- resubmission of any assignment is only allowed once (however individual Centre and AVA regulations on total amount of resubmission will still apply)

[OCN Grading Guidance for Access tutors](#)

This is in the process of being updated with the latest QAA guidance and a revised version will be circulated shortly.

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

News and updates on Access moderation

Centre Moderation visits

Thanks to all moderators who have submitted their final visit reports / annual reports.

Moderator contracts 2009-10

Please be sure to return your completed Moderator Update forms to Lara Edwards if you have not already done so. Lara will be sending out new contracts and work profiles to all moderators in due course.

Moderation calendar 2009-10

The [2009-10 calendar](#) is now available to download.

Access Quality Events for moderators and providers

- *please note these dates in your diaries.*

January cohort standardisation meeting for subject moderators will be held on Tuesday 29 September 2009.

Moderator training and standardisation meeting (to include briefing on moderation requirements for grading). All moderators must attend on Wednesday 7th October 2009

GCSE Equivalence standardisation meeting for moderators and providers will be held on Friday 6th November 2009.

The next Quality Forum for moderators will be held on Wednesday 16th June 2010 – all Centre moderators are required to attend.

Events for Access centres

Grading and Assessment Briefing

Wednesday 21 October 2009, Weston Homes Community Stadium, Colchester.

We are hoping that Julie Farmer, a consultant employed by QAA to implement grading nationally, will be able to speak at this meeting. It is essential that places are booked in advance, please contact Lara.edwards@ocner.org.uk

OCN Admin training for Access to HE

Wednesday 4 November 2009, OCN Eastern Region, University of Essex, Colchester, or

Wednesday 21 April 2010, OCN Eastern Region, University of Essex, Colchester.

A short training session for Exams Officers and other administrative staff who complete forms for registering and awarding credit to Access learners. More details can be found towards the bottom of the [Training and Development](#) page of the OCN Eastern Region website.

QAA Publications

[Report on trends in Access to HE student numbers published](#)

This report by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) looks at trends in numbers on Access to HE courses in recent years and explores reasons for a reported fall in student numbers. The report is based on responses to a survey of more than 200 Access to HE providers (March 2009).

[Key statistics 2009 and Joint Agency Report published](#)

The QAA has published the Access to HE Key Statistics and Joint Agency Report which provide key data about Access to HE in England and Wales. The publications offer the most comprehensive set of published statistical data about Access to HE. This year information is included which highlights the differences between each data set.

The latest [QAA Access newsletter](#) (August 2009) is now available to download.

Staffing changes at OCN Eastern Region

(with effect from 1st August 2009)

Carol Snape (formerly Director of Business Development) has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer.

Wendy Davis will be taking over responsibility for business development and her new job title will be Director of Business Development and Access to HE.

Neil Cruickshank, Director of Quality, will be assuming responsibility for all quality matters relating to Access to HE, including moderation.

Sue Hartga has been confirmed in the permanent post of Access to HE Quality Reviewer.

Access resources

Free Access promotional material

Copies of '[A Student Guide to the...Access to Higher Education Diploma](#)' are still available on request.

Further education colleges and HEIs may order up to 50 hard copies free of charge, with a small charge being made for any additional copies. If you have not yet taken advantage of this offer you may still do so by emailing gaa@linneydirect.com.

Work-based Access

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

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

- Study on Access to HE Diploma provision
- Apel Assessment report
- APEL Credit for Learning
- Progress 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, Huntingdon College (subject to validation), 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, West Suffolk College (subject to validation).

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.



Registered in England Company No: 5502449
Charity Registration No: 1114282



The *Diversity* of Learning