



Access to HE

FAQs

1. What is the Access to HE Diploma?

The Access to HE Diploma is designed for learners who don't have the traditional qualifications to meet Higher Education requirements. Access to HE courses provide a good foundation in the knowledge and skills required for studying at university level.

2. Is the Access to HE Diploma included in the UCAS Tariff?

The current (2013) specification, implemented in September 2014, has increased the consistency of structure and volume of academic content in Access to HE Diplomas. This, coupled with the new approach to the UCAS Tariff, which uses a qualification's size and grades, means that Access to HE is therefore included in the new UCAS Tariff tables.

3. How long does the course take?

Access to HE courses can be delivered from 6 months to 2 years.

4. How much time do Access to HE students spend studying?

Typically, students undertaking the Diploma within one academic year will spend around 12 hours per week.

5. What does the course involve?

The whole package of units is designed to equip students for university level study in that subject or subject area. The detail of course content on individual courses depends on the subject of the Diploma, but all courses:

- require study of relevant academic subject(s) at university entry level
- give students the opportunity to learn how to approach study at university level and develop techniques to help them to be successful students.



6. How does it equate to A-Levels/BTEC?

The Access to HE Diploma is a full Level 3 qualification. Study on the Access to HE Diploma meets academic demands that are at an equivalent level to those of other Level 3 qualifications.



7. How is the Access to HE Diploma assessed?

Units are formally assessed through a variety of means; the type of assessment is specified at validation and is included in the Unit Specification. Subject specialist consultation ensures that assessment tasks are varied and appropriate for the level and subject.

8. How does achievement of credit and grading work?

When assessing student work, tutors must first consider whether the assignment submitted by the student has achieved all the assessment criteria and learning outcomes that were specified for the assignment. If all the learning outcomes have been achieved, the assignment is regarded as a successful submission and is graded, following the standard process.

9. What are the most common subjects studied by students with an Access to HE Diploma?

The top 5 subjects studied in H.E. by Access to HE students are: Subjects allied to Medicine, Social Studies including Social Work, Business and Administration, the Sciences and Education and Training with 47% of Access to H.E. students being over 25 years old.

10. Where can I find data on how students with an Access to HE Diploma perform in Higher Education?

Every year, the QAA provide data on Access to HE students in Higher Education. 16-17 is the 15th in a series of Access to HE data reports that began in 1999.

The FAQs above have been compiled from data published by the QAA which is available via the publications library on the Access to HE website.

