

Guidance Notes

Introduction

In recognition of the hard work and commitment of Access to HE Diploma students, Ascentis would like to invite approved centres to nominate learners for the Ascentis Access to HE Excellence Awards.

To be eligible for nomination, a learner is required to have studied on an Ascentis Access to HE Programme in 2025-2026 and meet the criteria for the nominated category.

Each Centre can nominate up to two learners per category per Diploma.

Criteria – Outstanding Academic Achievement

Learners in this category should have excelled in their academic study by producing assessed work of an outstanding quality whilst on their Access to HE course. This could include:

- Individual achievement beyond standard expectations
- An outstanding grade profile
- Demonstration of academic skills and techniques beyond what would normally be expected
- Evidenced academic ability likely to result in outstanding achievement in HE

The supporting statement should contain sufficient detail about the range and type of work submitted by the learner and their performance with justification for the nomination. Where possible this should include statements made by tutors and references to pieces of assessed work.

Criteria – Outstanding Commitment to Study

Learners in this category will have shown outstanding commitment to their Access to HE studies by evidencing some or all of the following:

- Difficult and challenging personal circumstances
- An inspirational journey which demonstrates the impact of learning
- Clear evidence of extra effort above and beyond that which would normally be required of a learner
- A demonstration of an outstanding level of commitment to study.

The supporting statement should be a detailed explanation of how the learner meets the criteria above. It should give an indication of the types of barriers and challenges the learner has overcome during their course.

Whilst the privacy of the learner should be respected, it will help the panel of judges to assess the nomination if some detail regarding the challenges facing the learner, and the way in which they met these challenges, is provided.

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Whilst we no longer expect to see evidence of learner work, this may be required for winners in either category to be nominated for the national Keith Fletcher Prize.

Submitting Nominations

Nominations should be emailed to hello@ascentis.co.uk with the subject line **Excellence Awards** on or before the closing date.

Please ensure that all documents are in a standard readable format using Word, PDF, JPEG or other format which could be opened on a PC.

Learners can be nominated for one category only and must confirm their consent prior to the nomination being submitted.

The closing date for nominations is **Friday 29th May 2026.**

Judging of Nominations

All nominations will be anonymised before being considered by an independent panel of judges where prize winners will be selected solely on the statements provided by centres. Prize winners and runners up will be contacted in the first instance through their Centre Coordinator. After the individual prize winners have been notified then final results will be circulated to all Centre Coordinators.

Prizes

All valid nominations will receive a Certificate of Recognition. Prize winners will receive a cheque for £400 and runners up will receive a cheque for £200.

Ascentis staff will endeavour to present the prizes at a time and venue to be agreed with the Centre.

Award Winners will be announced during the week commencing **13th July 2026.**

Please return your completed application by email to hello@ascentis.co.uk by **Friday 29th May 2026.**