



Access to HE Provider Toolkit

Benefits of Access to HE

- The Access to Higher Education (HE) Diploma is a qualification which prepares students for study at degree level.
- It has been designed to give students relevant academic subject knowledge and the opportunity to learn how to approach study at university-level and develop techniques to help them succeed.
- Access to HE students tend to be career-outcome focused, resilient and motivated.
- QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas are widely recognised by higher education providers throughout the UK.
- Diplomas are approved through a process of validation, involving representation from higher education; they can be flexible and respond to local as well as national needs.
- A student who successfully completes all course requirements is awarded the Access to HE Diploma. The 'Access to HE Diploma' is a reserved title. It can only be awarded to students on courses that have been approved through QAA's Recognition Scheme.
- QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas are eligible for funding under legal entitlement and Advanced Learner Loans (in England).
- Students funded through the Advanced Learner Loan who achieve their QAA-recognised Access to HE Diploma and complete their higher-level studies can have the balance of their Advance Learner Loan written off.
- Access to HE courses are usually completed in one year. However, students can also study part-time, over two or more years.
- Access to HE courses are available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Students can study at a college or with a training provider, or at home through distance-learning.

- QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas are taken by students of all ages and backgrounds.
- There are over 1,200 recognised Access to HE courses. All recognised courses are listed on the database of QAA-recognised Access to HE courses.

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QAA manages the national framework for the recognition and regulation of Access to HE Diplomas. www.qaa.ac.uk