

Access to HE

Frequently Asked Questions



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What is the Access to HE Diploma?

This course is designed to prepare you for Higher Education including Higher Degree Apprenticeships, you will be taught to become a strong independent learner with research skills embedded throughout each Diploma.

The Access to HE Diploma is one of the main routes for adults into Higher Education and is an exciting alternative to 'A' and A/S Levels and BTEC qualifications. It is a full Level 3 qualification.

What does the course involve?

Access to HE Diplomas are made up of 60 credits. 45 of these are at level 3 and are graded. The remaining 15 credits are not graded and may be at level 2 or level 3. You must successfully achieve 60 credits to be awarded a Diploma.

Providers will choose the structure of the programme, and this may vary but will include subject-specific study skills preparation, as well as tuition in subjects that are relevant.

You will be expected to commit to a minimum of 10 hours working independently on top of your classroom learning hours which will be for research, writing assignments etc.

Who is the Access to HE Diploma for?

The Access to HE Diploma is for adults 19+.

Access to HE is designed for those who are returning to education so you will be taught how to write academically, reference and research.

How long does the course take?

Providers offer the course full or part-time with a completion time frame from 6 months to 2 years.

Is the course available online?

The course is available across England and Wales through a number of providers. Many of those will offer a fully online Diploma, a blended option or traditional classroom delivery.



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Is funding available for the course?

19+ Advanced Learner Loan: If you are aged 19 or over, and want to study an Access to Higher Education programme, you may be eligible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan to cover your tuition fees.

Student Finance England will write off any outstanding Advanced Learner Loan balances you owe for an Access to HE Diploma, if you go on to complete a higher education or university level course. This means you do not have to repay it. If you don't go on to study a higher education or university level course, you won't need to start paying back the loan until you earn over £25,725 per year.

Level 3 Entitlement: If you are aged 19–23 and this will be your first eligible, full Level 3 course, then you may be able to do this course for free.

Nursing Bursary for those going on to degree-level courses: Nursing students starting university will benefit from additional support of at least £5,000 a year to help with living costs.

What subjects are available to study?

The Access to HE Diploma is available in a wide variety of subject areas including Business, Education, Engineering, Health, Law, Social Work and Sport.

Please speak to your local provider about which Diplomas they offer or visit [Centres offering the Access to HE Diploma](#)

Do Universities recognise the Access to HE Diploma?

Yes, the Diploma is widely recognised by UK Universities.

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

Access to HE Diplomas started after September 2014 are eligible for UCAS Tariff points from the 2017 entry cycle. Learners can use the [UCAS tariff calculator](#) to work out their UCAS points.

The FAQs have been compiled from QAA data which is available on the [Access to HE website](#).



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