

The Access Diploma Guide

This is a nationally QAA recognised qualification validated by LASER, our regional validating agency . All of your work is marked by your lecturer, internally moderated within the team and externally moderated by LASER.

Achieving the Diploma

All Access courses require achievement of 60 credits with 45 at level 3 from graded units which are directly related to your subject specific course title and the remaining 15 credits are ungraded and will be level 2 or 3*. You have to achieve all 60 credits to gain the Diploma.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English grade A- C or an equivalent level 2 qualification – This is essential for all Access courses.

GCSE Maths grade A-C or an equivalent level qualification – This is essential for Computing, Biomedical Sciences and Health Science Access courses.

GCSE Maths grade D or an equivalent level 1 qualification for all other Access courses.

If you do not have this evidence there will be an opportunity to take an initial assessment and we advise you to prepare by practicing Maths and/or English skills; you might find this sight helpful:

<http://move-on.org.uk/>

Education Studies: For those applicants wanting to go into primary teaching you must have at least two of the three mandatory GCSE's in English, Maths and/or Science at grade C or above.

Going to University

Your Diploma will enable you to progress onto university however there are different entry requirements from the range of existing universities and degree programmes, for example one institution/degree may require you to simply pass (achieve the 60 credits) whereas another may ask for 45 graded units at distinction and 15 credits at pass. They may also vary slightly with what they require in relation to English and Maths so for example you may need GCSE grade C in both English and Maths or equivalents might be accepted.

it is very important that prior to starting your Access course you fully research the possible universities and degrees you might apply for to ensure your starting point is correct and right for you.

For example if you do not have GCSE in English and Maths and you know from your research that you need them then it would be better if you did these before your Access course as we do not advise you to try and do 2 GCSEs alongside an Access course as the workload is too much.

GCSE English and Maths

We deliver these within the Access department and you are allowed to join **one** of these alongside your Access course. Alternatively you may choose to do both of these with us prior to your Access course.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

We use a range of teaching and learning techniques as well as methods of assessments which might include essays, case studies, practical reports, an independent research project, exams, presentations, pair work, group work, discussions.

Expectations

You can expect to receive a high quality of teaching from us; we are an experienced team who are motivated, well organised, enthusiastic and really committed to providing you with the best experience of 'Access'. We consistently achieve results that are higher than both regional and national data for success.

You will need additional time outside of your timetabled classes to do your reading, research and complete assignments; as a rough guide a full day needs to be available. We expect full attendance and engagement in classes throughout the course.

Your timetable

This will be sent to you in the term prior to the start of your course.

Finance

If you require any information on finance please see attached document.

Preparing for your Course

If you receive an unconditional offer then I advise you to enrol as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as all of our courses are very popular.

Please look at the specific leaflet on your course available on the website** - for recommended reading and make a start. Do your research into the degrees you might apply to and check/compare the entry requirements.

Useful websites:

www.ucas.com

www.unistats.com

Access courses are excellent preparation for university; they are both challenging and rewarding!

We look forward to welcoming you onto one of our Access programmes and working with you .

** Access courses are currently being revised due to new specifications from the QAA so the level of ungraded units will be confirmed in your handbook at induction.*

***The revised leaflets will be available on the website after Easter once the QAA new specifications have been implemented*