



One Awards Centres and Access to HE

The One Awards office is now closed but a full remote service is in place to continue with centre support, quality assurance and business development. Updates will be regularly provided, and plans implemented to minimise disruption to quality assurance and assessment processes for Access to Higher Education diplomas and for the One Awards bespoke accreditation service.

- One Awards centre registrations and certification claims can be processed remotely so will continue as normal. However, as we produce certificates in house, these will be delayed until normal business resumes.
- Centre contact can still be made via phone as the phone lines have been re-routed, and we will use email along with technology such as Skype and TEAMS to support virtual meetings.
- Non-urgent EQA monitoring will be postponed, but where urgent feedback is required, EQAs will make arrangements with centres to use technology to hold meetings, where-ever possible.
- Non-urgent external moderation for Access to HE providers will be postponed. Where urgent feedback is required, arrangements will be made with centres to use technology to hold meetings, where-ever possible.
- All face to face meetings will be replaced with remote meetings, where-ever possible.

Advice on Final Awards Boards for Access to HE providers will follow.

On 23rd March, all Access Validating Agencies met with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and passed on our concerns about ensuring fairness and equity for students in light of the challenges faced by many Access students in continuing their studies remotely and the decision about A- Level grading judgements.

QAA subsequently met with DfE representatives and the following QAA statement was issued (23rd March):

Assessments: *We have explained to DfE that our current guidance to providers and Access Validating Agencies has focussed on adaptation to allow students to complete the final units on their programmes of study. We highlighted that since this model was put forward, there have been significant concerns around whether students will be able complete at home (for many reasons) and whether our current model, when compared to A Levels predicted grade model (released on Friday) allows for fairness in relation to learner outcomes.*

There are ongoing discussions between awarding organisations who offer vocational and technical qualifications and Ofqual. DfE officers are talking to Ofqual a later today to gauge progress in terms of what approaches may emerge.



Obviously, what is paramount for our Access to HE students is that they need to be supported to progress to HE. We will be discussing potential models for assessment further with DfE tomorrow. The meeting is set after our daily catch-up so we will email you with a further update tomorrow.

Funding: *We discussed with EFSA possible funding implications with 'unconditional offers', contingency plans etc and DfE officers are currently waiting for a response from the Student Loans Company about contingencies. Further details to follow.*

For further information on QAA see their website <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/>

QAA are very aware of the need to be flexible and supportive whilst maintaining the integrity of the awards of diplomas. They stressed the priority was health and safety of students, provider and AVA staff.

They are producing a FAQ document for students and asked AVAs for any questions they had received so they could be included.

UCAS ABL deadline for results (end July).

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss the impact on your centre or learners, please contact us directly on admin@oneawards.org.uk or 0191 518 6550.