

OCNLR ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION E-BULLETIN

January 2012

A LOOK BACK AT 2010-11

Learner Achievement

We can confirm that we have had another very successful year for Access to HE and that of the 6,357 learners registered on Access courses for 2010-11, OCNLR awarded **4,330** Access to HE Diplomas. This shows an achievement of **68%** and an increase of 5% on achievement for 09-10. In total we awarded **313,659** credits.

Progression Data and Case studies

We will once again be asking you for progression data and Access learner case studies. This data is of key importance in our continuing efforts in highlighting the value of Access to HE to policy makers and making them aware of the importance of Access in meeting the widening participation agenda. We will shortly be emailing you spreadsheets for completion with regards to progression data and a proforma for Access learner case studies.

Access to HE Diploma Certificates

Once again OCNLR has met our deadline of ensuring that all Access to HE certificates confirmed at Awards Boards are sent out to Centres before the A level results date. This year all certificates were issued a week before the A level results were published

Awards Boards

All Awards Boards for 2010/11 were completed by the end of July, including only a small number of deferred Boards and most learners were certificated with the rest of their Centre. This is a huge improvement on 2009/10 and we extend our thanks to all staff involved in the preparations for the Boards and Final Moderations.

2011-12

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all!

Annual Reviews

Annual reviews have been completed with all Centres and we hope that you have found these a useful way to start the academic year and of reflecting on the previous year. Your feedback was included in our annual Self Assessment Report to the QAA and has informed our planning for 2011/12 – most notably we have listened to all your comments on the remote sampling exercise and have streamlined the process accordingly. In addition, we have been able to confirm your Awards Board and final moderation dates at this early point in the year.

First Lead Access Moderator Visits

Your Lead Access Moderators should all have been in touch about your first visits in January/February and should also have confirmed the dates of your final moderation and Awards Boards. Please note that the Awards Boards 'season' is incredibly busy and we must keep rearrangements to a minimum. If you need to rearrange either your final moderation or Awards Board please contact *Lucy Arnold* as a matter of urgency.

UCAS Admissions Process Review Consultation

OCNLR will be responding as an AVA. We would advise Access providers to also take this opportunity to have their say on the impact on Access to HE learners on any of the proposed changes to the HE admissions system including timing of applications. The deadline for consultation responses is the **20th January 2012**.

Annual OCN London Access to HE Conference

The date for our Access to HE conference has been set for **Friday 23rd March**. Speakers will include **Simon Hughes MP, Professor John Storan (Chair of FACE)** and **Kath Dentith (Head of Access, QAA)**. Further details will be emailed and posted on our website events page [here](#).

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS

Programme Validations

There are a significant number of programmes due for revalidation during 2011-12. The deadline for the final Panel ready draft for Diploma validation submissions is - **10th February 2012**

Panel dates will be set shortly and we will be once again asking colleagues to offer their expertise as validation Panel members. The Panels will take place in late April and May and will be organised by Diploma titles rather than by provider. This will enable us to ensure that we have the required specialist HE representatives at all Panels.

If you are interested in sitting on a validation Panel as an independent subject specialist please contact Marisa Castellini - Access Curriculum Development Manager m.castellini@ocnlr.org.uk for details.

New Access to HE Diplomas for 2011-12

OCNLR continues to support providers in developing Access to HE Diplomas in new curriculum areas and in looking at new models for Access to HE. Newly validated Diploma Titles for 2011-12 include [Access to HE Diploma \(Design\)](#), [Access to HE Diploma \(Forensic Science\)](#) and [Access to HE Diploma \(Practical Nursing Studies\)](#) The Practical Nursing Studies Diploma combines the traditional Access course with a work based module. This has been made possible through partnership working between an FE College and an NHS trust.

RoC Evaluation

The approved changes to the RoCs for the following Diploma titles, **Art and Design, Business Studies, Computing, Music, Midwifery and Nursing** have been made by OCNLR and new RoCs have been issued.

Please note that once the changes have been made to the RoCs these will be treated as NEW programmes and will have a different OCNLR course code. Two year learners on the second year of their course must be registered on the old programme and will need to meet the old RoC requirements. Returning learners must be registered on the new programme and will need to meet the new RoC requirements.

This academic year we will be reviewing the RoCs for Access to HE Diplomas in **Engineering, Paramedic Studies and Radiography**. RoC evaluation proformas will be sent out shortly to centres approved to run these Diploma titles.

QAA ACTIVITY

QAA Data Submission

After a successful pilot carried out during 2010-11 between The Data Service, QAA and AVAs, OCNLR is no longer required by QAA to ask providers for statistical data for our annual self assessment report to QAA. This data will now be provided to us directly by The Data Service.

QAA, SPA, UCAS and AVA Awarding Body Linkage (ABL) Pilot

OCNLR is working with QAA, SPA and UCAS on looking at the possibility of including Access to HE results on the UCAS ABL. This would enable HEIs to see Access to HE learner results along with those of learners taking other qualifications. We will keep you informed on our progress with this.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Standardisation week

12th – 19th March

Access to HE Co-ordinator Briefing dates
22nd, 23rd and 29th February. An invite with details will be issued shortly

OCNLR Access Conference

Friday 23rd March 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Learner Registration

The deadline for registering your learners on Access to HE Diploma programmes this academic year was the **1st December 2011**. Learner registrations received after this date will be subject to a late registration fee of £15 per learner.