

Access to HE Diploma (Medicine)

AIM code: 40012189

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| About the Qualification | 3 |
| Qualification Structure | 4 |
| Rules of Combination | 4 |
| Qualification Units..... | 5 |
| Delivering this Qualification | 8 |
| Becoming a Provider | 8 |
| How to Deliver | 8 |
| Registering Learners | 8 |
| Assessment and Quality Assurance | 8 |
| Provider Staff Requirements | 8 |
| Assessment | 9 |
| Preparing Assignments | 10 |
| Drafts, Submissions and Re-submissions..... | 10 |
| Verification and Standardisation..... | 10 |
| Internal Verification | 10 |
| Internal Standardisation | 10 |
| External Standardisation | 11 |
| Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL) | 11 |
| Appendices and Links | 12 |

Version Control

| | |
|------|---|
| v1.0 | New document April 2022 |
| v2.0 | Document rebranded. Additional 6-credit units inserted into relevant modules. March 2024. |
| V3.0 | Qualification information updated following revalidation, including addition of new unit under Biology. May 2025. |

About the Qualification

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Title | Open Awards Access to HE Diploma (Medicine) |
| Learning Aim Code | AIM 40012189 |
| Sector | 1.2 Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied to Medicine |
| Level | Level 3 |
| Funding | Please click here for more information |
| Pricing Information | Please click here for more information |
| Review Date | 31/07/2030 |

Available Delivery Modes

Blended learning
Classroom based



This qualification adheres to the QAA Access to HE Diploma Subject Descriptor for Medicine

[Access to Higher Education Diploma: Subject Descriptor for Medicine \(qaa.ac.uk\)](https://qaa.ac.uk)

Qualification Structure

| Rules of Combination | |
|---|---|
| Credit Value of the Qualification | 60 |
| Minimum credits at the level of the qualification (Level 3) | 45 |
| Graded Credits | 45 |
| Ungraded Credits | 15 |
| Graded Units | |
| Mandatory Group A – Biology | A minimum of 15 graded credits required. |
| Mandatory Group B – Chemistry | A minimum of 15 graded credits required. |
| Mandatory Group C – Developmental (ungraded units) | Required units for selection: Professional Behaviours for Medical Practitioners (3 credits) Use of Number: Numbers and Algebra (3 credits) <i>PLUS</i> <i>One Study Skills unit (3 credits)</i> |
| Optional Group D – Maths | Remaining graded units may be selected from Mandatory Group A or Optional Groups B-F. |
| Optional Group E – Physics | |
| Ungraded Units | |
| Optional Ungraded Group A – Biology | 15 ungraded credits to be selected from Optional Ungraded groups A, B or E or Ungraded group C (Developmental). |
| Optional Ungraded Group B – Chemistry Studies | |
| Optional Ungraded Group C – Developmental | |
| Optional Ungraded Group E – Physics | Please note: There are no ungraded units available for selection from Optional Ungraded Group D - Maths |

Please ensure that your programme contains at least one 6-credit unit (academic graded, academic ungraded, or ungraded developmental) to be compliant with the requirements of the QAA Access to HE Diploma specification.

Please note, units with the same title (ungraded and graded) are barred.

Qualification Units

Graded Units

Mandatory Unit Group A - Biology

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|--|---------|-------------|
| GA33BIO01 | Biological Molecules | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO16 | Body Defences | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO46 | Diagnostic Physiotherapy Practices | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO11 | Diet and Digestion | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33CHE12 | Energetics | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO15 | Exchange and Transport of Gases | 3 | Level Three |
| GA36BIO33 | From Cells to Organ Systems | 6 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO06 | Genetics | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO14 | Human Cardiovascular System | 3 | Level Three |
| GA36BIO34 | Human Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems | 6 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO24 | Human Reproduction | 3 | Level Three |
| GA36BIO35 | Human Reproduction and Genetics | 6 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO13 | Organisation of the Body | 3 | Level Three |
| GA36BIO37 | Promoting Health | 6 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO08 | The Cell | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33BIO07 | The Musculoskeletal System | 3 | Level Three |
| GA36BIO38 | The Role of the Endocrine and Nervous Systems in Human Homeostasis | 6 | Level Three |

Mandatory Unit Group B - Chemistry

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|---|---------|-------------|
| GA36CHE18 | Characteristics of the Periodic Table | 6 | Level Three |
| GA33CHE11 | Chemical and Acid-Base Equilibria | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33CHE12 | Energetics | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33CHE02 | Organic Chemistry | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33CHE14 | Periodicity | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33CHE03 | Reacting Amounts | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33CHE09 | Structure and Bonding | 3 | Level Three |

Mandatory Unit Group C – Developmental (ungraded units)

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|---|---|---------|-------------|
| UD33DEV33 | Professional Behaviours for Medical Practitioners | 3 | Level Three |
| UD23DEV01 | Use of Number: Numbers and Algebra | 3 | Level Two |
| One of the below Study Skills units must be selected in your programme | | | |
| UD33DEV16 | Study Skills: Developing Research Skills | 3 | Level Three |
| | OR | | |
| UD33DEV17 | Study Skills: Using Research Skills | 3 | Level Three |

Optional Unit Group D – Maths

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|---|---------|-------------|
| GA33MTH05 | Algebra | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33MTH14 | Differentiation | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33MTH06 | Integration | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33MTH09 | Logarithms and Exponentials | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33MTH17 | The Normal Distribution | 3 | Level Three |

Optional Unit Group E - Physics

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|---|---------|-------------|
| GA33PHY05 | Heat and Thermodynamics | 3 | Level Three |
| GA36PHY23 | Non-Ionising Medical Imaging | 6 | Level Three |
| GA33PHY18 | Physical Quantities and Algebraic Methods | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33PHY17 | Physics of the Senses | 3 | Level Three |
| GA33PHY02 | X-ray Spectra and Medical Uses of X-rays | 3 | Level Three |

Ungraded Units

Optional Ungraded Unit Group A - Biology

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|--|---------|-------------|
| UA33BIO01 | Biological Molecules | 3 | Level Three |
| UA33BIO46 | Diagnostic Physiotherapy Practices | 3 | Level Three |
| UA33BIO06 | Genetics | 3 | Level Three |
| UA33BIO13 | Organisation of the Body | 3 | Level Three |

Optional Ungraded Unit Group B – Chemistry

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| UA33CHE09 | Structure and Bonding | 3 | Level Three |

Optional Ungraded Unit Group C – Developmental

Please note – at least one of the following Study Skills units must be selected

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|---|---------|-------------|
| UD36DEV37 | Study Skills: Academic Skills for Access to HE | 6 | Level Three |
| UD33DEV16 | Study Skills: Developing Research Skills | 3 | Level Three |
| UD36DEV36 | Study Skills: Research Skills and Using Information | 6 | Level Three |
| UD33DEV17 | Study Skills: Using Research Skills | 3 | Level Three |

Optional Ungraded Unit Group D – Maths

No units available for selection

Optional Ungraded Unit Group E – Physics

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Credits | Level |
|-----------|---|---------|-------------|
| UA33PHY18 | Physical Quantities and Algebraic Methods | 3 | Level Three |

Delivering this Qualification

Becoming a Provider

To deliver this qualification you must be a recognised Open Awards provider. For more information, head to our website or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

How to Deliver

If you are approved to deliver Access to HE Diplomas with Open Awards, you can apply deliver this Diploma by completing a [Merlin Form](#) and submitting via the Open Awards portal. For more information, see the Provider Handbook, or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

Registering Learners

Access to HE learners should be registered within 6 weeks of the learner's individual start date or before the learner's official (usually UCAS) application deadline via the Open Awards Secure Portal. Please make sure that learners are registered with the correct details and on the correct Diploma. If learners are registered incorrectly, there will be an administration charge to rectify errors. Learners can be added onto existing course runs but are subject to the 6-week registration deadline.

Amendments or late registrations may be requested up to 26 weeks from the learner's start date but are only considered in extenuating circumstances and on an individual basis. These requests may result in further investigations by Open Awards and control measures may be applied.

Learner registration data can be submitted using the provided 'LRF (Access to HE)' template or via a report generated from your own MIS system. The data provided must be in accordance with the Access to the HE Data Specification document which is available via the secure portal.

You will need to register your learners via the Open Awards portal. More information can be found in our Access to HE Provider Handbook.

Assessment and Quality Assurance

Delivery of this qualification must be done so in accordance with Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) regulatory guidelines and in line with Open Awards' quality assurance processes. Please see our [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information.

Provider Staff Requirements

It is expected that providers will have occupationally competent staff with relevant sector experience for their role in the delivery of the units/qualifications being offered.

For the delivery and assessment of this qualification, it is expected that staff have a qualification at the level higher than the qualification in a related academic

subject and have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in assessment and quality assurance.

Providers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are occupationally competent and have access to appropriate training and support. They are also responsible for notifying Open Awards of staff changes.

Assessment

Each Access to HE Diploma must be supported by assessment plans to ensure that students are able to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and confidence that will prepare them for the rigorous assessment regimes in higher education.

Tutors must develop plans which show how they intend to assess each unit and the Diploma as a whole. These plans must be internally moderated. The assessment plan should cover the whole Diploma and include:

- Number of assignments
- Type and range of assessments
- How tasks will allow for differentiation
- An assessment strategy for the whole Diploma
- A schedule of delivery and assessment/ scheme of work
- Consideration as to whether the strategy prepares learners for Higher Education

In order to achieve the Diploma, learners must meet all Learning Outcomes and associated Assessment Criteria in all units approved in the Diploma specification.

Each Assessment Criterion must be assessed only once. All grade descriptors assigned to a unit by Open Awards (as indicated in the unit content document) must be included in the assessment of assignment(s) for that unit. Descriptors that have not been formally assigned to the unit must not be used. A single grade descriptor may be included more than once where more than one assignment is used to measure achievement for a single unit. Grade Descriptor 7 must be used for all assignments.

A variety of assessment methods should be used which will allow learners the opportunity to develop experience and skills required for HE study. At least one unit from each module should be assessed using a formal and controlled assessment method e.g. examinations.

Where a unit is assessed by more than one assignment, the assessment strategy must clearly state which graded descriptors will be considered for each assignment and how you will apply a single grade for the unit.

Assessment practices must reflect the Equality and Diversity Policy of Open Awards. Reasonable adjustments may be required for individual learners to enable them to undertake assessments fairly. Please see our Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy for more information.

Preparing Assignments

One of the many benefits of an Open Awards Access to HE Diploma is that tutors design the assignments for their own provision to suit the context of delivery and to make the most of the variety of assessments methods available in individual circumstances. Please see our [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information.

Drafts, Submissions and Re-submissions

It is a requirement that you publish procedures for the formal submission of work for assessment in your course handbook. These procedures must be the same for all the Access Diplomas that you are approved to deliver.

Your procedures must conform to QAA requirements as set out in the [Grading Scheme Handbook](#) (Sections C and E).

Please see our [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information.

Verification and Standardisation

Internal Verification

Internal verification is a process by which the provider systematically samples and evaluates its assessment practices and decisions, and acts on the findings to ensure consistency and fairness. The main purpose is to improve and standardise practice in the assessment of learners.

The Access to HE Coordinator must take responsibility for internal verification of all Access to HE Diplomas at your organisation and we will expect that you have the appropriate levels of resources to implement these processes.

Verification activities must include:

- Pre-delivery verification
- Verification of achievement

Internal Standardisation

Standardisation is a vital component of any robust quality assurance system and as a condition of provider approval all Open Awards Access to HE providers agree to participate in standardisation activities.

Where more than one tutor / assessor makes assessment decisions and recommendations for the award of credit to learners on the same Diploma or similar courses it is essential that internal verification processes include the standardisation of their practice.

Open Awards expect providers to plan and undertake standardisation of internally-set tasks and the outcomes of internal assessment **at least twice a year**.

Please see our [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information on verification and standardisation activities required.

External Standardisation

Standardisation is a vital component of any robust quality assurance system and as a condition of provider approval all Open Awards Access to HE providers agree to participate in standardisation activities, both internally and externally.

Open Awards runs a series of standardisation activities that are accessible to all Access to HE providers.

Open Awards runs live standardisation events for each pathway to allow practitioners to peer review and learn from each other through networking. We are aware that some staff may wish to participate in standardisation activities but will be unable to attend events at the Open Awards office.

We also offer online standardisation activities. You will be provided with access to an online repository of standardisation activities, training and opportunities to share best practices.

For more information on each of these processes, please see the [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#).

Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)

Learners presenting evidence of accredited prior learning on non-Access courses can apply for exemption for credit on relevant Level 2 and Level 3 units where appropriate.

Learners who have achieved Access to HE Diploma credits (either from Open Awards or another AVA) may wish to claim credit towards an Open Awards Diploma. Credit transfer is dependent on the content of the unit/s from which those credits were gained matching the content of the unit/s for which they wish to claim.

For more information, please see our Recognition of Prior Learning Policy. <https://openawards.org.uk/centres/policies-and-procedures/>

Appendices and Links

| Appendix Name |
|--|
| Provider Handbook |
| Enquiries, Complaints and Appeals Policy |
| Equality and Diversity Policy |
| Invoicing Policy |
| Privacy Policy |

© Copyright Open Awards 2025.

All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce for personal and educational use only. Commercial copying, hiring or lending is prohibited.

Open Awards
17 De Havilland Drive,
Estuary Commerce Park
Speke
Liverpool
L24 8N

0151 494 2072

enquiries@openawards.org.uk

www.openawards.org.uk

@openawards