

Access to HE Diploma (Forensic Science)

AIM code: 40013455

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Version Control

v1.0	New document April 2022
v2.0	Document rebranded. Additional 6-credit units inserted into relevant modules. January 2024.

About the Qualification

Title	Open Awards Access to HE Diploma (Forensic Science)
Learning Aim Code	AIM 40013455
Sector	2.1 Science
Level	Level 3
Funding	Please click here for more information
Pricing Information	Please click here for more information
Review Date	31/07/2027

Available Delivery Modes

Blended learning
Classroom
Distance Learning

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 – Human Biology	A minimum of 15 graded credits required.
Mandatory Group B – Chemistry	A minimum of 15 graded credits required.
Mandatory Group C – Criminology	A minimum of 15 graded credits required.
Ungraded Units	
Mandatory Ungraded Group A – Human Biology	A minimum of 3 ungraded credits required.
Mandatory Ungraded Group B – Chemistry	A minimum of 3 ungraded credits required.
Mandatory Ungraded Group C – Criminology	A minimum of 3 ungraded credits required.
Mandatory Ungraded Group D – Developmental	A minimum of 6 ungraded credits required.

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 – Human Biology

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
GA33BIO01	Biological Molecules	3	Level Three
GA33BIO02	Cell Metabolism	3	Level Three
GA33BIO05	DNA Technology	3	Level Three
GA36BIO33	From Cells to Organ Systems (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
GA33BIO06	Genetics	3	Level Three
GA36BIO34	Human Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
GA36BIO35	Human Reproduction and Genetics (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
GA36BIO36	Microorganisms and Infection (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
GA33BIO08	The Cell	3	Level Three
GA36BIO38	The Role of the Endocrine and Nervous System in Human Homeostasis (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three

Mandatory Unit Group B - Chemistry

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
GA33CHE07	Analytical Chemistry	3	Level Three
GA36CHE18	Characteristics of the Periodic Table (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
GA33CHE06	Further Organic Chemistry	3	Level Three
GA33CHE02	Organic Chemistry	3	Level Three
GA36SCI01	Practical Scientific Project	6	Level Three

Mandatory Unit Group C - Criminology

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
GA33CRI08	Criminological Statistics	3	Level Three
GA33CRI05	Forensic Evidence	3	Level Three
GA33CRI09	Perspectives on Policing	3	Level Three
GA33CRI04	The Criminology of Prisons	3	Level Three
GA33CRI06	The Reliability of Evidence	3	Level Three

Ungraded Units

Mandatory Ungraded Unit Group A – Human Biology

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
UA33BIO13	Organisation of the Body	3	Level Three

Mandatory Ungraded Unit Group B - Chemistry

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

Mandatory Ungraded Unit Group C - Criminology

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
UA33CRI14	Offender Profiling	3	Level Three

Mandatory Ungraded Unit Group D – Developmental

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
UD36DEV35	Communication: Critical Thinking in Academic Writing (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
UD33DEV24	Communication: Report Writing	3	Level Three
UD26DEV24	ICT: Using ICT and Word Processing (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Two
UD33DEV32	Professional Behaviours	3	Level Three
UD36DEV37	Study Skills: Academic Skills for Access to HE (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
UD36DEV38	Study Skills: Access Research Project (coming 01.09.24)	6	Level Three
UD36DEV36	Study Skills: Research Skills and Using Information (coming 01.09.24)	6	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

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