

Sources of help and information

- Laser Awards is the awarding body for your Access Diploma. We guarantee the quality and standards of your course and we also issue the final Access Diploma certificates at the end of your course. We have a Facebook page for Access students where you can share ideas with other students and where we will post news and updates for you.
- The college at which you are enrolled will provide you with a wide range of services and support to help you succeed on your Access course. So do make sure you familiarise yourself with how to contact your tutors and use the college facilities.
- Access Diplomas are regulated by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) which also assures the quality of degree courses at universities in England and Wales. The QAA Access logo will appear on your final Access Diploma certificate and is your guarantee that your qualification is nationally recognised and accepted at universities across the UK.



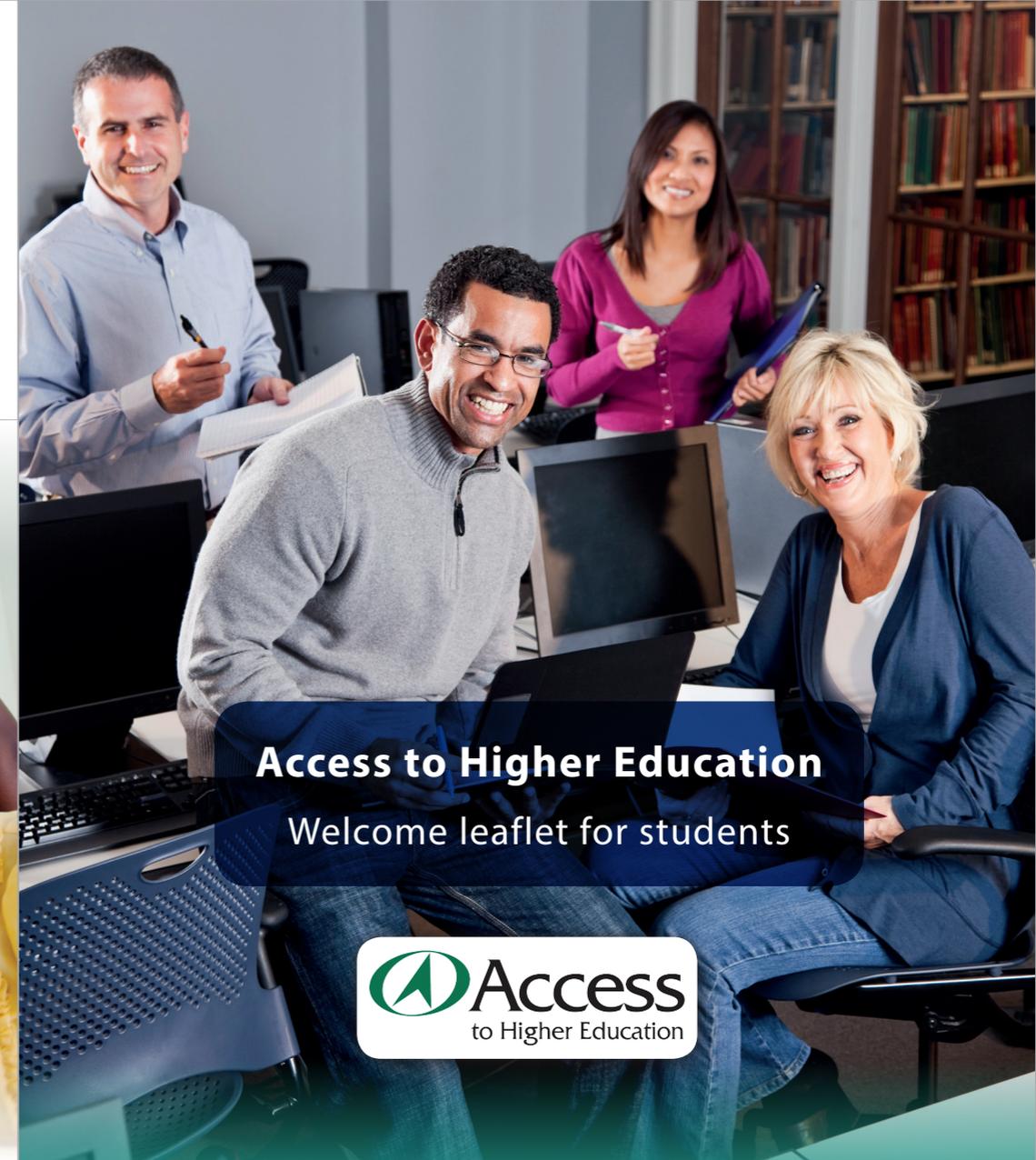
For more information on the diploma, assessment, grading, moderation, certificates and useful links to external organisations visit the LASER Access web pages.

Access students go on to study degrees and gain jobs in a very wide range of subjects and you can find case studies and other useful information from the QAA Access website.

We hope you enjoy your Access course and that it opens new horizons for you. We wish you success on this first part of your journey and in your future progression.

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Access to Higher Education

Welcome leaflet for students



OCNSER trading as Laser Learning Awards
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Registered Charity No: 1114460

Find us on



/LaserAccess



Welcome

Welcome to the Access to Higher Education Diploma and on behalf of Laser Learning Awards (LASER) we would like to wish you every success in your studies. Taking an Access course can be a big step into the unknown but you are not alone. You are joining a wider national community of Access students, seeking to change the direction of their lives by studying, in order to progress to a university degree course.

Access Student Community

LASER offers students their own Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/LaserAccess

“Like” the page to get updated news and information on Access Diplomas and Higher Education generally. Join our community of Access Students to share ideas and information with fellow students.

Online Student Portal

LASER asks for student email addresses as part of your registration to enable you to log in to the LASER Online Student Portal where you can view your registration details including the title of your Access Diploma and which units you are taking as well as links to other useful information and study support guidance.

Ideally we need the email address you use most frequently to ensure you receive the information to join and any updates. Please be assured that LASER will not pass your details to any third parties and the email will only be used to contact you regarding your Access to HE diploma course. Any personal information you give to us will be processed in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 1998.

UCAS Tariff

UCAS have revised the way they calculate their tariff and for the first time Access to HE Diplomas will have tariff points attached. The key features are:

- For courses starting from September 2017, universities and colleges will begin to use the new Tariff. It's simply a different set of numbers to describe qualifications and grades.
- Only about one third of courses have entry requirements expressed in Tariff points – the rest use grades.
- Just because a qualification is on the Tariff, it doesn't mean a university or college will accept it. Therefore it's really important to check the course entry requirements. Equally, if a qualification is not on the Tariff, a university or college may still accept it. It's always best to check with the uni or college offering the course.
- 2017 entry courses advertised on the UCAS search tool from May 2016 will refer to the new UCAS Tariff points only.

It is useful to remember that because Access to HE Diplomas are graded by unit it could mean that the tariff points required for entry could be achieved in a number of ways

The table below illustrates this point using 128 points:

Unit Grade			Total UCAS Points
Pass	Merit	Distinction	
0	15	30	128
3	9	33	128
3	6	36	128

There is more information, including a video presentation, tariff tables and a tariff calculator on the UCAS website:

www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/tariff/new-tariff-2017

End of Year

At the end of the course Final Moderation and Awards Boards will take place. Once these are completed your college submits all results to LASER and we process them through our database. At this point an E-Results Notification slip will be made available which you can get from your centre's Exams Office and use to confirm your results. (You will also be able to view your confirmed results via the Online Student Portal).

Results are notified to UCAS directly in advance of A Level results; however we always recommend you confirm your place with your chosen Higher Education Institution as well.

Once all results are finalised, certificates are printed and sent to centres (please note we do not send certificates directly to students). Your centre will let you know whether they require you to collect your certificate from them or if they will send them on. If you have any queries about your certificate, please contact your centre.

