

Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework

Osteopathic Sciences and Healthcare

Learning Aim:	40015762
Approved:	16 May 2024
Validation dates:	01 August 2024 - 31 July 2029
Date of next review:	September 2028

Purpose and aim of the Access to HE Diploma

The Access to HE Diploma is intended to prepare people without traditional entry qualifications for degree level study at university. It may also be used by people wishing to make a career change or who have been out of formal education for a significant time to gain the skills and confidence required for direct progression to employment or further study. The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA and widely recognised as a progression route by universities across the UK.

Target Group

The Access Diploma is open to all learners but is designed to be accessible for individuals who, because of their socio-economic or personal circumstances, may not have been able to consider progression to degree level study. The Access Diploma therefore provides a second chance for individuals who, for whatever reason, were not able to take full advantage of their formal secondary education.

About the qualification

The Diploma Specification for Osteopathic Sciences and Healthcare is an Access to HE Diploma developed with University College of Osteopathy, designed to prepare students to progress onto their own degree courses or to apply for similar degree routes with other Higher Education Institutions. This title is available for use by other Access providers, and could be modified for delivery elsewhere on request.

Specification Rules

All LASER Diplomas are made up of 45 graded credits (sections A, and B below) and 15 ungraded credits (section C). The policy for the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework is available at [Validated Diploma Specifications](#) or by contacting the Access Office.

Section	Minimum Credits	Graded/Ungraded	Modules	Notes
A	30	Graded	Osteopathic Sciences	
B	15	Graded	Professional Studies	
C	15	Ungraded	Study Skills	Study Skills units can be at level 2 or 3

Unit Choices: SUBJECT GROUP A

30 graded credits to be selected from the modules listed below, these units are chosen as specific to the subject of the named Diploma and are all at level 3.

Please note: QAA regulations state - *the maximum number of credits that can be made up from 6 or 9-credit units is 30 credits. Graded and ungraded 6 and 9-credit units will count towards the maximum.* As the Engineering Project is a mandatory graded or ungraded unit of 6 credits (Unit Group C), this means that **no more than four other 6-credit units (24 credits)** can be registered across Unit Groups A, B and C.

Osteopathic Sciences (30 credits)	
Credits	Title
3	Biochemistry for Healthcare
3	Cellular Structures, Processes and Replication
3	Chemistry for Healthcare
6	Human Body Systems
3	Infection and Immune Response
6	Musculoskeletal Systems
3	Neuro-Endocrine Control Systems
3	Physics for Osteopathic Healthcare

Unit Choices: SUBJECT GROUP B

15 graded credits from the module below, these units are related to the subject of the named Diploma.

These units are all at level 3.

Professional Studies (15 credits)	
Credits	Title
3	Communication Skills for the Clinical Environment
6	Ethics and Practise of Osteopathic Healthcare
6	Professional Studies for Healthcare

Ungraded Units: GROUP C

15 ungraded credits as listed below. These units are generally at level 3 but selected units may be available at level 2.

Study Skills (15 credits)		
Level	Credits	Title
2	3	English Language Skills
3	3	Practical Mathematics for Healthcare
3	6	Academic Study Skills
3	3	Reviewing and Planning for the Future

Diploma Assessment Framework¹

All LASER validated Access to HE programmes must include a **Diploma Assessment Plan** as a part of their validation/revalidation process and the plans will be required to be updated and available for review as part of the yearly External Quality Assurance cycle. In identifying assessment models, practitioners should also give due consideration to the requirements of the LASER [Guidance on the Use of AI](#) to ensure the veracity of assessments as measures of student achievement.

The policy for the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework is available via [Validated Diploma Specifications](#) or by contacting the Access Office.

Required Assessment Models:

Assessment Model ²	Suggested Weighted Frequency of Use	Comments
Examination	High / Moderate / Low	<p><i>Required by LASER Examination Policy and identified as a commonly used assessment model within HE.</i></p> <p>The LASER Examination Policy requires all LASER validated Diploma Titles to contain at least three opportunities for students to experience appropriate forms of ‘summative’ examination which contribute to the final assessment and grade of the unit. Unless there is a compelling reason, no diploma should contain more than six examinations. The full policy can be viewed here: Access Policies.</p>
Essay (Include as necessary)	High / Moderate / Low	<i>Together with Examinations this constitutes one of the most predominant assessment methodologies for HE</i>
Presentation	High / Moderate / Low	<i>Very high frequency of use in HE but not always as a summative assessment tool. Students should have moderate but not substantive experience of this form of assessment.</i>

¹ the policy for the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework is available via <https://www.laser-awards.org.uk/access-to-higher-education/for-centres/laser-access-framework/> or by contacting the Access Office

² Definitions of the meanings of given **Assessment Models** are contained within Annex One.

Recommended Assessment Models:

Recommended Assessment Model	Possible Weighting	Comments
Project	Strongly Recommended / Recommended / Suggested	<i>May be used as a means of assessing independent learning in a given subject area.</i>
Extended Essay	Strongly Recommended / Recommended / Suggested	<i>Although not the norm this assessment tool is used with moderate frequency in HE and therefore students should have some experience of it.</i>
Workbook	Strongly Recommended / Recommended / Suggested	<i>May be used in relation to any unit</i>