



# **Access to Higher Education**

## **Welcome leaflet for students**

**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, to progress to a university degree course.**



## Access Student Community

LASER offers students their own Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/LASERAccess](http://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. We also have a dedicated page for students on the LASER Access web pages.



## Online E-Learning Courses

LASER offers a range of free online learning support for Access to HE students in academic study skills (essay writing, research, punctuation and grammar and writing for purpose and improving accuracy) as well as a returning to maths course. These optional courses are designed to help you review and develop your written and maths skills in preparation for both succeeding on your Access course and in making the transition to study in higher education. The courses can be done at your own pace and you can go back over them anytime you wish throughout the year.

Ask your tutor to sign you up and you will receive a login direct via email. Or sign up direct at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AccessELearning>.





## 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. You will also be able to download your ECertificate from the portal once your results have been processed at the end of year.



## GDPR

Laser Learning Awards will NEVER pass on your contact details to any party other than those required for the purposes of our awarding organisation function, which includes our regulatory functions, such as recording and issuing qualifications, and approving centres, and we will NEVER under any circumstances sell any data or pass it on to any other party for marketing purposes.

LASER's full privacy notice is available on our website:

<https://www.laser-awards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/LASER-Privacy-Notice.pdf>



## UCAS Tariff

Access to HE Diplomas are included within the UCAS Tariff; used by some universities for making entrance offers, some universities may also make conditional offers based on specific grades being achieved in named units, or a stated number of credits being achieved in a module.

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 several ways. For example, 128 UCAS points could be achieved in the following ways:

- 15 credits at Merit and 30 credits at Distinction
- 3 credits at Pass, 9 at Merit and 33 at Distinction
- 3 credits at Pass, 6 at Merit and 36 at Distinction

More information, including a short video guide on Access and the Tariff is available at: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariff-points>



## End of Year

At the end of the course, Final Moderation and Awards Boards will take place to confirm your results. Once these are complete 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 to your centre's Exams Office. You will also be able to view your confirmed results via the Online Student Portal, and download your ECertificate which can be used to confirm your results with HE.

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.



## Sources of help and information

- **Laser Learning 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.
- 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: <https://www.laser-awards.org.uk>

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 on the QAA Access website, <http://www.accesstohe.ac.uk>

Your college will provide you with a wide range of services and support to help you succeed on your Access course. So, make sure you familiarise yourself with how to contact your tutors and use the college facilities.

**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.**



## Contact us



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Visit our Access to HE web-pages



[www.laser-awards.org.uk/  
access-to-higher-education](http://www.laser-awards.org.uk/access-to-higher-education)



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Laser Learning Awards

Contact the Access Office



[accessenquiries@laser-awards.org.uk](mailto:accessenquiries@laser-awards.org.uk)



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