



Access to HE Diploma: points of clarification

(For further details consult www.accesstohe.ac.uk/home/publications/creditspecificationsdraft06)

- 1 **'The Access to HE Diploma is a credit-based qualification.'**
 - The Diploma is a full Level 3 qualification, which has a standard credit volume.
 - Student achievement is described through the award of credits and the Diploma.
 - The use and award of credit for the Diploma is made in accordance with a common set of credit specifications and definitions which are applied consistently on all courses.

- 2 **'The credit achievement required for the award of the Access to HE Diploma on all Access to HE programmes is a total of 60 credits.'**
 - All Diplomas require the achievement of 60 credits, wherever they are delivered.
 - No Diploma can be awarded if achievement is less than 60 credits.
 - No Diploma requires the award of more than 60 credits.

- 3 **'Of these 60 credits, a minimum of 45 credits must to be achieved at Level 3 and the remainder must be achieved at Level 2 or above.'**
 - All Diplomas are structured to allow students to gain the qualification on the basis of the achievement of 45 level 3 credits and 15 level 2 credits.
 - Students have to gain 45 of the 60 credits at level 3 to be awarded the Diploma.
 - Credits achieved at a level which is lower than level 2 cannot contribute to the Diploma.

- 4 **'While some students may be able to accumulate credits which are additional, or at a higher level, to those which are required for the award of the Access to HE Diploma, these credits cannot be made part of the generic qualification or individual award requirements.'**
 - It is possible that, as a consequence of individual providers' curriculum structures -where, for example, there are a number of options available - some students may be able to study on units which are additional to those required for the award of the Diploma¹. However, achievement of either more than 60 credits in total ('credits which are additional'), or achievement of more than 45 credits at level 3 ('credits which...are at a higher level'), cannot be required for the award of a Diploma.
 - Any achievement which is additional to the 60 credits required for the Diploma does not form a part of the Access to HE Diploma. Such achievement is reported separately and its status should be clarified in applications to HE.

- 5 **'The particular award requirements [additionally] identify the ... particular units from which the credits must be derived. These requirements are stipulated in the rules of combination for the particular award. The rules of combination thereby ensure the coherence of every programme which leads to the award of the Access to HE Diploma.'**
 - The 60 credits required for the award of any Access to HE Diploma must be derived from a set of particular units which are specified in its rules of combination.
 - The particular areas of study in which successful achievement is required for the award of the Diploma can be identified through the units specified in its rules of combination.
 - The set of units specified in the rules of combination, taken together, provide a coherent programme of study which provides a preparation for HE in the subject(s) identified in the particular Diploma title.

¹ Providers should note, however, the LSC's funding guidance (2008-09): providers are reminded that LSC policy limits public funding for the Diploma to support the number of units required for the award of the Access to HE Diploma, as specified by the rules of combination (that is, to allow learners to achieve the required 60 credits).