

## The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education



### Access to HE statistics summary (2002-03)

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#### Introduction

The data presented below summarises the statistics received in December 2003 from the 26 authorised validating agencies (AVAs) licensed by QAA to recognise Access programmes in England and Wales. It relates to Access programmes and students in the academic year 2002-03.

While data for all five years is presented here for information, comparisons between the five years' data should be made with caution, particularly where numbers involved suggest small increases or decreases: relatively minor changes - sometimes within a single AVA - can suggest a more significant change than is necessarily present. A number of new or revised categories were introduced in 2002-03, so reliable time series are not available in all areas.

#### Section A: Providers and Programmes

##### A1 Providers offering Access to HE programmes

	<b>2002-03</b>		<b>2001-02</b>		<b>2000-01</b>		<b>1999-2000</b>		<b>1998-99</b>	
FE Colleges	330	79%	334	79%	329	79%	348	78%	333	76%
HE Institutions	20	5%	17	4%	21	5%	26	6%	28	6%
Sixth Form Colleges	17	4%	22	5%	19	5%	23	5%	24	6%
Adult/community education centres	23	6%	24	6%	21	5%	25	5%	31	7%
Schools	3	1%	2	0%	11	3%	12	3%	8	2%
Other	23	6%	22	5%	16	4%	14	3%	12	3%
<b>Total of all providers</b>	<b>416</b>		<b>421</b>		<b>417</b>		<b>448</b>		<b>436</b>	
<b>AVA range</b>										
lowest number of providers in an AVA	4		6		4		4			
highest number of providers in an AVA	42		39		31		36			
Average no of providers in an AVA:										
mean	16		16		14		14			
median	15		16		14		12			

There has been a small reduction in the overall number of providers between 2001-02 and 2002-03. The average number of providers in an AVA has stayed constant at 16 between 2001-02 and 2002-03. The number of HE institutions acting as providers of Access programmes increased slightly to 20 in (2002-03), following a steady decline since 1998-99 from a high of 28. The number of providers recorded in the category 'other' shows another small increase.

**A1 Numbers of Access to HE programmes**

	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>1998-99</b>
Total programmes available	1,568	1,281	1,182	1,238	1,064
Total programmes running	1,233	961	929	1,022	925
Total new programmes recognised	147	259	129	304	133
<b>AVA range</b>					
lowest number of programmes running in an AVA	11	11	5	6	
highest number of programmes running in an AVA	214	185	129	149	
Average number of programmes running in an AVA:					
mean	47	36	31	33	
median	29	24	22	26	

There has been an increase in the number of programmes available and running, producing a greater number of programmes recorded as available and running in 2002-03 than at any time in the last five years. This increase may result from the inclusion of the 259 new programmes recognised in 2001-02, but may also have occurred as a result of some reclassification of programmes by AVAs in response to the clarification of the definition of 'programme' provided in QAA's guidance to AVAs .

Although the number of programmes running in 2002-03 in individual AVAs ranges from 11 to 214, two-thirds of AVAs (17) recorded fewer than 50 programmes running.

**A1 Number of providers offering programmes, programmes running and total learners registered by AVA (2002-03)**

		<i>Providers</i>	<i>Programmes running</i>	<i>Total learners registered</i>
AVA01	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	11	17	1,514
AVA03	Cambridge Access Validating Agency	9	44	1,317
AVA06	Greater Manchester Open College	20	62	2,260
AVA07	Hampshire Authorised Validating Agency	12	13	671
AVA09	London Open College Network	32	177	4,596
AVA10	Merseyside Open College Network	21	18	1,416
AVA11	Open College Network North and East London and Hertfordshire	18	74	2,333
AVA12	Anglia South Open College Network	11	20	683
AVA13	North East Midlands Open College Network	12	50	1,435
AVA14	North Wales Open College Network	7	11	549
AVA15	Open College Network South Yorkshire and Humber Region	18	33	2,290
AVA16	Open College Network for Central England	21	26	1,749
AVA17	Open College Network for the South East Midlands	15	21	994
AVA18	Open College Network for Kent and Medway	10	21	1,038
AVA19	Open College Network North West Midlands	10	14	989
AVA20	Open College Network of the South West	23	32	1,017
AVA21	Open College Network of West Midlands	18	85	2,120
AVA22	Western Region Open College Network	8	13	865
AVA23	Open College of the North West	42	214	4,566
AVA24	Oxfordshire Open College Network	6	19	493
AVA25	South East Wales Open College Network	21	72	1,626
AVA26	South of England Open College Network	12	49	1,070
AVA28	Thames Region Accrediting Consortium Open College Network	23	77	2,100
AVA29	OCN (TROCN)	17	40	1,396
AVA33	West and North Yorkshire Open College Network	15	16	833
AVA34	Chiltern Region Open College Network and Access Consortium	4	15	298

**A2 Awards available by designated progression route (2002-03)**

	<i>Programmes available</i>	<i>Programmes running</i>	<i>% progs running of progs available</i>
Other general and combined	276	237	86%
Social studies	173	163	94%
Creative arts and design	140	108	77%
Subjects allied to medicine	137	132	96%
Business and administrative studies	110	69	63%
Mathematical and computer	101	90	89%
Education	82	41	50%
Combined sciences	66	58	88%
Access to teaching	59	49	83%
Combined social sciences	49	41	84%
Science combined/social	47	43	91%
Access to nursing	42	40	95%
Access to health studies	30	28	93%

The subject categories included in this section changed for the data collection in 2002-03 and is now based on the Joint Academic Classification System (JACS), so no direct comparison can be made with previous years' subject-based data. The chart above lists the 13 subject areas which have 40 or more programmes available and running. The proportion of programmes running of the total available varied notably: the highest proportions were in 'Subjects allied to medicine' (96%) and 'Access to nursing' (95%); the lowest were in 'Business and administrative studies' (63%) and 'Education' (50%).

## **Section B: Learner profile**

### **B1 Total number of learner registrations on Access programmes**

		<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>1998-99</b>
<b>Total learner registrations</b>		40,218	40,484	38,684	37,729	36,132
<b>Total number of new learners registered</b>		33,867	34,640	33,373	32,762	27,690
<b>AVA range</b>	lowest number of registrations in an AVA	298	203	261	316	
	highest number of registrations in an AVA	4,596	5,679	5,086	5,891	
Average number of learner registratic in an AVA:	mean	1,547	1,499	1,289	1,217	
	median	1,357	1,151	986	745	

There has been a small decrease between 2002-03 and 2001-02 in total numbers of Access registrations. However, the average number of new learners registered in an AVA has risen in 2002-03, which is likely to be due to the reduced number of AVAs. There is considerable variation in the numbers of Access learners registered between AVAs, with a small number of AVAs recording much larger numbers of registrations than the others. The variation in size of AVA (indicated under A1) is reflected in the numbers of learners registered by AVA: Nine AVAs record fewer than 1000 learners; ten record between 1,001 and 2,000; five record between 2,100 and 2,400; and two record over 2,500.

### **Registrations by end date\* (2002-03)**

	<b>Learning aim at Access to registration: HE</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>% of all learners</b>
New learners registered: expected end date before 1 August 2003	27,848	2,011	29,859	74%
New learners registered: expected end date on or after 1 August 2003	6,019	511	6,530	16%
Re-registered (same programme): expected end date before 1 August 2003	3,145	38	3,183	8%
Re-registered (same programme): expected end date after 1 August 2003	160	24	184	1%
Not known/not provided	462		462	1%

\* This classification was introduced for the first time for 2002-03 data. There is therefore no comparable data for previous years.

**B2 Learner profile at registration: gender**

	<b>2002-03</b>		<b>2001-02</b>		<b>2000-01</b>		<b>1999-00</b>		<b>1998-99</b>	
	<i>registrations</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>registrations</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>registrations</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>registrations</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>registrations</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Male learners	10,939	27%	10,448	26%	10,500	27%	10344	28%	10,735	30%
Female learners	29,279	73%	29,784	74%	27,802	73%	26492	71%	24,448	70%

The number of male learners registered on programmes increased slightly in 2002-03 from the previous year, the fall in overall numbers of students registered on Access programmes being accounted for by the decrease in female learners. As a result, the proportion of female learners has declined very slightly from the previous year.

**Learner profile at registration:  
age (2002-03)**

	<b>All Learners</b>		<b>Male Learners</b>		<b>Female Learners</b>	
	<b>No of registrations</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>No of registrations</b>	<b>% of all</b>	<b>No of registrations</b>	<b>% of all</b>
				<b>male learners</b>		<b>female learners</b>
Under 20	508	1%	216	2%	292	1%
20 - 29	16,733	42%	5,340	49%	11,393	39%
30 - 39	13,446	33%	2,918	26%	10,528	36%
40 - 49	5,003	13%	1,177	11%	3,826	13%
50 - 59	1,076	3%	360	3%	716	2%
Over 60	483	1%	203	2%	280	1%
Unknown	2,969	7%	725	7%	2,244	8%
Total	40,218		10,939		29,279	

It is not possible to compare the age profile of learners with previous years data as the age categories used for 2002-03 data are different to those used previously. The data collected for 2002-03 shows that the largest proportion of learners fall in the age category of 20-29, and this applies for both male and female learners. However, there is a higher proportion of male than female learners in the age category of 20-29, with female learners having a higher proportion than male learners in the age category 30-39. The total number of 'unknowns' recorded in 2002-03 was 2,969; however 2,260 (76%) of these learners are from one AVA which was unable to provide its age data according to the specified age categories.

**Learner profile at registration: ethnicity (2002-03) \***

	<b>Male learners</b>	<b>% of all learners</b>	<b>Female learners</b>	<b>% of all learners</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>% total learners</b>	<b>2001-02 totals</b>	<b>% total learners</b>
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	100	50%	99	50%	<b>199</b>	0%	167	0%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	195	39%	308	61%	<b>503</b>	1%	486	1%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	260	43%	341	57%	<b>601</b>	1%	602	1%
Asian or Asian British - any other	218	43%	284	57%	<b>502</b>	1%	571	1%
Black or Black British - African	959	34%	1,822	66%	<b>2,781</b>	7%	2,426	6%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	320	22%	1,133	78%	<b>1,453</b>	4%	1,495	4%
Black or Black British - any other	132	24%	409	76%	<b>541</b>	1%	521	1%
Chinese	151	44%	196	56%	<b>347</b>	1%	200	0%
Mixed - White and Asian	48	40%	71	60%	<b>119</b>	0%	19	0%
Mixed - White and Black African	61	36%	110	64%	<b>171</b>	0%	30	0%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	38	20%	150	80%	<b>188</b>	0%	52	0%
Mixed - any other Mixed background	45	33%	92	67%	<b>137</b>	0%	47	0%
White - British	5,946	23%	19,463	77%	<b>25,409</b>	63%	25,900	64%
White - Irish	65	34%	128	66%	<b>193</b>	0%	29	0%
White - any other White background	378	32%	808	68%	<b>1,186</b>	3%	837	2%
any other	320	40%	472	60%	<b>792</b>	2%	787	2%
not known/ not provided	1,703	33%	3,393	67%	<b>5,096</b>	13%	6,315	16%
	<b>10,939</b>		<b>29,279</b>					

\* Data was not collected in these categories prior to 2001-02.

The proportion of learners across the ethnicity categories in 2002-03 remains similar to previous years. The number of unknowns in 2002-03 has dropped both in absolute and percentage terms from a high in 2001-02 but still remains higher than in 2000-01 and earlier years. There continued to be great variations between AVAs: 8 recorded less than 5% 'unknown'; 5 recorded between 5% and 10%; 7 recorded between 11% and 20%, and the remaining six recording more than 20% 'unknown', with one of these recording 76% unknown.

	<b>under 29 years</b>	<b>% of age total in ethnicity category</b>	<b>30-39 years</b>	<b>% of age total in ethnicity category</b>	<b>40-49 years</b>	<b>% of age total in ethnicity category</b>	<b>50 years+</b>	<b>% of age total in ethnicity category</b>	<b>Age Unknown</b>	<b>% of age total in ethnicity category</b>	<b>Totals</b>
White	10,825	40%	9,349	35%	3,472	13%	1,142	4%	2,000	7%	26,788
Black or Black British	2,307	48%	1,637	34%	589	12%	84	2%	158	3%	4,775
Asian or Asian British	1,148	64%	389	22%	102	6%	35	2%	131	7%	1,805
Chinese	285	82%	39	11%	12	3%	51	15%	8	2%	347
Mixed and any other	741	53%	427	30%	132	9%	30	2%	77	5%	1,407
Not known/not provided	1,935	38%	1,605	31%	696	14%	2,301	45%	595	12%	5,096

**B3 Learner profile at registration: disadvantage (2002-03)**

	<i>total learners</i>
From deprived area (ward based uplift)-postcode on LSC's file	8,264
From deprived area (ward based uplift)-postcode not on LSC's file	761
Other LSC widening participation category (funding claimed)	620
No funding claimed against widening participation categories/No information	30,573

This is the first year that data has been collected for these categories, therefore no direct comparisons can be made with previous years. The data recorded by AVAs in this section and the commentaries provided in AVA Annual Reports suggest that the data is incomplete. Six AVAs did not provide data regarding numbers of students for which widening participation funding had been claimed.

**B4 Learner profile at registration: disability and learning difficulty (2002-03)**

	<i>Totals</i>	<i>% of total learners</i>
Disability/ies	727	2%
Learning difficulty/ies	717	2%
Disability and learning difficulty/ies	405	1%
No disabilities or learning difficulties	18,297	45%
No information provided	20,072	50%

This is the first year that data has been collected for these categories, so no direct comparisons can be made with previous years.

**Section C: Learner completion, achievement and destination**

**C1 Learner completion/achievement (2002-03)**

	<i>Access certificates awarded</i>	<i>Partial achievement</i>	<i>No achievement</i>	<i>Study continuing</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Continuing programme	45	1,370	469	3,869	5,753	14%
Completed programme	18,268	4,831	1,854	43	24,996	62%
Withdrawn/transferred from prog	80	1,426	6,779	14	8,299	21%
Not known	0	159	496	694	1,349	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,393</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>9,598</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>40,397</b>	

This is the first year that data has been collected in this way, so no direct comparisons can be made with previous years. The total number of learners recorded in this section by AVAs, is greater than the total recorded in other sections. It is not clear why this has occurred.

<b>C1 Award of Access certificates</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>1998-99</b>
Access of HE certificates awarded	18,393	17,085	16,404	17,194	15,276

The number of Access to HE certificates awarded in 2002-03 was greater than at any time in the last five years. 59% of those who were expected to complete their Access programme before 1 August 2003 were awarded an Access certificate within that year.

<b>C1 Learner achievement: withdrawals</b>	<b>2002-03</b>		<b>2001-02</b>		<b>2000-01</b>	
	<i>Totals</i>	<i>% registered learners</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>% registered learners</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>% registered learners</i>
Withdrawn with partial accreditation	1,426	4%	1,258	3%	1,654	4%
Withdrawn with no accreditation	6,779	17%	7,072	17%	4,906	13%

The numbers of students receiving no accreditation ranged from 0 in two AVAs to 1283. Six AVAs recorded between 500 and 1283 students not receiving accreditation and 20 AVAs recorded less than 400 students not receiving accreditation.

**C2 Learner registrations and awards by designated progression route**

	<i>Learner registrations</i>	<i>Access to HE certificates awarded</i>	<i>% of total Access to HE certificates awarded</i>
Other general and combined studies	13,981	6346	35%
Subjects allied to medicine	5,150	2068	11%
Science combined/social studies/arts	4,477	1526	8%
Social studies	2,805	1088	6%
Creative arts and design	1,779	808	4%
Access to nursing	1,440	861	5%
Mathematical and computer sciences	1,285	595	3%
Business and administrative studies	1,272	687	4%
Access to health studies	1,143	646	4%
Combined sciences	1,035	487	3%
Social studies combined with arts	1,002	496	3%

The above list provides the subject areas with more than 1,000 students registered, with the number of access certificates awarded in those subject areas. Of the 25 subject areas for which data was collected, seven subjects had fewer than 100 learners registered, seven had between 100 and 1,000 learners registered and eleven had more than 1,000 registered learners. 20 of the subject areas had between 40% and 60% of certificates awarded as a proportion of learner registrations.

### C3 Learner progression: intended destination

	<b>2002-03</b>		<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>with Access certificate*</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Progressing to HE course	12,025	10,306	10,423	11,332	11,294
Progressing to FE course	1,381	461	2,624	2,644	2,471
Progressing to employment	1,820	556	1,129	1,324	1,482
Other	1,501	279	871	1,439	779
Unknown	18,785	6,648	12,446	10,529	9,603

\* This information was collected in this way for the first time in 2002-03.

The largest proportion of learners in this section have been recorded under the category 'unknown'. This further increase in numbers recorded under 'unknown' makes it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from other apparent changes. Of Access learners progressing to higher education, 86% had gained an Access certificate. Three AVAs each recorded over 1,600 learners in this category, with six AVAs recording between 600-1,000, five AVAs between 500-599, and 12 AVAs recorded fewer than 499 learners.