This summary of 2019–20 key statistics demonstrates the continued success of the Access to HE Diploma in enabling adults to enter and succeed in higher education, and to support local and national skills needs.

The Access to HE Diploma is a widely-recognised Level 3 qualification that provides opportunities for adults to transition to enter higher education. It also offers chances for adults wishing to retrain for a second graduate-entry profession by delivering locally-devised, flexible courses across the UK.

In 2019–20:

- **22,635** Access to HE students entered higher education
- **40,550** registered to study an Access to HE Diploma
- **24,465** Access to HE students applying to higher education accepted for Sept 2019 entry

*Changes to the data received from AVAs mean comparisons with previous years’ data will be unreliable.

**Access to HE students**

- **74%** Female entering higher education with an Access to HE Diploma in September 2019
- **55%** Over 25
- **29%** From ethnic minorities

**Registered to study an Access to HE Diploma in 2019–20**

- **65%** Female registered to study an Access to HE Diploma
- **47%** Over 25
- **26%** From ethnic minorities

**With a disability**

- **24%** Access to HE
- **22%** other Level 3 qualifications

**From disadvantaged area**

- **23%** Access to HE
- **14%** other Level 3 qualifications

**Going to university**

- **79%** of Access to HE students stayed in their local area to study in higher education

**What do they study?**

- **53%** of Access to HE registrations were on Health courses

**Top 5 HE subjects studied by students with an Access to HE Diploma**

- Nursing
- Social Sciences and Psychology
- Business
- Biological and Sports Science
- Education

- **35%** of students entering HE with an Access to HE Diploma studied Nursing, compared with **6%** with other Level 3 qualifications.
What results do they get?

- Access to HE: 96% of students completing their course in 2019-20 were awarded the Diploma.
- Of all registered students completed their Diploma by August 2020: 64%.

10% of mature entrants with an Access to HE Diploma were no longer in higher education study the following year compared to 13.8% of mature entrants with other Level 3 qualifications.

Data from the Graduate Outcomes Survey shows that 80.1% of graduates with an Access to HE Diploma completing the survey were in employment compared to 73.6% of graduates with other qualifications. The Graduate Outcomes Survey collects information about graduate employment.

Fastest growing occupations 2019-24

A number of occupations for those graduating from higher education are predicted to grow over the next five years including:

- Information Technology: +29,328
- Sales and Marketing: +28,765
- Teaching: +5,795
- Nursing and Midwifery: +21,802
- Business and Finance: +25,913

Source: Emsi 2021 data

Making sense of the figures

The data used in this publication is provided from a variety of sources, as detailed below. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

- **QAA**: full and part-time students on QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas in England and Wales. Data is provided by the 11 AVAs that award the Diploma and the Education and Skills Funding Agency for publicly-funded Diplomas in England. Data relates to the 2019–20 academic year.

- **UCAS**: applicants and accepted applicants to full-time HE courses. It includes applicants to HE courses provided by FE institutions but does not include applicants to part-time HE courses. Data relates to the 2019–20 entry cycle.

- **HESA**: students entering undergraduate programmes who took an Access to HE course. The data includes full and part-time students registered on the first year of undergraduate courses but excludes those enrolled on directly-funded HE courses in FE institutions. Data relates to students who took an Access to HE course before 2019–20 – a different cohort from that reported elsewhere.

www.accesstohe.ac.uk