This summary of 2017-18 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 re-train for a second graduate-entry profession by delivering locally-devised, flexible courses across the UK.

In 2017-18:

- **Access to HE students entered higher education**: 23,950
  - **2016-17**: 24,895

- **Access to HE students registering to study an Access to HE Diploma**: 37,045
  - **2016-17**: 38,025

- **Access to HE students applying to higher education accepted for Sept 2018 entry**: 23,295
  - **2016-17**: 24,365

**Access to HE students**

- **Entering higher education with an Access to HE Diploma in September 2017**
  - Female: 73%
  - Over 25: 57%
  - From ethnic minorities: 29%

- **Registered to study an Access to HE Diploma in 2017-18**
  - Female: 73%
  - Over 25: 57%
  - From ethnic minorities: 29%

**Going to university**

- 77% of Access to HE students stayed in their local area to study in higher education.

**What do they study?**

- **50%** 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
- Business
- Education
- Arts

- 34% of students entering HE with an Access to HE Diploma studied Nursing, compared with 7% with other level 3 qualifications.
Making sense of the figures

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 2017-18 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 2017-18 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 2017-18 - a different cohort from that reported elsewhere.

Further information
Our other statistical reports provide a more in-depth analysis of the statistics and data, available on the Access to HE website: www.accesstohe.ac.uk