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**Access to Higher Education Diploma Recognition Scheme Consultation**

**Online survey questions**

### May 2024

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| This document provides a copy of the survey questions to help you when preparing your response. Please use the [online survey](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/qaa5/access-recognition-scheme) to submit your response.  Please note that the survey needs to be completed in one sitting. Once the survey has been submitted you will not be able to change your answers.  If you have any queries about this consultation, please contact: [ahe@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:ahe@qaa.ac.uk) |

# Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to engage with our consultation on changes to the Access to Higher Education Diploma Recognition Scheme.

Before answering the questions in this survey, please read the proposed Access to Higher Education Conditions, the Licensing Agreement and the accompanying consultation document where you will also find the questions in this survey. You can find these documents on our [consultation web page](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/news/consultation-on-access-to-higher-education-recognition-scheme).

# Background

QAA is the regulator for the Access to Higher Education (Access) Diploma and has held this role since its establishment in 1997.

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is a Level 3 qualification, primarily focused on adult learners who wish to enter higher education but do not have the necessary qualifications in the subject area they wish to follow. It is designed to give learners skills and knowledge in particular subject areas, enabling them to follow a higher education qualification at Level 4 and above. In 2023, the Department for Education confirmed that the QAA-recognised Access to Higher Education Diploma would continue to be a qualification where learners can benefit from access to funding for their studies.

QAA licenses bodies known as Access Validating Agencies (AVAs) which develop, validate and award these qualifications, and work with providers which deliver Access to Higher Education Diplomas. QAA places regulatory requirements on AVAs through its Licensing Criteria and related monitoring arrangements. It also sets out particular requirements through a Diploma Specification and associated Grading Scheme, and, for some subject areas, sets requirements for the content of Diplomas through Subject Descriptors. These are the regulatory elements which constitute the Recognition Scheme.

This consultation proposes significant changes to the Recognition Scheme, with a particular focus on the Licensing Criteria and monitoring and compliance arrangements.

We are seeking feedback from all stakeholders including but not limited to AVAs and Access to HE students, graduates, professionals and providers, as well as other FE and HE providers, professionals and policymakers, and representatives of sector bodies.

# Next steps

## The [online survey](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/qaa5/access-recognition-scheme) opens on Thursday 30 May and closes at 5pm on Thursday 22 August 2024.Section 1: Respondent details

This section captures respondents’ details. All answers provided will be treated confidentially and will not be attributed to any individual or organisation in any published analysis report. No personal data will be shared with third parties. Any results reported after the survey will only be in aggregate form, and individual responses will not be identifiable. Further details are available in our [privacy notice](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/privacy-and-cookies).

**1a)** **Name:**

Free text (optional)

**1b)** **Name of Institution/Organisation:**

Free text (required)

**1c) In what capacity are you responding?**

Multiple choice (required)

* As an individual
* On behalf of an Access Validating Agency
* On behalf of a provider of Access to HE Diploma(s)/course(s)
* On behalf of a higher education provider
* On behalf of a further education provider
* On behalf of a sector body/organisation
* Student representative body
* Other (please state)

**1d) Where are you (if responding as an individual) or your institution/organisation located?**

Multiple choice (required)

* England
* Scotland
* Wales
* Northern Ireland
* UK Wide
* Non UK Europe
* Non UK Outside of Europe
* Other (please state)

**1e) Role:**

Free text (optional)

## Section 2: The constituent elements of the Recognition Scheme

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| **Question 1: Do you have any comments regarding the constituent elements of the Recognition Scheme and other aspects covered in this section regarding QAA's approach?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

## Section 3: Arrangements for entering into and retaining a Licensing Agreement

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| **Question 2: Do you have any comments regarding QAA's proposal to move to operating on the basis of a time-limited licence, after which an AVA must reapply to retain its licence?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

## Section 4: The Access to HE Conditions

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| **Question 3: Do you have any comments regarding the Access to Higher Education Conditions we are proposing to implement as part of the revised Recognitions Scheme?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

When responding to the consultation with respect to the proposed Conditions, it would be helpful if respondents could refer to whether they are providing comments on a particular condition (for example, A1) or the group of conditions as a whole (for example, A).

## Section 5: The monitoring arrangements

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| **Question 4: Do you have any comments regarding the monitoring arrangements we are proposing to implement as part of the revised Recognition Scheme?** |

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Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

## Section 6: The Diploma Specification and Grading Scheme

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| **Question 5: Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the impact of the proposed changes to the Recognition Scheme on the requirements of the Diploma Specification or Grading Scheme in practice?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

## Section 7: International Access to HE Diploma

### Licensing proposals

We have developed two proposals for the awarding of an International Access to Higher Education Diploma licence to AVAs:

**Option 1**

A licence for an individual AVA is awarded on a country-by-country basis after the AVA has demonstrated a credible plan for operating in that country.

**Option 2**

A licence for an individual AVA is awarded permitting wider international operations in more than one country after the AVA has demonstrated a credible plan for operating in the proposed countries.

The proposal presented in option 1 is our preferred approach.

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| **Question 6: With respect to the licensing proposals, do you agree we should implement option 1 above? If you do not agree, what alternative approach would you suggest?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

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| **Question 7: Do you have any comments regarding the proposals we have set out for the International Access to HE Diploma?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

## Section 8: Transition and implementation

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| **Question 8: Do you have any comments regarding the proposed implementation of the updated Recognition Scheme?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

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| **Question 9: Do you have any comments regarding the proposed pilot phase for the International Access to HE Diploma?** |

Free text (required) – if you have nothing to add please enter ‘no comment’

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