

Access to Higher Education in the South East

OCN South East Region is an Access Validating Agency (AVA) licensed by the Quality Assurance Agency for HE (QAA) to accredit Access to HE courses across the SE Region. This leaflet sets out our vision for, and commitment to, Access to HE which we aim to achieve by working closely with all of our key Access stakeholders. OCN South East Region will work to support Access through the four broad aims outlined below.

Promoting and strengthening the Access route to HE

We firmly believe that Access to HE should be widely available to any eligible individual who wants to progress to university level education and we will seek to actively promote Access to HE in the Region by:

- ✓ an annual regional conference with national themes held at a central venue
- ✓ high quality annual directory of OCNSER Access provision available in the South East
- ✓ representing Access at regional and national events & conferences
- ✓ using Access as a model for other developments with key stakeholders such as the Aim Higher and the Lifelong Learning Networks.



Click on image to
download Directory



Access Directory 2009

Offering excellent customer service to centres and students

We believe passionately that Access students deserve the best support and service to give them the same range of opportunity as those who stay in the school system. To achieve this we aim to provide Centres, where Access courses are run, with the highest possible quality of customer support and information via:

- ✓ named staff with specific Access to HE responsibilities and expert curriculum support
- ✓ Access Practitioner Groups where Access tutors, managers, external moderators and higher education admissions staff can meet to discuss current progression issues and Access developments.
- ✓ bulletins, newsletters, dedicated web pages for Access to HE briefings targeted on individual themes
- ✓ comprehensive continuing staff development opportunities for staff from Access centres through validation panels, training courses & the opportunity to join AVA committees and other events.

Assuring the quality and standards of Access courses

We are committed to ensuring the highest standards of quality are applied to our Access provision. Access students rely on this to support their achievement as being an acceptable entry route to higher education. We will uphold these standards by:

- ✓ operating a rigorous system of Access course validation based upon the panel scrutiny model
- ✓ applying a comprehensive system of external and internal moderation
- ✓ providing feedback and moderation reports to centres relating to their individual course provision
- ✓ further developing a model of standardisation for subject areas to underpin academic standards
- ✓ providing training and support for our experienced team of Access external moderators

Supporting innovation and development

We believe that Access needs to develop as the educational and social environment changes around us, in order to keep Access provision relevant and focussed on its aim of widening and increasing participation in higher education. We are also working hard to ensure that the contribution of Access in promoting social justice is not overlooked.

We will seek to support or develop:

- ✓ vocational Access to HE routes and promote engagement with employers
- ✓ Access progression routes to Foundation Degree provision
- ✓ innovative delivery methods for Access e.g. online learning, multi-site/access point learning
- ✓ the application of the Access methodology to wider contexts such as for younger students who have not been able to take advantage of progression opportunities.
- ✓ develop greater consistency in Access provision by introducing a regional Access framework,
- ✓ new QAA initiatives such as the introduction of grading for Access courses

For further information

- For more information on our Access services and products please visit our website at www.ocnser.org.uk and follow the links to our Access pages, or call 01227 827823 (Canterbury office).
- For national information about Access to HE visit www.accesstohe.ac.uk

Please send any contributions or ideas about how we can improve and develop our Access strategy – email Sue Martin, s.martin@ocnser.org.uk