

Adult / 19+ Students: Examination Board news updates

1 st June 2020	<p>University Applications: UCAS Update September 2020 and September 2021 Entry</p> <p>For students looking to progress to University in 2021, the UCAS process commenced on Tuesday 19 May when UCAS Apply 2021 opened. We will be issuing advice and guidance to all Year 1 Level 3 students as soon as we know how the new admissions cycle works.</p> <p>For those keen to start the process there is material on the Year 1 tutorial Google Classroom and FAQs. Any students considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge Universities or for Dentistry, Veterinary or Medicine course should note that the early 15 October application deadline remains in place. We will be issuing more information regarding early UCAS applications shortly.</p> <p>Any Year 2 / final year Level 3 student still looking for a place for this September needs to remember that the new Clearing Plus service launches in July. This will allow students to match interests and potential grades to any available places at UK universities. Note: this is a new UCAS service that will supplement Clearing and the exact details as to how it will operate are not yet clear. It will generate available suitable places and if a student declares an interest in a particular course, the university will decide whether to contact the student to discuss a potential offer.</p> <p>Those looking to go to university this September should remember that the deadline for applying for Student Finance was 22 May. If your household income has fallen by 15% or more due to Coronavirus you will be able to adjust your application at a later date but the deadline has not been moved. Please continue to monitor our FAQs for further updates on university applications.</p>
1 st June 2020	<p>Awarding of Grades Summer 2020</p> <p>Centre Assessment guidance is currently being followed by College staff in order to ensure that students as far as possible receive their awards this summer. This is in-line with Ofqual's Extraordinary Regulatory Framework and the more detailed guidance of the different awarding bodies as this becomes available.</p> <p>For further details see https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-decisions-on-awarding-vocational-and-technical-qualifications-this-summer</p> <p>Qualifications fall into three categories in terms of how awards are granted namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculated grades based on previously completed assignments and examinations together with teacher assessed work, mock test results, progress on partially completed work etc together with

	<p>the awarding body's statistical analysis of results data. A levels, GCSEs, functional skills, ESOL qualifications, the more academic BTEC qualifications and Access to HE qualifications all fall into this category</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapted assessment grades. This is for those qualifications that have a vocational skill aspect or a license to practice element to the qualification. For example a bricklayer, plumber, hairdresser, chef whose qualification is all about being capable in the job role. The way these qualifications are being granted is very varied. The adaption might be for example to allow a Child Care student to pass with fewer work placement hours as these were cancelled due to the lockdown together with some partially completed assessments. In some cases it depends upon a minimum number or range of tasks or assessments have being undertaken or a new modified task being required. Many of the College vocational areas in construction, engineering, hair and beauty and other sectors are affected by this approach Delayed assessments are fewer in number and are when adapted models are deemed to be inappropriate. In these few cases attainment may be delayed unless opportunities can be provided during the second half of the summer term. Some of the professional qualifications such as CIPD or AAT programmes are in this category with exams being re-scheduled by these awarding bodies for September. <p>In light of the above the ability of the College to partially operate from 15th June is an advantage as shall be able to address some of the specific needs and ensure that as many of our adult learners as possible achieve their programmes in a timely way. Any students for whom we can make adjustments and provide an opportunity to complete their learning we shall be making individual contact to explain our approach and discuss revised operational processes in light of the Covid19 risk assessments.</p> <p>In the meantime students are encouraged to continue participating in the online learning available to them ensuring that you have the foundation you need to progress successfully to your chosen destination next year.</p>
22 nd April 2020	<p>Students who planned to complete their Access to HE course by 31st July 2020</p> <p>We have received further information from the awarding body. They have identified that:</p> <p><i>You will now receive calculated grades for all remaining assessments with submission dates after 20 March 2020.</i></p> <p>Further information is to follow regarding grading. They state:</p> <p><i>We are working hard to provide you with information about exactly how your grades will be calculated as quickly as possible. We will also ensure that the</i></p>

	<p><i>distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to previous years, so that you do not face a disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.</i></p> <p><i>We recognise that some students may feel disappointed that they haven't been able to complete their assessments. If you do not feel your calculated grades reflect your expected performance, you will have the opportunity to appeal or you may choose to sit your assessments at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If you do this, you should be aware that taking your assessments later may impact you progressing to university in September as planned.</i></p> <p>We will provide you with further updates as they materialise in order to keep you informed. In the meantime, we know that, as Access to HE students, many of you are engaged in a tricky balance between work, family responsibilities and studies. However, it is important that you are as well prepared as you can be for your transition into higher education, so making use of the resources prepared by tutors and participating in continuing virtual teaching and tutorials is key to ensure you have covered all the subject knowledge required of your Diploma.</p> <p>Continuing with learning will help you to feel more confident that you are ready to take the next step in their education or career pathway. College staff will therefore continue to deliver teaching and support. We encourage you to continue your learning wherever you can. If you need help or further support, you should contact your course tutors</p> <p>Students who plan to complete their Access to HE course <u>after 31 July 2020</u></p> <p>If you are scheduled to continue your studies after 31 July 2020, you will be supported to complete your studies through changes to the delivery of teaching and assessment of your course.</p> <p>Course tutors are working hard to adapt to new ways of delivery and assessment, and are developing materials to help you get the most out of your learning in order to prepare you for higher study. The awarding body states:</p> <p><i>We know that the current environment is a really challenging one, and we want all students to be supported as effectively as possible during this time. Access to HE providers and Access Validating Agencies already have in place procedures to allow you to request extensions to deadlines and to identify where extenuating circumstances may affect your academic performance, should the current situation make studying difficult. It is also possible that some assessments may be rescheduled.</i></p> <p>You will be able to use procedures that are already in place to request extensions to deadlines and to identify where extenuating circumstances may affect your academic performance. If unsure, you should contact your course tutor</p>
3 rd April 2020	

Students who planned to complete their Access to HE course by 31st July 2020

The following update has been received from Open College Awards regarding Access to HE programmes:

If you're due to complete your Access to HE studies by 31st July this year, you will now receive calculated grades for all remaining assessments with submission dates after 20th March 2020.

We are working hard to provide you with information about exactly how your grades will be calculated as quickly as possible. Once available, we will publish it on the Access to HE website.

The report continues providing students with reassurance in terms of fairness of grading:

We will also ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to previous years, so that you do not face a disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

The notification underlines the importance of continuing your studies remotely with the College:

it is important that all students are as well prepared as they can be for their transition into higher education, so making use of the resources prepared by Access to HE tutors and participating in continuing virtual teaching and tutorials, where possible, is key to ensure you have covered all the subject knowledge required of your Diploma.

Continuing with learning will help all Access to HE students feel more confident that they are ready to take the next step in their education or career pathway.

The notification provides guidance should you wish to appeal your calculated grade:

If you do not feel your calculated grades reflect your expected performance, you will have the opportunity to appeal or you may choose to sit your assessments at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If you do this, you should be aware that taking your assessments later may impact you progressing to university in September as planned. You will also have the opportunity to appeal the process of assessment for the award of the Access to HE Diploma that has been followed in your case.

Students who plan to complete their Access to HE course after 31st July 2020 i.e. part time two year study students taking Access to health

The guidance confirms that these students are expected to continue studying, remotely or directly as circumstances demand to achieve their qualification in the original timescale.