

Update for students regarding Access to HE qualifications

I know it has been a worrying time for you all with regards to your Access to HE qualification and wanted to thank you for your patience during this period and to also thank you for continuing to engage with learning through remote delivery.

QAA, the over-arching organisation for Access to HE qualifications, has been working closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to produce a clear, fair and consistent approach to the awarding of Access to HE Diplomas.

QAA has published an update for students regarding **Access to HE** qualifications that can be seen [here](#). QAA are also running a series of webinars for students where QAA officers can discuss with you how grades will be calculated and answer any questions. You can book onto one of the webinars [here](#).

In summary, students will be awarded a graded Diploma based on the assessment they have already completed with estimated grades for all remaining assessments that have submission dates after the 20th March 2020 which is when schools and College were told to close by DfE.

More detail on what QAA are doing to provide you with grades can be found in [this document](#). QAA have announced that an **Extraordinary Grading Scheme** will be applied to all remaining assessments due to be submitted after 20 March. The scheme will include:

1. Estimated assessment grades
Your tutor will estimate the assessment grades (pass, merit or distinction) for each of the grade descriptors assigned to each assessment that was planned for after 20 March 2020.
2. Calculated unit grades
Your tutor will review all the assessment grades that have been given for a unit and will determine the final grade for the unit. This may include actual and estimated assessment grades for units partially completed.
3. Tutor reference
Tutors will be asked to produce a reference for each student to support applications to higher education or employment during these exceptional times, now and in the future. It is expected that students will receive the tutor reference no later than 27 July 2020, to align with the upload of results to UCAS. **Tutor references will not be included in the range of evidence to inform estimated assessment grades.**

Please be reassured that your estimated assessment grade will be a fair and accurate reflection of the most likely grades you would have achieved if you had completed your assessments. Your tutors will take into account a full range of available evidence such as, prior attainment on the course, classwork, homework, mock exams etc. Any assessments completed after 20 March 2020 will be treated as formative assessments (assessments for learning) and will form part of the evidence used as appropriate.

Furthermore, as a College we will carry out an impartial check on these grades to ensure fairness before they are submitted to the awarding body. The awarding body will also moderate and standardise the assessment grades to ensure they are as fair as possible. You will not be disadvantaged if you were not set or you were unable to complete any work handed out after the College closed. **It is really important to note that we have been told that we cannot share the estimated assessment grades with students.**

I understand the challenges of being an Access to HE student, juggling family and your studies and this is made even more difficult under the current circumstances. If you are able to do so, please continue to engage with online / remote learning. This will help you in getting ready for your next steps and you may struggle if you do not have the underpinning knowledge that your Access to HE Diploma provides you.

I would like to thank you again for your commitment to the College and will be in touch again when I have more information.

If you have any questions and queries please do not hesitate to contact us on the main college number 01756 791 411 or via email at enquiries@craven-college.ac.uk

Kind regards

Anita Lall

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