

Accreditation of Distance Learning Programmes by UK Open Learning

Where UK Open Learning is responsible for your registration and certification, we will ensure that you are registered with the appropriate awarding body, and that your accreditation and certification is undertaken in accordance with awarding body regulations.

Students of A Level and GCSE courses, however, need to bear in mind that **they themselves are responsible for registering with a centre** that will undertake to accept them as External Candidates and to liaise with AQA or OCR, depending on the course they are doing.

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These notes are intended to answer many of the questions which students frequently ask about the accreditation of their course, but you can contact UK Open Learning directly if you would like clarification of any points:

E-Mail: sales@uk-open-learning.com

Telephone: 0800 0434288

What are the different course levels and what are they equivalent to?

The level of the learning you undertake is similar to the level of study needed for other courses and UK wide recognised qualifications.

The level, given on the certificate for each course you have achieved, shows the stage you have reached in your learning. It should be understood that the following identifies **the level of difficulty** that has been achieved, and does not mean that the equivalent of a full award has been achieved.

Entry Level

- Qualifications at Entry Level provides a basis for progression to other qualifications

Level One

- This is comparable to NVQ Level 1, GCSEs D-G and Foundation Diploma

Level Two

- This is comparable to NVQ Level 2, GCSEs A* to C and Higher Diploma

Level Three

- This is comparable to NVQ Level 3, A and AS Levels, Advanced Diploma

Level Four

- This is comparable to the level of difficulty that should be expected at Level 1 of a degree course or HND/HNC.

Awarding bodies

All of the awarding bodies with UK Open Learning are recognised by the UK Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Awarding bodies design and award qualifications which recognise the skills, knowledge and understanding achieved by a learner at a particular level and in a particular subject.

NCFE



NCFE is recognised as an awarding body by the qualification regulators for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The regulators are the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) in England, the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) in Wales and the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) in Northern Ireland.

UK Open Learning has been accredited with NCFE's Investing in Quality (IIQ) Licence which is designed to give formal recognition to our programmes that fall outside the National Qualification Framework (NQF). The licence is based on a number of Quality Statements which provide a quality assurance framework for the development, delivery and evaluation of their programmes. The Quality Statements are mapped to a range of standards: ISO 9001, Investors in People, EFQM, the Common Inspection Framework, Matrix, and Recognising and Recording Progression and Achievement (RARPA).

EDI



EDI is an accredited Awarding Body and leading international education company with a wide range of products and services including vocational and professional qualifications both within the UK and internationally through LCCI, Goal online assessments for schools, approved training programmes for employers, an electronic assessment delivery system and an electronic portfolio package. UK Open Learning currently has a small number of specialist qualifications offered with EDI accreditation.

Edexcel



Edexcel is the largest UK awarding body offering academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning in the UK and internationally.

AQA



The Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) is the largest of the three English exam boards, awarding 49% of full course GCSEs and 42% of A-levels nationally. In total, students take over 3.5 million exams with AQA each year.

GCSE

All our GCSE courses are written in line with the specifications of AQA syllabuses.

A Levels

All our A Level courses, with the exception of Classical Civilisation, are written in line with the specifications of AQA syllabuses.

OCR

OCR is a leading UK awarding body, providing a wide range of qualifications to meet the needs of learners of all ages and abilities.

A Level Classical Civilisation only.

ICB



Our Bookkeeping courses are accredited by the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers. ICB is the largest bookkeeping institute in the world. It promotes and maintains the standards of bookkeeping as a profession, through the establishment of a series of relevant

qualifications and the award of grades of membership that recognise academic attainment, working experience and competence.

Exam details can be found at www.book-keepers.org

CompTia

We only use official CompTia approved courseware for our A+ and N+ training packages, and you can sit your exams at a prometric centre.

www.prometric.com

N.B. UK Open Learning is also a registered centre with Open College Network North West Region. However, we will not be registering new students with OCN but with NCFE. Existing OCN students will still be able to receive the appropriate OCN certificates on successful completion of their course within the agreed timescale.

OCNNWR is licensed with the National Open College Network which is approved as an awarding body with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).