

★★★★★ 25,000+ five-star reviews on ★ Trustpilot

Access to Higher Education

Your route into university without A-Levels

Level 3 Access to HE Diplomas
QAA-regulated, accepted by
every UK university, designed
for adults returning to study.

AT A GLANCE

Level	Level 3
Awarding body	OCNL, Pearson
Duration	9 to 12 months
Study mode	100% online
Funding	Advanced Learner Loan

TRUSTED BY 4.5 MILLION+ LEARNERS

QAA regulated

University recognised

Adult learners

Speak to a course advisor

Free advice, no obligation. Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 6:00pm.

CALL US ON
01202 006 464

In plain English

Q. What is Access to HE?

A university-entry qualification built for adults without A-Levels An Access to Higher Education Diploma is a regulated Level 3 qualification accredited by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). It is designed for learners aged 19 and over who want to study a degree but did not take traditional A-Levels. Most learners complete the diploma in 9 to 12 months and use it to apply to UK universities via UCAS, earning up to 144 UCAS tariff points.

Inside this guide

A 28-page guide covering pathway selection, university acceptance rates, UCAS tariff conversion, and how to apply with an Access Diploma.

- Compare all 20 subject pathways side by side
- Real UCAS conversion tables (Pass / Merit / Distinction)
- Sample personal statement that won a Nursing offer
- Cost, funding options, and payment plans explained

How Access to HE works

Three stages from enrolment to your first day at uni. No upfront cost, fully online.

STEP 1 STEP 2 STEP 3

Choose your pathway Study online over 9–12 months Use your Access to HE your target degree: Nursing, Complete 60 credits across Diploma to apply to UK Midwifery, Psychology, Law, academic and universities. Top performers Business and 15 others. subject-specific units. All earn up to 144 UCAS tariff Each pathway is shaped learning is online, with tutor points, equivalent to ABB at around the entry profile UK support, assignment marking, A-Level, and progress universities ask for. and the flexibility to fit study directly to year one of a around work and family life. degree.

Why study Access to HE with learndirect

100% online, fully flexible Study from anywhere, anytime. No commute, no classroom hours. Designed to fit around full-time work, parenting, and shift patterns.

Tutor support throughout

Dedicated subject specialists mark your assignments, answer your questions, and guide you from enrolment to certificate.

Pay monthly with 0% interest Spread your fees across 9, 12 or 24 months with no credit checks and no hidden charges. Start your course today, settle the rest later.

Trusted by 25,000+ Trustpilot reviewers learndirect is one of the UK's largest and most established online learning providers, with a five-star rating across thousands of independent reviews.

Recognised qualifications

Every course leads to a regulated certificate from a UK awarding body, ready to share with employers, universities, or professional bodies.

Courses in Access to HE

This faculty currently offers 20 regulated qualifications. Prices below are full one-off fees. All courses also offer 0% monthly payment plans spread across 9, 12 or 24 months.

Course Awarding body From

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Nursing) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Paramedic

Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Science)

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Midwifery) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Health Science

Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Professions)

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Radiography) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Engineering) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Criminology) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Computing) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Social Work) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Psychology) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Business) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Science (Biomedical Pathway) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Science (Medical and Health Sciences

Skills & Education G... £367.19

Pathway)

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Education

Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Professions)

Access to Humanities and Social Sciences (Social

Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Science Pathway)

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Health and Social

Skills & Education G... £1,799.99 Care)

Course Awarding body From

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Art and Design) Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Access to Humanities and Social Sciences (English

Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Studies Pathway)

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Sport & Physical

Skills & Education G... £1,799.99

Activity)

Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate NCFE CACHE £959.99

See the full live list at pathways.learndirect.com/faculties/access-to-he.

How payment works

Option How it works Best for

Pay in full Single one-off payment when you enrol. Learners who want the simplest option.

9-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 9 months. 0% interest. Most popular. Lines up with course duration.

12-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 12 months. 0% interest. Lower monthly outlay.

24-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 24 months. 0% interest. Longest, smallest monthly cost.

No interest, no credit checks, no hidden fees. If you ever want to pay off your balance early, you can settle the remainder at any time at no extra cost.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Will UK universities accept an Access to HE Diploma from learndirect?

Yes. learndirect is accredited by the Skills & Education Group, a QAA-recognised awarding body. UK universities accept Access to HE Diplomas as equivalent to A-Level qualifications. Most universities require a Pass with set Merit or Distinction grades for entry.

Q. How many UCAS points is an Access to HE Diploma worth?

The maximum tariff is 144 UCAS points, awarded for 45 Distinction credits at Level 3. A typical Pass-with-Merit profile produces 96 to 120 points, equivalent to BBC to ABB at A-Level.

Q. Can I study while working full-time?

Yes. The Access to HE Diploma is delivered fully online and assignment-based, so you set your own study schedule. Most learners spend 10 to 15 hours per week and complete within 12 months.

Q. Is the Access to HE Diploma 100% online?

Yes. All learning materials, assignments, and tutor support are delivered online. There are no required in-person sessions and no scheduled lectures.

Q. How much does the Access to HE Diploma cost?

The full course fee is £1,495, payable up front or as nine monthly instalments of £165. Some Access to HE learners are also eligible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan from Student Finance England.

Q. Are there entry requirements?

Applicants must be aged 19 or over by the time the course starts. No specific prior qualifications are required, but a basic standard of English and maths is recommended to manage the assignment workload.

Q. How long does it take to complete?

Most learners complete the diploma within 9 to 12 months. The maximum enrolment period is 24 months, giving flexibility for learners with significant work or caring commitments.

Ready to take the next step?

Speak to an admissions adviser today. We will help you choose the right pathway, explain how funding works, and get you enrolled.

Speak to an advisor: 0800 101 901 | pathways.learndirect.com

This guide was prepared by content may change. For the latest details visit pathways.learndirect.com.