



YOUR PARTNER IN BLENDED LEARNING - WORLDWIDE



**How To Get
A Place at
University
with an
Access to HE
Course**

**"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."
- Sydney J. Harris**

Achieve more with **An Access to HE Course**



If you thought you couldn't go to university because you don't have A levels at the required grades you're wrong. An Access to Higher Education diploma gives you the freedom to apply for a degree course at university without having A levels.

Universities throughout the UK recognise the Access to HE diploma as a valid qualification that allows students of all ages to apply for a place at university. Higher education really is for everyone and with a degree or equivalent you can further your career or even start a new one.

In the academic year 2013-2014 (most recent figures from QAA – the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education) 44,685 students studied with the Access to Higher Education Diploma.

Why take an Access to Higher Education course?

- Missed out on university when you were younger
- Didn't achieve your A level grades
- Didn't take A levels
- Got a job instead of going to university
- Want to follow a different career path
- Want to become higher qualified

... then an Access to Higher Education Diploma is the perfect way to set you on the path to a university education.

Achieve more with An Access to HE Course

What are the benefits of studying an online Access to Higher Education course?

Aside from the main benefit of giving you the opportunity to study at university level, distance learning is another major factor students report when choosing to study this course.

Many are already working or have a family and don't have time to attend a college course on set days and at set times. The online Access to Higher Education Diploma means you can set your own study priorities and goals.

Some of the other benefits of taking an Access to Higher Education Diploma with Stonebridge include:

- Study in comfort and privacy, with the online or distance learning study method – no cold draughty classrooms or time wasted travelling to classes each week
- Your own personal tutor like a friend at your side, dedicated to helping you succeed and a specialist in your chosen subject. No tension, no wondering what to do.

- Great value for money plus the availability of 24+ Advanced Learning Loans which means that you have nothing to pay back until you've qualified and are earning more than £21K p.a. If you go on to get a degree this loan is totally wiped out!
- The opportunity to quickly become higher qualified; it is usually achieved in a year. The result – you can start your degree after just one year of study.
- The most advanced virtual learning environment (VLE) in the UK making your learning experience a total pleasure

And these are only a few of the short-term benefits. Longer term, once you have completed your university degree you could be following the career you've always aspired to.



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University is never out of reach

If you are prepared to work hard, have the desire to succeed and yearn to develop the career of your choice then an Access to HE course is ideal.

Some students believe that because they didn't follow the university path first time round they won't be accepted. These are some of the comments we hear:

"I'm not good enough for university."

Says who? Believe in yourself and if you want to achieve your ambitions this course will be your gateway to success. University is not for the elite, it's for people of all backgrounds who want to study and make a difference to their own lives and those of their family.

"I was never any good at studying at school."

There can be many reasons for that and when on the Access to Higher Education course you'll learn how to study to the best of your ability. You will develop the aptitude to research your subject of interest, and how to write essays, theses and

dissertations. Knowing how to study, how to manage your time and how to get the most out of a university course will be one of the keys to your success, and this course will show you how.

"I left school without taking A levels."

You don't need A levels if you have an Access to Higher Education Diploma. It is a full level 3 qualification which is the same level of A Levels amply demonstrating that you have the ability to study at degree level.

"I didn't enjoy school."

Maybe you didn't, but that's not a reason not to go to university. Attending university is completely different from going to school; you manage your own time, you attend lectures and take your own notes, you research your subject and you take part in debates and discussion. It's nothing like being stuck in a classroom with a teacher telling you what to do.

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Why will an Access to HE Course be good for me?

There's no upper age limit, you can come from any background to apply and you don't have to commit yourself to a college course.

And if you're over 24 you can even apply for a government backed loan to help you out with your studies financially. This loan will be totally wiped clean if you get your degree.

If you are serious about your career plans and know what you want to do then an Access to Higher Education Diploma is the key to your future if you aren't currently qualified to apply for a university course.

Gone are the days of having a job for life. These days qualifications are crucial to career success and the better qualified you are the more likely you are to land your dream job.

According to QAA (the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education) at the end of the academic year 2014, 92% of Access to HE students were in employment after completing their university course. That's a pretty amazing figure considering the economic crisis the UK has suffered over the past few years.

Having a degree in your chosen subject also gives you the opportunity to change career if your current career isn't for you.

Benefits of a degree include:

- Being paid a competitive salary.
- Good promotion prospects – being qualified means you're likely to work your way up the career ladder faster than colleagues with no degree.
- Learning skills for life – such as time management, problem solving, leadership, organisation skills and how to work in a team.
- Having a lifelong qualification

Employers value qualified staff

Coming into education from the non-traditional route shows employers your level of commitment. You've chosen a subject that interests you and your final marks will reflect your subject knowledge.

Of course, a degree it doesn't guarantee you will get any job you apply for, but it will open up a lot of opportunities for you in terms of choice of professions and the level of job you can apply for. You are also more likely to progress more quickly if you have a degree.

And if you've studied your way to university through an Access to Higher Education Diploma this shows potential employers that you know how to work hard to get what you want. This is a valuable asset to businesses who want employees to have a passion for the work they do.



If at first you don't succeed...

...keep on trying and you get the career that you have always wanted!



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