



## Access to HE Diploma Specification

### Access to HE Diploma (Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences)

## DIPLOMA OVERVIEW

The Level 3 Access to HE Diploma is a nationally recognised qualification regulated by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) which is designed to provide preparation for study in higher education (HE) in the UK for adults returning to education.

In order to gain the Access to HE Diploma, learners must achieve a total of 60 credits. Of these 60 credits, 45 credits must be achieved at Level 3 from graded subject specific units. Graded units can be awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction. The remaining 15 credits must be achieved at Level 2 or Level 3 from study skills units which are ungraded.

### Diploma details:

Diploma title: Access to HE Diploma (Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences)

Learning aim code: 40013145

Validation start date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Validation end date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027

SSA sector code:

- Tier 1: 1 – Health, Public Services and Care
- Tier 2: 1.2 – Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied to Medicine

## DIPLOMA AIMS

The Access to HE Diploma (Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences) offers adult returners a coherent, integrated and supported year of study through which they will gain the knowledge, awareness, skills and confidence necessary for successful undergraduate studying in the intended progression routes for this Diploma. The course aims to provide a balance of essential study skills with specialist subject knowledge to enable the students to be prepared for the academic and practical rigours of undergraduate study in Pharmacy and Bio-medical Sciences. It must however be noted that the Access to HE Diploma does not provide guaranteed entry to UK Higher Education Institutions.

Its primary aims are:

- To provide HE progression opportunities for adults who, because of social, educational or individual circumstances, do not have the necessary qualifications;
- To give learners a general introduction to the basic concepts, methods, and key areas of knowledge within the core disciplines taken and offer a coherent and stimulating framework within which they can broaden their intellectual outlook and make connections between subject areas;
- To help learners to develop and consolidate the various skills required to enable them to cope successfully with the demands of undergraduate study and to become independent, self-directed learners;
- To establish a positive and supportive learning environment within which learners can build their confidence through successful learning and the sharing of their experience;
- To provide the personal and educational support needed if learners are to pursue their aims within the framework of the course.

## TARGET LEARNERS

- Adults who, because of social, educational or individual circumstances, were unable to participate in or benefit from initial education.
- Adults from groups under-represented in higher education.

- Adults seeking a change of direction because of unemployment or lack of career opportunities in their previous field and who have a demonstrable interest in entering a profession within Pharmacy and Bio-medical Sciences.

## POTENTIAL PROGRESSION ROUTES

Learners primarily progress to Higher Education study in areas related to Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences. These may include some of the following areas of Degree level study: Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Dental Nursing, Diagnostic Radiography, Human Physiology, Medical Sciences, Nutrition, Paramedic Science, Petroleum Engineering, Pharmaceutical and Chemical Sciences, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and a wide range of combined and related degrees.

## PROGRESSION AGREEMENTS

OCN London works with local universities to develop progression agreements that benefit all its providers and learners. The following agreements are in place:

- London South Bank University (Partnership agreement)
- Goldsmiths, University of London (Progression agreement)
- St Mary's University, Twickenham (Progression agreement)
- The Institute of Banking and Finance (Progression agreement)
- University of East London (Partnership agreement)

Further information about each agreement can be found [here](#) on the OCN London website.

## ENTRY GUIDANCE

There are no centrally specified formal requirements for qualifications on entry; however there is usually the expectation that the learner will have literacy, communication skills and numeracy at Level 2 or above. In addition to this, it is likely that learners will need to hold GCSEs at grade 9-5/4 (A\*-C) in English, Maths and Science, as these qualifications usually form part of the entry requirements for the degree courses that learners progress to. Learners should be strongly advised to contact HE institutions to confirm specific entry requirements onto their chosen degree courses.

## GUIDED LEARNING HOURS

The Access to HE Diploma represents 600 notional Guided Learning Hours (GLH) with courses generally delivered in 450 GLH. This may vary between centres and may depend on whether the course is being delivered through blended learning. It is expected a centre delivering the course will clearly outline the intended delivery in terms of total hours and how this is broken down weekly over the period of study.

## DIPLOMA RESOURCES

The minimum required resources for this Diploma include:

- Access to science labs where necessary.
- Access to IT facilities with specialist software as appropriate.
- Access to learning resources and online facilities.
- Access to VLE or other system, such as Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom.
- Access to resources for specialist learner support and reasonable adjustments.
- The same level of facilities and resources should be available at each site where the Diploma is delivered.

## STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

- Staff delivering, assessing or internally moderating on the Access to HE course must have the professional competence and level of subject expertise necessary to deliver and assess the units available on the Diploma. They should be qualified at Level 4 or above in the named subject, or in a discipline that includes the subject. For example, a tutor with a Social Science degree may be able to teach both Psychology and Sociology.
- Staff should have or be working towards a teaching qualification.
- Staff should have knowledge and understanding of the Access to HE Diploma, including QAA regulations, AVA assessment regulations, the QAA Grading Scheme and the Rules of Combination.
- New staff should be inducted to ensure that they have sufficient information to deliver, assess or internally moderate on the Diploma competently.
- It is desirable that teachers have personal practice experience.

## ASSESSMENT

### Assessment Mechanisms

The Access to HE Diploma assessment mechanism incorporates:

- Assessment tasks which are designed and set by the Centre
- Internal assessment of learner work
- Internal and external moderation of assessment.

There are no additional external assessments for this Diploma.

### Recommended Methods of Assessment

The recommended assessment methods for this Diploma should include a variety of methods which take into consideration the target learners for this Diploma and the appropriateness for the units being assessed. Assessment methods should be valid, reliable, and inclusive and assure equity.

The following assessment methods could be used to assess the units within this Diploma. Please note, it is expected that at least part of one unit is assessed by formal examination taken under timed conditions.

- Case studies
- Oral presentation
- Practical tasks/demonstrations
- Question and answer (written and oral)
- Tests/exams with seen or unseen papers
- Tutor observation
- Worksheets
- Written assignments
- Written essays/reports
- Artefacts

This is not an exhaustive list and other methods could be selected with agreement from either OCN London or the Centre Moderator.

## RULES OF COMBINATION

To be awarded the Access to Higher Education Diploma (Pharmacy and Bio-medical Sciences) learners must achieve a total of 60 credits comprising of:				
Credits required from graded academic subject content units at Level 3				45
Credits required from ungraded units at Level 3 or Level 2				15
Total Credits required				60
Learners must also meet the following Rules of Combination:				
Rule: Units in	Status	Mandatory Credits (see below)	From Optional Credits	Total Credits
Study Skills	Ungraded	6 @ L3	9 @ L2 or L3	15
Subject Specific Units	Graded	3 @ L3	42 @ L3	45

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Overall, the total proportion of credits awarded or exempted through either credit transfer and/or recognition of prior learning must not exceed 30 credits (that is 50 per cent of the credits required for the achievement of the Diploma).

### Barred Combinations of Units

Where unit content between units overlaps by more than 25% of the learning outcomes this would represent an excluded combination of units.

Information on barred combinations for this Diploma can be found on page 7.

## APPROVED UNITS

### Mandatory Units

Unit ID	Unit Name	Level	Credits
<a href="#">CBB803</a>	Sourcing and Reading Information (Ungraded)	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB804</a>	Report Writing (Ungraded)	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB594</a>	Algebra (Graded)	L3	3

### Study Skills (ungraded)

Unit ID	Unit Name	Level	Credits
<a href="#">CBA785</a>	Examination Skills: Preparing for and Succeeding in an Examination	L3	3
<a href="#">CBA851</a>	Note-taking and Note-making	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB392</a>	Preparation for Higher Education	L3	3
<a href="#">CBA794</a>	Reading and Comprehension of Scientific Writing	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB805</a>	Speaking and Listening Skills	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB428</a>	Use and Comprehension of Numerical Data	L3	3
<a href="#">CBA788</a>	Using Information Technology	L3	3
<a href="#">CBA855</a>	Writing and Delivering Seminar Papers	L3	3
<a href="#">CBA856</a>	Writing Standard English	L3	3

### Subject Specific Units (graded)

Biology			
Unit ID	Unit Name	Level	Credits
<a href="#">CBB556</a>	Blood*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB508</a>	Cells	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB550</a>	Disease and Immunity	L3	6
<a href="#">CBB553</a>	Genes and Inheritance	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB032</a>	Homeostasis and Controlling Factors in the Body*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB302</a>	Human Tissues and Systems	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB582</a>	Microbiology and Biotechnology	L3	6
<a href="#">CBB554</a>	Nutrition, Digestion and Excretion*	L3	6
<a href="#">CBB557</a>	The Cardiovascular System*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB558</a>	The Digestive System*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB559</a>	The Endocrine System	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB560</a>	The Musculoskeletal System	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB062</a>	The Nervous System*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB561</a>	The Reproductive System	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB562</a>	Transport and Respiration*	L3	6

Chemistry and Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences			
Unit ID	Unit Name	Level	Credits
<a href="#">CBB574</a>	Action and Uses of some Common Types of Drugs	L3	6
<a href="#">CBB576</a>	Biological Chemistry	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB577</a>	Chemical Bonding*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB578</a>	Chemical Energetics	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB579</a>	Chemical Kinetics	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB580</a>	Matter: Particles and Formulae*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB581</a>	Methods of Detection and Analysis	L3	6
<a href="#">CBB583</a>	Organic Chemistry – Aliphatic Compounds*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB584</a>	Organic Chemistry – Functional Groups Containing Oxygen*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB585</a>	Organic Chemistry – Reactions and Mechanisms*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB589</a>	Redox Reactions	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB586</a>	The Chemistry of Organic Compounds*	L3	6
<a href="#">CBB575</a>	The Mole Concept	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB593</a>	Transition Metals	L3	3

Mathematics			
Unit ID	Unit Name	Level	Credits
<a href="#">CBB597</a>	Differentiation and Integration	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB595</a>	Functions and Graphs	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB602</a>	Handling Scientific Data	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB603</a>	Numerical Methods	L3	3

Physics			
Unit ID	Unit Name	Level	Credits
<a href="#">CBB566</a>	Atomic Physics	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB567</a>	Electricity	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB569</a>	Motion, Energy and Forces	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB570</a>	Properties of Matter	L3	3
<a href="#">CBB572</a>	Waves	L3	3

Experimental and Practical Work			
Unit ID	Unit Name	Level	Credits
<a href="#">CBA774</a>	Planning and Conducting a Scientific Investigation*	L3	3
<a href="#">CBA795</a>	Practical Scientific Project*	L3	6

## BARRED COMBINATIONS

\* The following units constitute barred combinations within this Diploma title and must not be delivered together on the same course.

### Biology

**Transport and Respiration** is barred with **Blood** and **The Cardiovascular System**

**Homeostasis and Controlling Factors in the Body** is barred with **The Nervous System**

**The Digestive System** is barred with **Nutrition, Digestion and Excretion**

### Chemistry

**Chemical Bonding** is barred with **Matter: Particles and Formulae**

**The Chemistry of Organic Compounds** is barred with the following units:

- **Organic Chemistry – Aliphatic Compounds**
- **Organic Chemistry – Functional Groups containing Oxygen**
- **Organic Chemistry – Reaction and Mechanisms**

### Experimental and Practical Work

**Planning and Conducting a Scientific Investigation** is barred with **Practical Scientific Project**

## GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT MATERIALS:

OCN London devised assignment briefs are available for the following units:

### Study Skills

Examination Skills: Preparing for and Succeeding in an Examination  
Sourcing and Reading Information  
Note-taking and Note-making  
Preparation for Higher Education  
Reading and Comprehension of Scientific Writing  
Report Writing  
Speaking and Listening Skills  
Writing and Delivering Seminar Papers  
Writing Standard English

### Subject Specific Units

Algebra  
Atomic Physics  
Biological Chemistry  
Blood  
Cells  
Chemical Kinetics  
Disease and Immunity  
Electricity  
Handling Scientific Data  
Homeostasis and Controlling Factors of the Body  
Human Tissues and Systems  
Matter: Particles and Formulae  
Motion, Energy and Forces  
Nutrition, Digestion and Excretion  
Properties of Matter  
The Cardiovascular System  
The Endocrine System  
The Mole Concept  
The Reproductive System  
Waves

### Online Learning Materials

The following online support materials are available:

Cells  
Sourcing and Reading Information  
Note-taking and Note-making  
Preparation for Higher Education  
Writing Standard English

These online learning materials can be used as part of your teaching or an induction to the course. It is expected that the learners will still receive teaching on these topics and assignments must be set for them by their tutor and assessed by the centre.

The courses can be accessed via the OCN London website or incorporated into your own VLE or online delivery systems. If you have any queries, please contact Sarah Francis ([sarah@ocnlondon.org.uk](mailto:sarah@ocnlondon.org.uk))

All OCN London devised assignment briefs can be found in the [Access Centre Area](#) on the OCN London website (login required).

Further resources and guidance including tutor guidance documents, marketing materials, forms, templates and checklists can be found in the above area of the website (login may be required).

If you are interested in delivering this Diploma, please contact Michelle Wood (Access to HE Development Co-ordinator) at [michelle@ocnlondon.org.uk](mailto:michelle@ocnlondon.org.uk).