



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

RAISING STANDARDS IN THE
GLOBAL EDUCATION MARKET

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About the British Accreditation Council

Paul Fear, CEO

The British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education (BAC) was established as a joint initiative between the British Council and Department of Education in 1984 and is a registered charity and a 'not for profit' organisation.

The original BAC remit was to oversee the further and higher education sector in the United Kingdom and to ensure that educational and governance standards within the sector were rigorous. BAC was also charged with raising educational and governance standards across the sector.

This was achieved by developing a set of standards against which institutions would be judged and accredited.

Today, BAC accredits more than 230 institutions in 19 countries although most accredited institutions are in the UK. BAC is increasingly involved in the accreditation of higher education institutions across the UK and internationally and has developed a unique capability to work with a broad range of further and higher education institutions.

In addition to our accreditation activities, we are increasingly involved in international consultancy through which we provide innovative quality assurance solutions for educational institutions and businesses.

We have also worked with governments and NGOs in Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Kosovo and Singapore, in capacity building projects designed to improve the governance and outcomes in further and higher education.

Within the UK, BAC holds a statutory responsibility in that all BAC accredited institutions can accept international students on academic or vocational courses for up to six months.

BAC is a full member of the following organisations providing further assurance to the organisations and training providers we work with:



European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education



International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

and Affiliate member of:



Council for Higher Education Accreditation

more than
230
institutions
19
countries

BAC
VALUES

Respect

We seek to be the first-choice accreditation organisation and will ensure high standards of performance throughout our inspection, accreditation and consultancy work.



BAC Vision

BAC aims to be an established, diverse and leading education charity for the further and higher education and training sectors. It is focused on expanding its accreditation and consultancy activities in the UK and international markets. Linked to this, BAC aims to be recognised by UK and overseas governments as an influential voice on standards and quality for the independent education sector.



BAC Mission

BAC's aim is to provide globally respected and rigorous inspection-based accreditation to enhance the standards and quality of further and higher education and training providers. It also offers a bespoke consultancy service. BAC aims to be recognised by UK and overseas governments as an influential voice on standards and quality for the education sector.

As well as providing clear guidance to prospective students, we want to encourage continuing improvement in the general standard and quality of further and higher education in the UK and in the global education market.

While BAC is not a membership organisation, and indeed must maintain an objective distance from institutions, to preserve the value of our accreditation, we are nevertheless, dedicated to helping colleges in their efforts for continual improvement.



A Global network

More than **300,000 students** studied at BAC accredited institutions. Internationally, there were more than **40,000 students** studying at BAC accredited institutions*.

The majority of BAC accredited international institutions have partnership arrangements with British universities in the form of partnership, franchise or validation agreements. However, an increasing number of institutions hold BAC accreditation to support their quality assurance systems and to raise standards.

Many institutions find that BAC accreditation sends a clear signal to students and other stakeholders that they are a reliable partner and benefit from the differentiation this offers.

more than
300,000
students studying
at BAC
institutions

40,000
students studying
internationally
at BAC
institutions*

*BAC Annual Statistics Survey 2015

BAC
VALUES

Responsibility

We will take full responsibility for our employees, associates, systems, procedures and processes, taking prompt and appropriate action to resolve queries or problems that may adversely affect our services and care.





BAC VALUES

Integrity

We will be objective, honest and committed to our delivery of high quality services to stakeholders.

Grow your credibility – collaborate with a trusted organisation

The BAC Quality Mark

Over 230 universities, colleges, and training providers in 19 countries benefit from BAC accreditation

Gaining BAC accreditation provides:

- A globally recognised accreditation mark confirming a **gold standard**
- A benchmark against a set of internationally recognised British quality standards
- Market differentiation to stand out in a competitive market and in so doing promote courses and services to stakeholders
- Assurance and confidence in collaborative partnerships raising profile and promoting trust
- Assurance and confidence for students and parents that they have selected an educational institute that delivers high quality educational services
- Assured evidence of BAC accredited status with access to the BAC quality mark to help you differentiate your organisation in the education market
- Access to the international student market via the Short Term Study Visa route (UK providers only)



“Would highly recommend BAC to other providers. Very pleased with all contact and the overall organisation of the inspection – Thank you.”
Ardmay House
International Summer School

Benefits of BAC accreditation



Quality mark
Listing on the BAC directory and access to the esteemed BAC quality mark to promote your institution.



Expert assurance
Access to a range of industry related webinars led by education and quality assurance experts.



Regular advice
Regular information bulletins offering ongoing support and advice regarding statutory and sector changes.



Support staff
Support of BAC staff who have in depth knowledge of the education sector.



Expert network
A network of over 50 inspectors, technical experts and student representatives.



Current news
Current and relevant educational news updates via social media networks.



Market differentiation
Stand out in a competitive market to attract and retain more students.



Create partnerships
Providing assurance and confidence for potential partners.



Benchmark
Providing a framework to help shape and drive management strategy.



Marketing support pack
Informs provider stakeholders of the value of BAC accreditation.

BAC Accreditation Schemes

BAC offer several different accreditation schemes that are relevant to today's further and higher education environment. The schemes are well respected and highly valued in the education market.

Short Course Provider Accreditation

- Designed for training providers who offer short courses of 26 weeks or less
- This scheme involves a visit to your head office and at least one other site if your organisation has multiple venues
- Observation of your training, the quality of your management, course delivery and participant welfare
- Achievement in these areas awards BAC accreditation for four years

Online, Distance and Blended Learning Accreditation

- Designed for education and training providers who offer most courses through online or distance teaching methods
- This scheme involves a visit to your head office and an inspection of your online and distance training, focusing on the quality of your management, delivery and technical support. If you offer blended learning, we will also inspect your face-to-face provision
- Achievement in these areas awards BAC accreditation for four years

College Accreditation

- Designed for education and training institutes who deliver courses of over 26 weeks
- This scheme involves a visit to your head office and at least one other site if your organisation has multiple venues
- The visit will include a review of the premises and facilities and inspection of management, staffing and administration of the organisation. The teaching, learning and assessment of courses and student welfare services will also be inspected
- Achievement in these areas awards the BAC accreditation for four years

Higher Education Accreditation

- Designed for higher education institutes that offer academic courses recognised on the UK Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at Level 5 or higher. For example, Foundation Degrees, Undergraduate Degrees, Masters Degrees and PhDs
- This scheme involves a visit to your head office and at least one other site if your organisation has multiple venues
- The visit will include inspection of the institutions governance, strategy and financial management. A review of academic management and administration will also be included
- Teaching learning and assessment to include inspection of quality management and enhancement will be conducted and student recruitment, support and progression will also be addressed
- Achievement in these areas awards the BAC accreditation for four years

"The overall process meant that we had to be rigorous with the documentation which helps us to maintain standards."

Interior Design School

If you would like further details and a copy of the BAC accreditation Schemes please visit our website www.the-bac.org, email info@the-bac.org or call us on +0300 3301400

Be better placed globally

International Centre

- Designed for education and training providers who are based overseas
- This scheme involves a visit to your head office and at least one other site if your organisation has multiple venues
- The visit will include a review of the premises and facilities and inspection of management, staffing and administration of the organisation. Teaching, learning, assessment and quality management of courses will be inspected and learner welfare will be addressed
- Achievement in these areas awards the BAC accreditation for three years

Overseas Higher Education

An overseas higher education provider, wishing to apply for BAC accreditation, must meet one or more of the following requirements in addition to the eligibility criteria set out in the accreditation scheme:

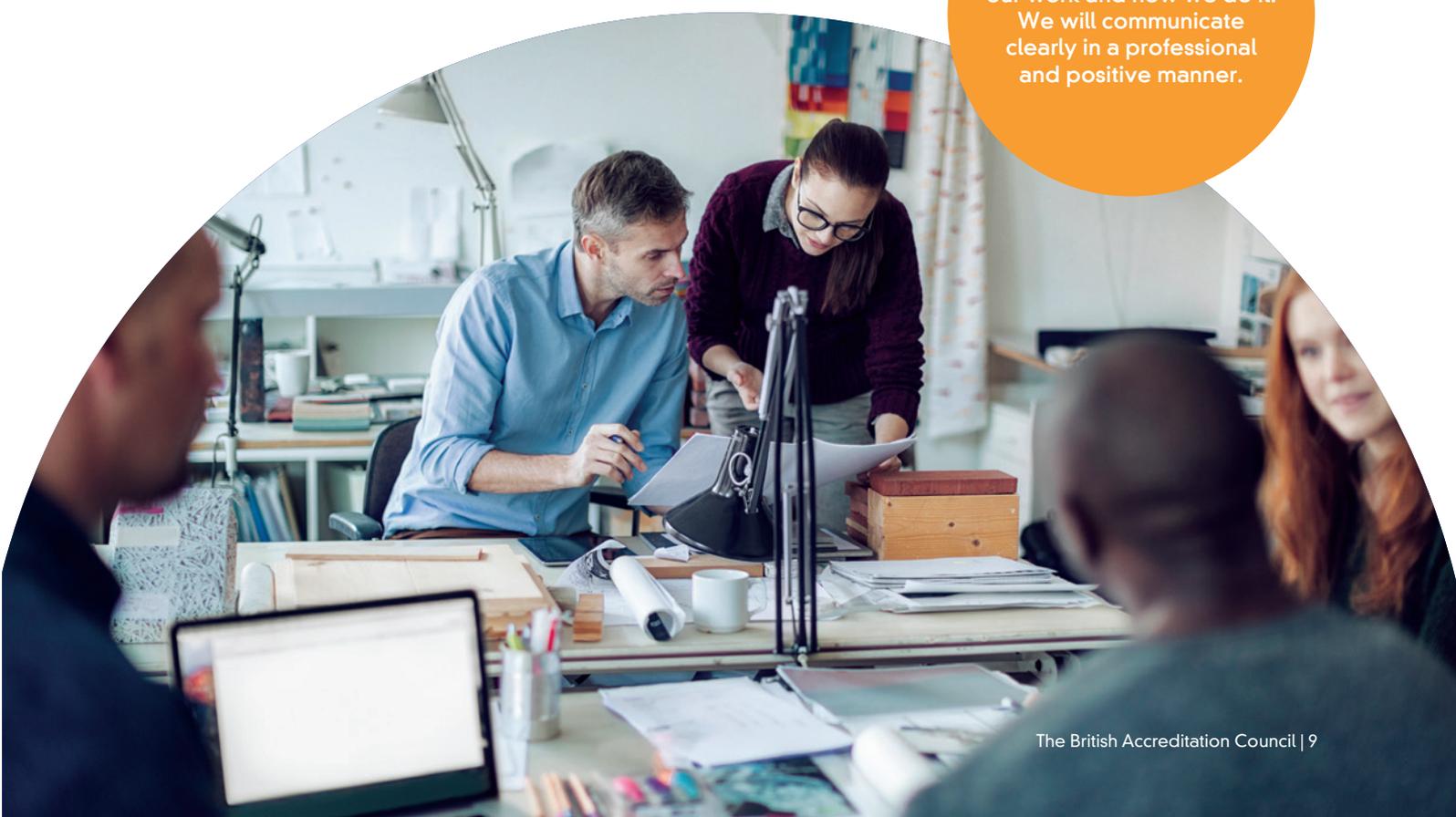
- The organisation is working in a formal collaborative partnership with a UK institute which has degree awarding powers. The UK institute must be a Recognised Body as defined by the Department of Education
- The organisation is working in a formal collaborative partnership with a Royal Chartered Body recognised within the UK
- The organisation offers programmes recognised by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations (Ofqual) at level 5 or above on the RQF
- The organisation holds national or federal approval/licence or national accreditation and its awards are recognised by UK NARIC or CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation)

BAC accreditation can help attract students both locally and globally. Gain increased recognition under the BAC International Centre Scheme.

BAC VALUES

Transparent

We will be open about our work and how we do it. We will communicate clearly in a professional and positive manner.





Consultancy

Through our team of highly experienced consultants, BAC educational consulting provides hands-on, specialist assistance to help your institution achieve the required standards, enhance efficiency and maximise your chance of success.

Drawing on the British Accreditation Council's unparalleled experience of setting and maintaining standards in the independent education sector, our network of specialist consultants can also provide expert advice on all areas of best practice and business development.

Contact BAC to discuss your business needs and explore how BAC Consultancy can help you deliver excellence in the service you provide.

"The consultant was very receptive to our needs and to my guidelines on what I was looking for and worked very well with the staff. We would happily recommend the day to any organisation going through similar problems."

Case Studies



Bahrain

In 2013 the British Accreditation Council was approached by the Kingdom's Higher Education Council (HEC) to review existing arrangements for quality assurance oversight amongst the country's higher education institutions.

The following desired outcomes from the project, as identified by HEC, were:

- to raise standards across the higher education sector
- provide greater transparency for all stakeholders
- improve the student experience
- enhance Bahrain's standing as a regional student destination

BAC developed an accreditation framework, in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, and supported the HEC as the necessary legislation was passed for the implementation of the standards.

In late 2015 and early 2016 BAC ran a series of workshops on behalf of the Higher Education Council. The workshops introduced the standards to the higher education sector and prepared HEC officials for their implementation.

BAC was then contracted to conduct three pilot inspections. The standards have been reviewed in light of the inspection and the new standards are expected to be implemented across the entire higher education sector during the course of 2017.



BAC
VALUES

Trust

We will act in a way that inspires the trust and confidence of all internal and external stakeholders. We will always do what we say we are going to do promptly and effectively.



Case Studies

Transnational Education Ghana

Transnational Education Ghana deliver a University of Lancaster accredited foundation course. Students who successfully complete the course can progress on to undergraduate degrees at Lancaster University.

Transnational approached BAC seeking accreditation with the following aims:

- To support and maintain quality standards
- To provide a mechanism for their faculty to remain in touch with the international academic community
- To differentiate their institution in a highly competitive market

Transnational were successful in gaining BAC accreditation and has experienced rapid growth in student numbers and has become a highly-regarded institution in the region.



Ghana



GHANA LTD.

"We gained a great insight through the inspection process on areas where we can make positive adjustments."
Council on International Educational Exchange

BAC
VALUES

Ethical

We will act fairly and consider the dignity, diversity and rights of individuals and groups of people we associate with.



Our partners

BAC has signed agreements or memoranda of understanding with the following organisations:

FAA – Malaysian Financial Accreditation Agency

FAA is an independent accreditation and quality assurance body for learning and development within the international financial services industry. FAA works with higher education institutions, finance industry learning providers and financial institutions across the world to accredit their finance-related academic and professional learning programmes. FAA also undertakes exercises to accredit individual finance professionals as well as other initiatives to support high quality learning and development.

Supported by the Central Bank of Malaysia and Securities Commission Malaysia, FAA's accreditation and quality assurance activities are carried out with an international panel of technical experts, industry professionals and leading academics including from major finance markets across the world. FAA has also developed internationally-benchmarked guidelines and standards on accreditation and quality assurance for learning and development that are the first of their kinds in the world to focus on financial services.

OIA – Office of the Independent Adjudicator (UK)

The Higher Education Act 2004 required the appointment of an independent body to run a student complaints scheme in England and Wales and the OIA was chosen to operate this scheme in 2005. Initially, all universities in England and Wales were required to subscribe to the Scheme. However, the Consumer Rights Act 2015, the relevant section of which came into force on 1 September 2015, extended the range of higher education providers that are required to participate in the scheme. Our membership now includes FE colleges providing higher education, alternative providers and providers of School-Centred Initial Teacher Training, as well as universities.

BAC operates student resolution support mechanisms as part of the standard quality assurance process. Within the UK BAC highlights the OIA as having legal authority as the final arbiter of student complaints. BAC ensures that accredited institutions have the necessary complaint mechanism embedded in their internal quality assurance process.

This helps build productive, resolution focussed processes that build student confidence in institutional administrative systems and reduces the likelihood of reputational damage arising from disputes.



“FAA’s collaboration with BAC is to further promote and strengthen high quality learning and development for the international financial services industry. This collaboration is especially critical to support the objective of ensuring highly-skilled and internationally-mobile financial services professionals to advance sustainable growth of the industry.”

Khairul Nizam, CEO, FAA





Become a BAC accredited provider

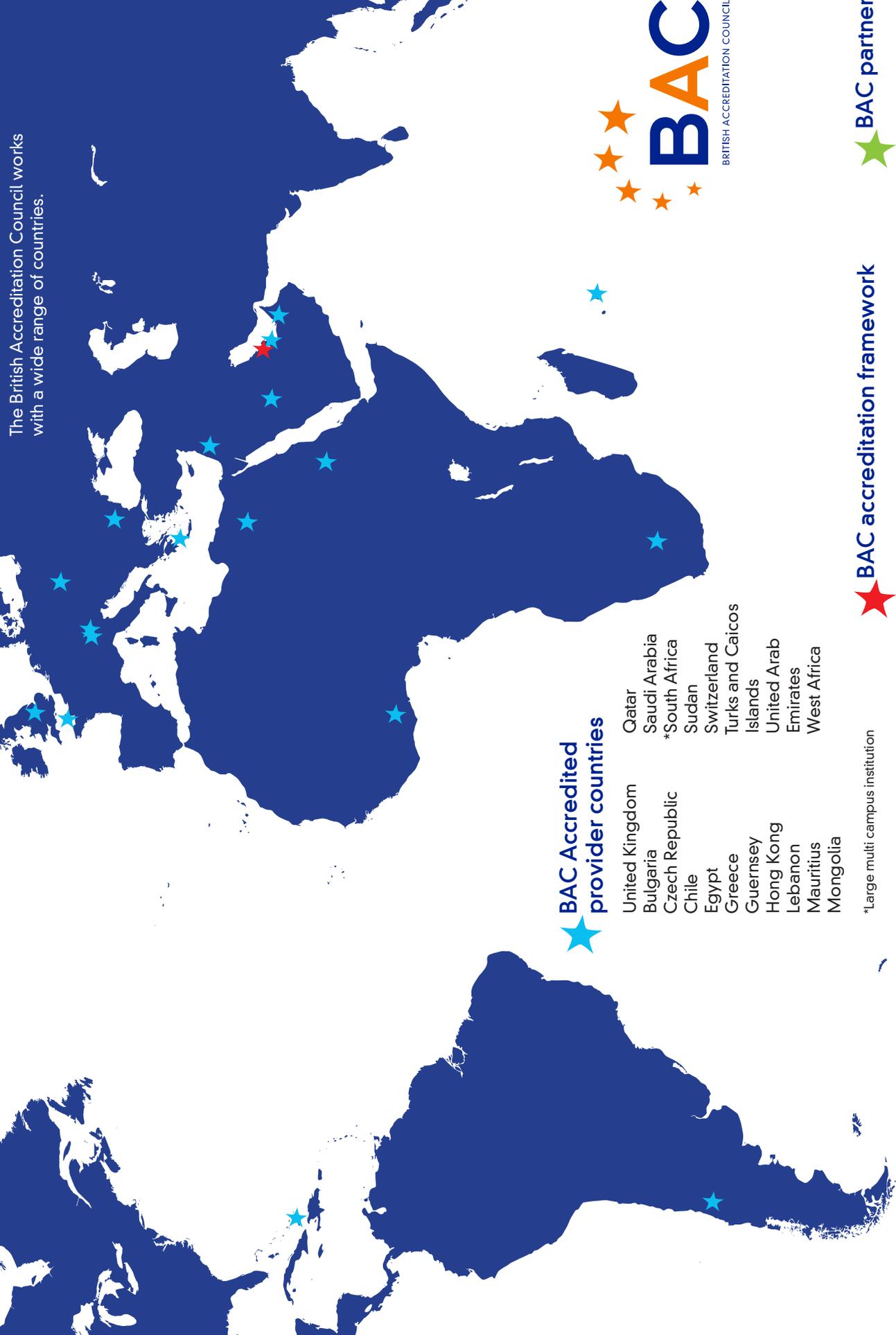
A step by step application process:

- 1) Contact us to discuss how to become an accredited BAC provider
- 2) Complete the application form process with support from the BAC Accreditation team
- 3) The BAC Inspector team will conduct an accreditation inspection, complete an inspection report and advise on any actions to complete prior to accreditation
- 4) The Accreditation Committee reviews the report and actions completed
- 5) BAC accreditation is awarded pending action completion

Contact us if you are interested in gaining BAC accreditation or would like to explore the possibility of using the BAC consultancy service. Tel: +0300 3301400 or email info@the-bac.org

BAC International Activities

The British Accreditation Council works with a wide range of countries.



BAC Accredited provider countries

- United Kingdom
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Chile
- Egypt
- Greece
- Guernsey
- Hong Kong
- Lebanon
- Mauritius
- Mongolia
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- *South Africa
- Sudan
- Switzerland
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- United Arab Emirates
- West Africa

*Large multi campus institution



 BAC accreditation framework

 BAC partner



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The British Accreditation Council is
registered Charity and a UK Private
Company Limited by Guarantee

Company no: 1828990
Charity no: 326652