The British Accreditation Council | 1

RAISING STANDARDS IN THE GLOBAL EDUCATION MARKET
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"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
BAC vision

BAC aims to use its globally recognised, highly esteemed benchmark accreditation to help students, parents, sponsors and employers to recognise sources of quality education, regardless of ethnicity, diversity or maturity.

“The British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education (BAC) is a not-for-profit social enterprise dedicated to maintaining global educational standards by helping students to choose reputable sources that meet globally recognised quality standards.

Organisations in 22 countries now use BAC to demonstrate and prove that their academic services meet the gold standard. As a non-biased, independent body, BAC is able to award accreditation with high levels of integrity and consistency.

Thank you for choosing to work with BAC. We appreciate your support and commitment to raising standards in the global education market.”

Paul Fear, BAC CEO
BAC at a glance

MORE THAN 230 PROVIDERS

RAISING STANDARDS IN THE GLOBAL EDUCATION MARKET SINCE 1984

MORE THAN 300,000 STUDENTS STUDYING AT BAC INSTITUTIONS

6 GOLD STANDARD ACCREDITATION SCHEMES

TOP COUNTRIES ACCESSING OUR WEBSITE
UK 42%, USA 10%
SOUTH AFRICA 5%
INDIA 4%, NIGERIA 1.5%

Contact us on 0300 3301400 or email info@the-bac.org
BAC is an internationally recognised independent voice. Our accreditation sends a positive and clear message to students and partners that they are studying with a trusted and reliable provider who has met a series of globally recognised quality assurance standards.
International recognition

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
- International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

BAC is an affiliate member of:

- Council for Higher Education Accreditation

BAC is listed on:

- European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

Contact us on 0300 3301400 or email info@the-bac.org
Benefits of BAC accreditation

BAC Quality Mark
Access to the esteemed BAC Quality Mark to promote your institution.

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

Added value
Provides increased value to your educational offer, attracting more students and an opportunity to raise the credibility of your business.

Framework
Provides a structure to support management and leadership in shaping and driving strategy.

Create partnerships
Provides assurance and confidence for potential partners.

Stand out in a competitive market
The BAC Quality Mark – the value of BAC accreditation

As a BAC accredited provider you can continue to add value to your educational offer in a number of different ways.

- You can use the **BAC Quality Mark** in your marketing to potential students and partners.
- You can stand out from local and international competition by using your BAC accredited status and the BAC Quality Mark in your advertising and social media campaigns.
- You can provide assurance and confidence in collaborative partnerships, raising your relationship profile by promoting transparency and trust with stakeholders.
- You can officially recognise your team’s hard work and capability by informing others of the **gold standard** they have achieved.
- You can use BAC’s internationally respected quality assurance standards to support your organisational management and leadership, shape your educational offer and drive long term strategy.
BAC accreditation schemes

We have expertly created accreditation schemes to meet the needs of different types of education and training providers in the UK and overseas.

UK Short Course provider (SCP)
Designed for UK providers who offer short courses of 26 weeks or less.
Accreditation is valid for four years.

Online, Distance and Blended Learning (ODBL) scheme
Designed for UK and overseas education and training providers who predominantly offer courses through online and distance teaching methods.
Accreditation is valid for four years.

College scheme
Designed for UK education and training providers who deliver courses of over 26 weeks.
Accreditation is valid for four years.

International Centre scheme
Designed for education and training providers who are based overseas and offer non-degree courses.
Accreditation is valid for three years.

International English Language Provider (IELP) scheme
Designed specifically for international education and training providers who deliver English language courses.
The scheme ensures students meet the external assessment requirements of recognised examinations from one of the following awarding bodies:
a) LanguageCert
b) Trinity College
c) Cambridge English
d) International English Language Test System (IELTS)
e) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TEOFL)

UK and overseas Independent Higher Education (IHE) scheme
Designed for higher education institutes that offer full degree programmes.
International IHE Institutes need to have the authority to award degrees in their own country or be recognised by UK NARIC or through a collaborative partnership with a recognised degree-awarding organisation.
Accreditation is valid for four years.

We know BAC accreditation represents excellent value for money. Additional confidence in an organisation leads to increased student numbers. In most cases, just one or two additional students will more than cover the cost of BAC accreditation – any recruitment after that is positive!
Working with BAC and the provider cycle

All of our accreditation schemes require a visit to your head office and teaching facilities, where BAC inspectors review and recognise the quality of your educational offer. They will also provide feedback and a report that identifies your organisation’s strengths and areas to develop.

BAC fees are due at different stages in the provider cycle and according to the BAC scheme that providers are accredited under.

The BAC application fee and inspection management fee are due at the point of application and the inspection fees are due prior to an inspection taking place.

International providers are asked to arrange and book accommodation for our inspectors, and cover the cost of flights (booked by BAC) and local transport while inspectors are in the country.

BAC collects accreditation fees by requesting submission of student numbers or course days delivered by providers according to provider type during the annual enrolment data return process. A pro rata accreditation fee is payable by providers that are awarded accreditation or approved as candidates for accreditation during the year.

“We gained great insight through the inspection process on areas where we can make positive adjustments.”

Council on International Educational Exchange

Provider cycle

- **Enquiry**
- **Due diligence**
- **Application**
- **Inspection**
- **Accreditation**
- **Continuous accreditation cycle**
- **Interim inspection 2 years**
- **Re-accreditation every 4 years Short Course, College, Independent Higher Education, ODBL**
- **Re-accreditation every 3 years International Centre, IELP**
- **Preparation and application for re-accreditation**
- **Annual data return (every 12 months)**
- **Interim inspection (within 12 months of accreditation)**
Case studies

Bahrain Higher Education Council

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

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

• to raise standards across the higher education sector
• to provide greater transparency for all stakeholders
• to improve the student experience
• to 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 HEC. 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 were reviewed in light of the inspection and the new standards were implemented across the entire higher education sector during the course of 2017.

Further inspections are planned for all of Bahrain’s higher education institutions. These will be completed by BAC by 2020.
Case studies

Transnational Education Ghana

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

Transnational approached BAC seeking accreditation with the following aims:
- to support and maintain quality standards
- to provide a way for their faculty to remain in touch with the international academic community
- to differentiate their institution in a highly competitive market

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

South Africa
The Independent Institute of Education (IIE)

The IIE is the largest private provider of education in South Africa. Operating across 20 sites, IIE offers more than 90 registered higher education programmes.

IIE was awarded BAC accreditation in 2014 and underwent reaccreditation as part of the provider cycle in 2018.

“BAC accreditation has led to increased international exposure, which we did not previously have. A greater international profile adds to our international credibility and standing with stakeholders and is also one factor that sets us apart. Parents and students consider us unique to other local institutions because of BAC accreditation.”

Marla Koonin, Research and Development Manager, IIE
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 the 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 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 kind 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. 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. OIA membership now includes Further Education 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 our standard quality assurance process. Within the UK, BAC highlights the OIA as having legal authority as the final arbiter of higher education student complaints. BAC ensures that accredited institutions have the necessary complaint mechanisms embedded in their internal quality assurance process.

This helps build productive, resolution-focused 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
Service features of BAC accreditation

We pride ourselves in going the extra mile to give accredited providers the best possible support and service features.

BAC webinar service
Access to a range of industry-related webinars led by education and quality assurance experts.

Marketing support pack
Marketing tools to support your stakeholder engagement and marketing campaigns, helping to raise your institution’s profile.

BAC directory
Listing in the BAC directory, giving potential students and parents the opportunity to recognise the quality of your institution.

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

The BAC Newsletter
A monthly edition full of the latest news in the further and higher education sector.

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

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

Expert network
A network of inspectors, technical experts and student representatives.
BAC accreditation process

Our accreditation process is designed to minimise disruption to your organisational activities, while giving you the maximum opportunities that come from a rigorous review of your educational standards.

BAC will email an enquiry form and BAC brochure

Return the completed enquiry form so we can learn more about your organisation

BAC will send out accreditation scheme information and arrange a Skype meeting with you

BAC accreditation support

All BAC accredited providers will receive dedicated ongoing support from the BAC team with additional help for new providers to help get started.

Key support includes:

- Guidance from BAC team who have in depth knowledge of the education sector
- Regular contact with the dedicated BAC team throughout the application, inspection and quality assurance process
- Tailored induction for new providers and re-accreditation guidance for existing BAC providers.

Contact us today to discuss becoming a BAC accredited provider