



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

RAISING STANDARDS
IN THE GLOBAL
EDUCATION MARKET

Contents

BAC vision	4
BAC at a glance	5
A global network	6
International recognition	7
Benefits of BAC accreditation	8
BAC accreditation schemes	9
Working with BAC and the provider cycle	10
Case studies	11
Our partners	13
Service features of BAC accreditation	14
BAC accreditation process	15

"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 20 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 to raising standards in the global education market.

Janet Bohrer, BAC CEO



MORE THAN **200**
PROVIDERS



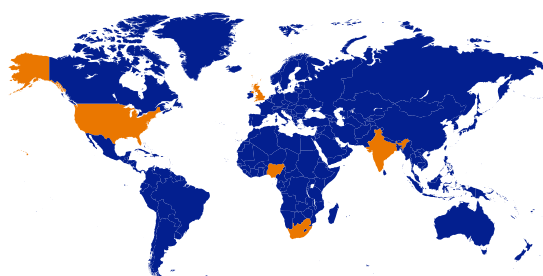
RAISING
STANDARDS
IN THE GLOBAL
EDUCATION
MARKET
SINCE **1984**



6 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **GOLD**
STANDARD
ACCREDITATION
SCHEMES



MORE THAN
300,000
STUDENTS STUDYING
AT BAC INSTITUTIONS



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



Helping
students around
the world get
great education

300,000

students studying
at BAC accredited
institutions

40,000

students studying
internationally at
BAC accredited
institutions

A global network

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.

 BAC accredited
provider countries

 BAC accreditation
framework

 BAC partner




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

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.

Short Course Provider (SCP)

Designed for providers who offer short courses of 26 weeks or less.

Online, Distance and Blended Learning (ODBL) scheme

Designed for established education and training providers who predominantly offer courses through online and distance teaching methods.

College scheme

Designed for education and training providers who deliver courses of over 26 weeks.

International Centre scheme

Designed for education and training providers who are based overseas and offer non-degree courses.

Independent 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)

Independent Higher Education (IHE) scheme

Designed for higher education institutes that offer full degree programmes.

International IHE institutions 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.



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.

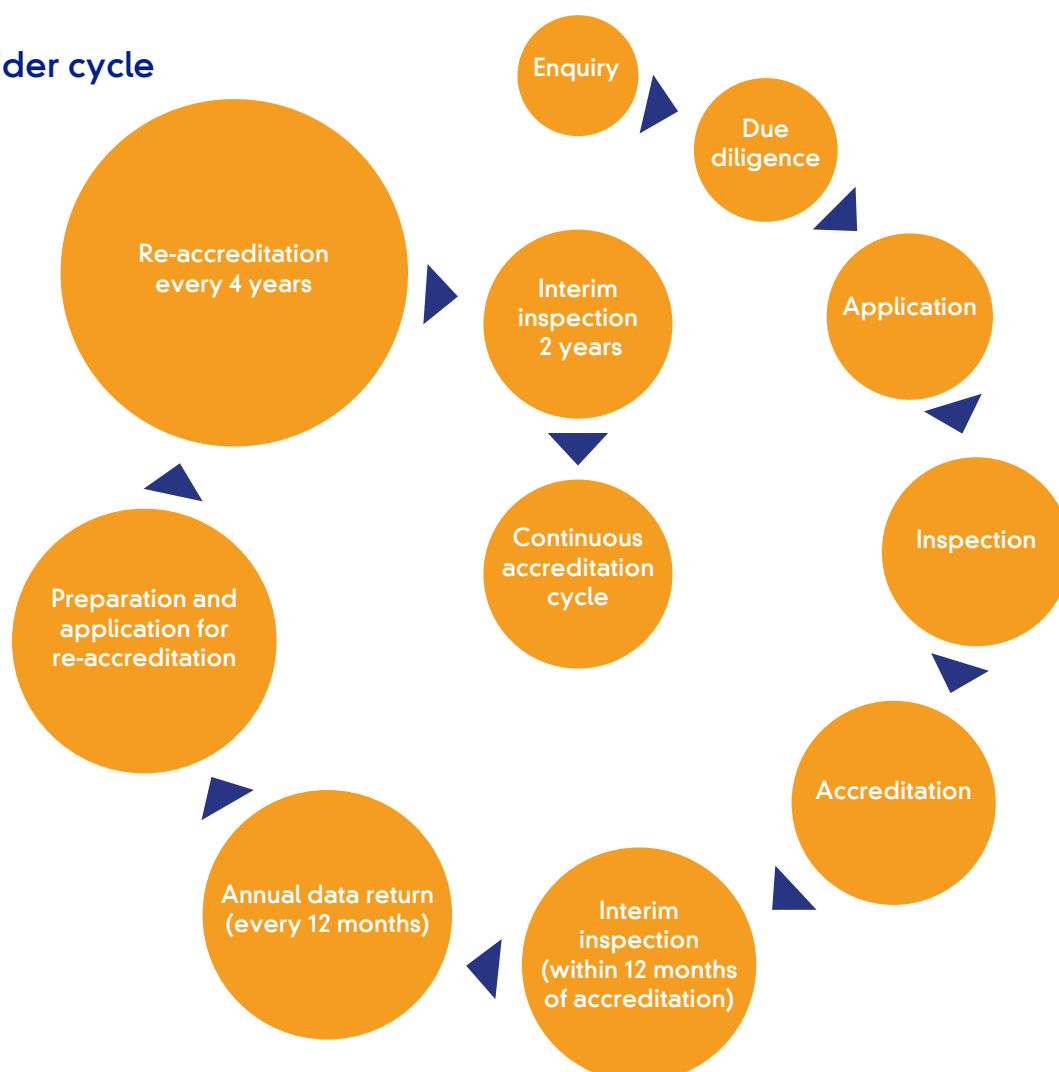
International providers are asked to arrange and book accommodation for our inspectors, and cover the cost of flights (booked by BAC) and local transport while inspectors are in the country.

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



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 being implemented across the entire higher education sector during the course of 2017.

Further inspections were later carried out for all of Bahrain's higher education institutions between 2018-2020.



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.



GHANA LTD.

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 re-accreditation 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:

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-focussed processes that build student confidence in institutional administrative systems and reduces the likelihood of reputational damage arising from disputes.



office of the
independent
adjudicator

'for students in higher education'

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 regular 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.

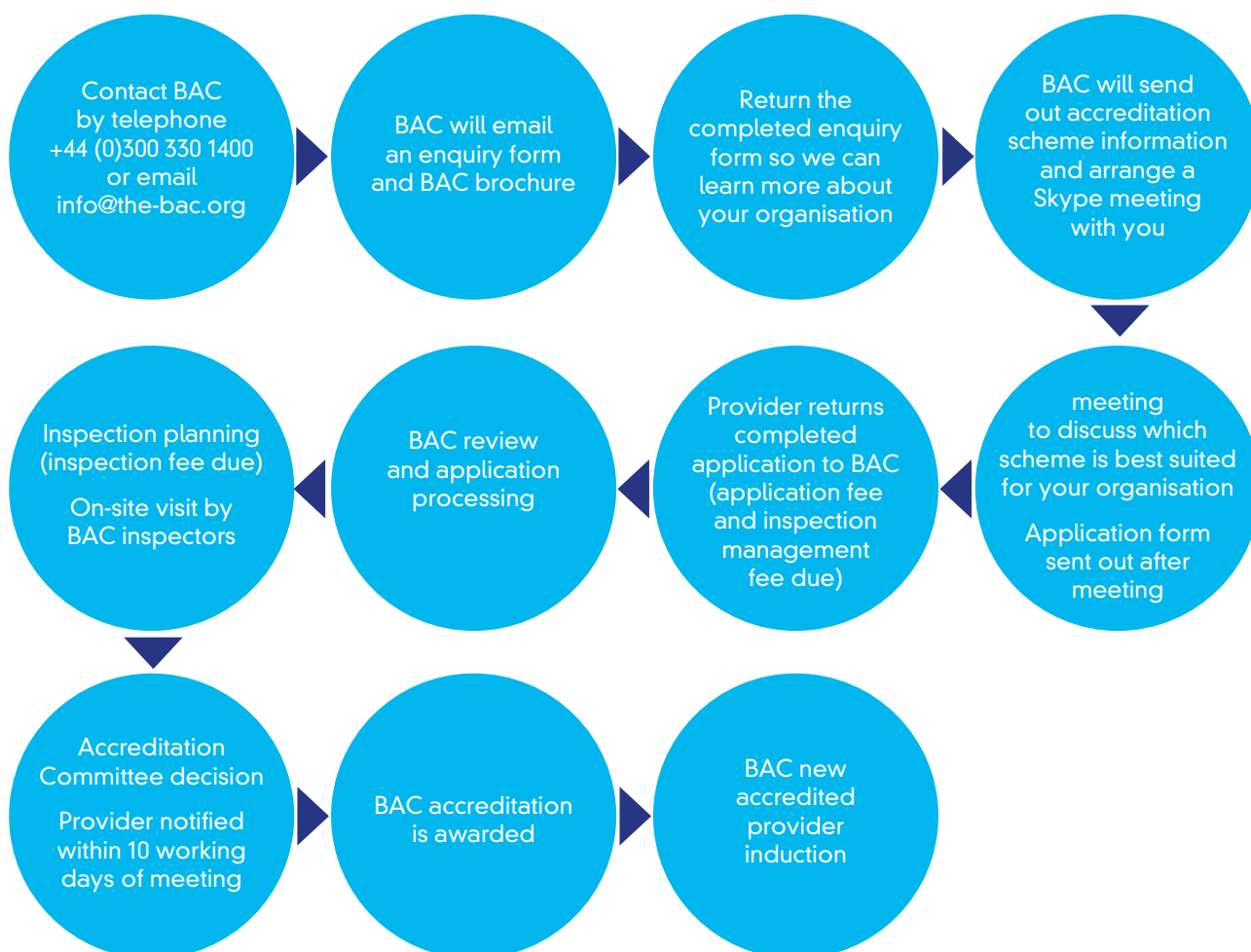


Expert network

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 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



Website: www.the-bac.org
email: info@the-bac.org

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

Company no: 1828990
Charity no: 326652