



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

RAISING STANDARDS
IN THE GLOBAL
EDUCATION MARKET



BAC
2023/24 Guide
to Accreditation
and Inspection
Fees



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There has been no increase to the
Fees this year.
Janet Bohrer, BAC CEO



BAC's 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 worldwide 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



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

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.



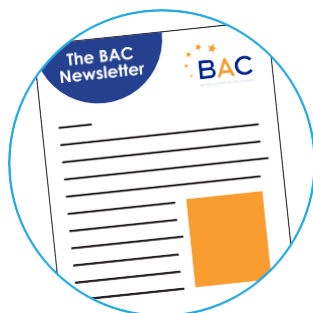
BAC Directory

Listing on the BAC Directory, allowing potential students and parents the opportunity to learn about how high quality your institution is.



Support staff

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



The BAC News

Regular BAC updates and news on the further and higher education sector.



Regular updates

Regular information bulletins offering ongoing support and advice regarding 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.

Working with BAC and the provider cycle

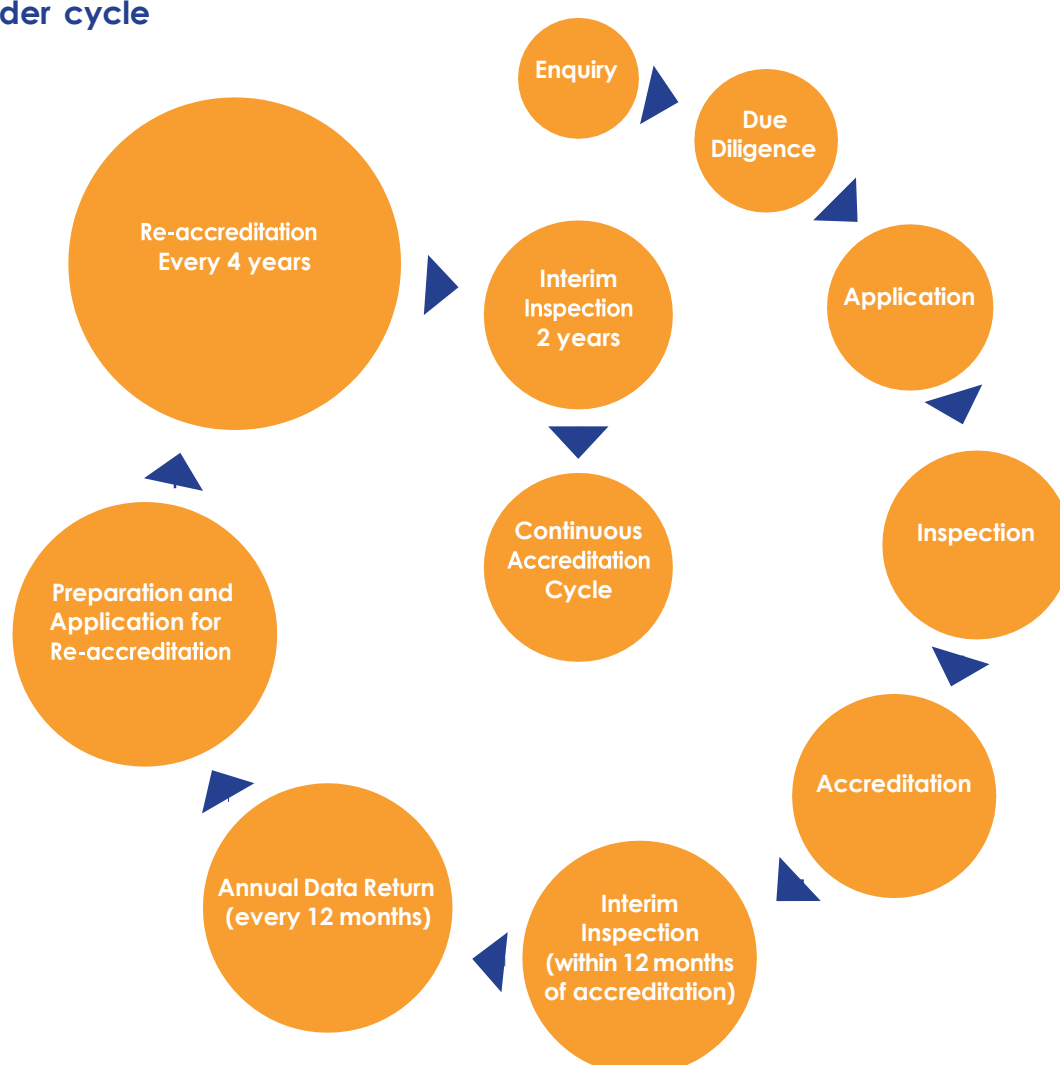
BAC fees are due at different stages in the provider cycle and vary according to the BAC scheme that providers are accredited under.

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 inspector accommodation and cover the cost of flights (booked by BAC) and local transport for inspectors whilst they are in country. Interim inspection fees are also applicable.

BAC collects accreditation fees by requesting the 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.

Provider cycle



Short Course Provider (SCP) scheme fees



- 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.

	Fee	Fee guidance
Application fee	£525	Non-refundable application fee to be submitted with the BAC application form.
Inspection management fee – payable with application fee	UK £1,995 Overseas £2,048	Payable with the application fee to initiate the accreditation process and inspection arrangements.
Inspection fee – payable prior to inspection date	Variable fee	Inspection fees are determined by BAC according to the size of the organisation and the number of inspectors needed to complete the inspection over the required number of days.

UK-based providers

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£824	£1,173.50	£1,648.50	£2,060.50	£2,452
2 inspectors	£2,315	£2,452	£3,297	£4,454.50	£4,945.50
3 inspectors	£2,452	£3,709	£4,945.50	£6,171.50	£7,418



Overseas-based providers

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£1,207.50	£1,549	£1,890	£2,494	£2,572.50
2 inspectors	£2,415	£3,097.50	£3,780	£4,987.50	£5,145
3 inspectors	£3,622.50	£4,646	£5,670	£7,481	£7,717.50



Please note that additional charges will be payable by the provider for inspectors' accommodation, flights and local transport.

For hybrid inspections, inspection costs might vary, and will be dependent on number of days / number of inspectors on-site.

Annual accreditation fees

Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low income countries.

UK-based providers who operate overseas may be able to use BAC accreditation to promote their overseas courses but will need to receive formal BAC approval.

	Fee	Fee guidance
Fee	£17.82	Fee per course day
Minimum fee cap	£446	The minimum fee payable (25 course days)
Maximum fee cap	£4,188	The maximum fee payable (235+ course days)
Additional Fee	£8.91	Per online student. Only students not included in the course day numbers

College scheme fees



- 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.

	Fee	Fee guidance
Application fee	£525	Non-refundable application fee to be submitted with the BAC application form.
Inspection management fee – payable with application fee	UK £1,995 Overseas £2,048	Payable with the application fee to initiate the accreditation process and inspection arrangements.
Inspection fee – payable prior to inspection date	Variable fee	Inspection fees are determined by BAC according to the size of the organisation and the number of inspectors needed to complete the inspection over the required number of days.

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Overseas-based providers

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2 inspectors	£2,415	£3,097.50	£3,780	£4,987.50	£5,145
3 inspectors	£3,622.50	£4,646	£5,670	£7,481	£7,717.50

Please note that additional charges will be payable by the provider for inspectors' accommodation, flights and local transport.

For hybrid inspections, inspection costs might vary, and will be dependent on number of days / number of inspectors on-site.

Annual accreditation fees

UK-based providers who operate overseas may be able to use BAC accreditation to promote their overseas courses but will need to receive formal BAC approval.

	UK	Overseas	Fee guidance
Fee	£15.59	£15.59	Fee per full time equivalent student
Minimum fee cap	£1,559 (100 students)	£1,559 (100 students)	The minimum fee payable
Maximum fee cap	£8,964 (575+ students)	£5,457 (350+ students)	The maximum fee payable
Additional fee	£7.80		Per online student. Only students not included in the number of students provided above



Candidacy Accreditation

New institutions, applying for the College, Short Course Provider or International Centre accreditation schemes, may undergo a staged inspection process to gain Candidacy Accreditation. Seasonal providers based in the UK, who want to recruit seasonal visa students using Standard Visitor Visa route, may also wish to apply for Candidacy Accreditation.

BAC will make the final decision on whether an institution should undergo a single inspection or staged inspections.

- Following the first inspection, if the decision of the Accreditation Committee is positive, the organisation will be awarded the status of 'approved candidate for BAC accreditation' for six months.
- The provider can then recruit students prior to (and in time for) the start of their courses.
- The second inspection must then be completed within six months, when teaching/training is taking place in order for the provider to gain full accreditation for four years.

There is a reduced Inspection Management Fee for the second inspection visit.

	Stage 2	Stage 3	Fee guidance
Application fee	£525	N/A	Non-refundable application fee to be submitted with the BAC application form.
Inspection management fee – payable with application fee	£1,995	£525	At Stage 2, payable with the application fee to initiate the accreditation process and inspection arrangements. At Stage 3, payable before inspection takes place.
Inspection fee – payable prior to inspection date	Variable fee	Variable fee	Inspection fees are determined by BAC according to the size of the organisation and the number of inspectors needed to complete the inspection over the required number of days (fees below)

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£824	£1,173.50	£1,648.50	£2,060.50	£2,452
2 inspectors	£2,315	£2,452	£3,297	£4,454.50	£4,945.50
3 inspectors	£2,452	£3,709	£4,945.50	£6,171.50	£7,418



Online, Distance and Blended Learning (ODBL) scheme fees



- 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.

	Fee	Fee guidance
Application fee	£525	Non-refundable application fee to be submitted with the BAC application form.
Inspection management fee – payable with application fee	UK £1,995	Payable with the application fee to initiate the accreditation process and inspection arrangements.
	Overseas £2,048	Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low income countries.
Inspection fee – payable prior to inspection date	Variable fee	Inspection fees are determined by BAC according to the size of the organisation and the number of inspectors needed to complete the inspection over the required number of days (fees below)

UK-based providers

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£824	£1,173.50	£1,648.50	£2,060.50	£2,452
2 inspectors	£2,315	£2,452	£3,297	£4,454.50	£4,945.50
3 inspectors	£2,452	£3,709	£4,945.50	£6,171.50	£7,418

Additional charges will be payable by the provider for inspectors' accommodation

Overseas-based providers

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£1,207.50	£1,549	£1,890	£2,494	£2,572.50
2 inspectors	£2,415	£3,097.50	£3,780	£4,987.50	£5,145
3 inspectors	£3,622.50	£4,646	£5,670	£7,481	£7,717.50

Please note that for hybrid inspections, inspection costs might vary, and will be dependent on number of days/ number of inspectors on-site.

Annual accreditation fees

Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low income countries.

Number of enrolled students	Fee
Up to 3,000	£1,670
3,001 – 8,000	£2,785
Over 8,000	£3,565



International Centre (IC) scheme fees



- 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 an inspection of management, staffing and administration of the organisation. The teaching, learning, assessment and quality management of courses will be inspected and learner welfare will be addressed.
- Achievement in these areas awards BAC accreditation for four years.

	Fee	Fee guidance
Application fee	£525	Non-refundable application fee to be submitted with the BAC application form.
Inspection management fee – payable with application	£2,048	Payable with the application fee to initiate the accreditation process and inspection arrangements. Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low income countries.
Inspection fee – payable prior to inspection date	Variable fee	Inspection fees are determined by BAC according to the size of the organisation and the number of inspectors needed to complete the inspection over the required number of days (fees below).

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£1,207.50	£1,549	£1,890	£2,494	£2,572.50
2 inspectors	£2,415	£3,097.50	£3,780	£4,987.50	£5,145
3 inspectors	£3,622.50	£4,646	£5,670	£7,481	£7,717.50

Please note that for hybrid inspections, inspection costs might vary, and will be dependent on number of days / number of inspectors on-site.

Please note that additional charges will be payable by the provider for inspectors' accommodation, flights and local transport.

Annual accreditation fees

Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low income countries.

Number of course days	Fee
Up to 2,000	£2,785
2,001 – 4,000	£4,196
Over 4,000	£5,321
Additional fee	£8.91 Per online student. Only students not included in the course day numbers



Independent English Language Provider (IELP) scheme fees



- Designed specifically to meet the needs of English language providers.
- Dedicated to ensuring students meet the external assessment requirements of recognised examinations from one of the following awarding bodies:
 - a) LanguageCert
 - b) Trinity College, London
 - c) Cambridge English
 - d) International English Language Test System (IELTS)
 - e) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
- 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 an inspection of management, staffing and administration of the organisation. The teaching, learning, assessment, and online, distance and blended learning and the quality assurance management of courses will be inspected and learner welfare will be addressed.
- Achievement in these areas awards BAC accreditation for four years.

	Fee	Fee guidance
Application fee	£525	Non-refundable application fee to be submitted with the BAC application form.
Inspection management fee – payable with application	UK £1,995	Payable with the application fee to initiate the accreditation process and inspection arrangements.
	Overseas £2,048	Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low income countries.
Inspection fee – payable prior to inspection date	Variable fee	Inspection fees are determined by BAC according to the size of the organisation and the number of inspectors needed to complete the inspection over the required number of days (fees below).

UK-based providers

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£824	£1,173.50	£1,648.50	£2,060.50	£2,452
2 inspectors	£2,315	£2,452	£3,297	£4,454.50	£4,945.50
3 inspectors	£2,452	£3,709	£4,945.50	£6,171.50	£7,418

Additional charges will be payable by the provider for inspectors' accommodation

Overseas-based providers

	1 day	1.5 days	2 days	2.5 days	3 days
1 inspector	£1,207.50	£1,549	£1,890	£2,494	£2,572.50
2 inspectors	£2,415	£3,097.50	£3,780	£4,987.50	£5,145
3 inspectors	£3,622.50	£4,646	£5,670	£7,481	£7,717.50

Please note that for hybrid inspections, inspection costs might vary, and will be dependent on number of days/ number of inspectors on-site.

Annual accreditation fees

Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low income countries.

Number of student hours/student weeks	Fee
Less than 55,000 student hours/3,000 student weeks per annum	£2,704
55,000+ student hours/up to 6,000 student weeks per annum	£4,074
110,000+ student hours/9,000+ student weeks per annum	£5,166

Independent Higher Education (IHE) scheme fees



- Designed for higher education institutes that offer full degree programmes, either through the authority to award degrees or through a collaborative partnership with another degree-awarding organisation.
- 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 following areas:
 - governance, strategy, and financial management
 - general and academic management, and administration
 - teaching, learning, and assessment
 - student support, guidance, and progression
 - premises, facilities, and learning resources
 - quality management, assurance, and enhancement
 - online, distance, and blended learning.

Achievement in these areas awards BAC accreditation for four years.

	Fee	Fee guidance
Application fee	£525	Non-refundable application fee to be submitted with the BAC application form.
Inspection management fee – payable with application	UK £2,625	Payable with the application fee to initiate the accreditation process and inspection arrangements.
	Overseas £2,678	Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle income and low-income countries.
Inspection fee – payable prior to inspection date	Variable fee	Inspection fees are determined by BAC according to the size of the organisation and the number of inspectors needed to complete the inspection over the required number of days (fees below).

UK-based providers

	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days
2 inspectors and 1 student inspector	£2,840	£4,480	£6,225	£7,225	£9,100
3 inspectors and 1 student inspector	£3,570	£6,025	£8,530	£10,990	£12,850

Overseas-based providers

	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days
2 inspectors and 1 student inspector	£3,444	£4,760	£6,240	£7,890	£9,335
3 inspectors and 1 student inspector	£4,390	£6,480	£8,570	£11,120	£13,100

Annual accreditation fees

Please see page 15 for information about discounts for middle and low-income countries.

	UK	Overseas	Fee guidance
Fee	£15.59	£15.59	Fee per full time equivalent student
Minimum fee cap	£1,559 (100 students)	£1,559 (100 students)	The minimum fee payable
Maximum fee cap	£8,964 (575+ students)	£5,457 (350+ students)	The maximum fee payable
Additional fee	£7.80		Per online student. Only students not included in the number of students provided above

Student inspectors are included in all higher education inspections

Additional charges will be payable by the provider for inspectors' accommodation, flights and local transport.

For hybrid inspections, inspection costs might vary, and will be dependent on number of days/number of inspectors on-site.

Discounts

Providers from all countries should have the opportunity to be recognised for the quality of their provision.

As well as providing clear guidance to prospective students, BAC aims to encourage continuing improvement in the general standard and quality of independent further and higher education in the UK and overseas.

Therefore, BAC are pleased to be able to offer the following discounts to low and middle income countries:

- 70% discount on Inspection Management Fee and Annual Accreditation Fees for Low income countries.
- 40% discount on Inspection Management Fee and Annual Accreditation Fees for Middle income countries.

Low Income, Middle Income and High-Income countries are based on World Bank definitions which can be found at <https://data.worldbank.org/>

Please note: discounts are only applicable to institutions with a turnover (annual revenue) of £2 million or less.

Inspection management fee

	SCP	ODBL	IELP	IC	IHE
Middle income	£1,229	£1,229	£1,229	£1,229	£1,607
Low income	£614	£614	£614	£614	£803

Annual accreditation fees

	SCP Course days	ODBL Student numbers	IELP Student hours/ Student weeks	IC Course days	IHE Student numbers
Unit fee	£11	N/A	N/A	N/A	£9
Middle income country Minimum fee	£268 0-25 course days	£1,002 0-3,000 students	£1,622 Less than 55,000 student hours/ 3,000 student weeks per annum	£1,671 0-2,000 course days	£936 0-100 students
		£1,671 3,001-8,000 students	£2,444 55,000+ student hours/ up to 6,000 student weeks per annum	£2,518 2,001-4,000 course days	
Middle income country Maximum cap	£2,513 235+ course days	£2,139 8,000+ students	£3,100 110,000+ student hours/9,000+ student weeks per annum	£3,193 4,000+ course days	£3,274 350+ students
Unit fee	£5	N/A	N/A	N/A	£5
Low income country Minimum fee	£134 0-25 course days	£501 0-3,000 students	£811 Less than 55,000 student hours/ 3,000 student weeks per annum	£835 0-2,000 course days	£468 0-100 students
		£835 3,001-8,000 students	£1,222 55,000+ student hours/ up to 6,000 student weeks per annum	£1,259 2,001-4,000 course days	
Low income country Maximum cap	£1,256 235+ course days	£1,069 8,000+ students	£1,550 110,000+ student hours/9,000+ student weeks per annum	£1,596 4,000+ course days	£1,637 350+ students

Other BAC fees

Interim inspection

An interim inspection will take place during the first 12 months of accreditation for newly accredited providers (or after 2 years for existing providers).

Interim inspections are usually for one day, but we reserve the right to extend the length of the inspection where necessary.

Interim inspection fees apply to all providers.

UK based providers

Full day – £945

Overseas based providers

Full day – £1,785, plus travel/accommodation (or £945 if conducted online)

Supplementary inspection

A supplementary inspection may be required after a significant change in the premises, management or academic programme at your institution. It may also be carried out to support a provider, check actions have been completed or follow up from a previous inspection.

UK based providers

Half day – £735

Full day – £945

Overseas based providers

Full day – £1,785, plus travel and accommodation (or £945 if conducted online)

Spot check

Spot checks are carried out for BAC's monitoring purposes or due to concerns raised or a complaint being made which is of a serious enough nature that BAC feels an on-site inspection is necessary.

£945 (or no fee, if institution is selected at random).

Probation Review Inspection

A provider may be awarded probation accreditation following any type of inspection. The Accreditation Committee may award probation for 6 months with an end of probation inspection or 12 months, with a mid-way probation inspection and an end of probation inspection.

UK based providers

Half day – £735

Full day – £945

Overseas based providers

Full day - £1,785, plus travel and accommodation (or £945 if conducted online)

All inspections – Cancellations, Appeals, Refunds

Cancellation of inspection with less than 4 weeks' notice – £100 per inspector per day (plus any expenses incurred).

Accreditation decision appeal hearing – £1,500 (to be refunded if appeal is not dismissed).

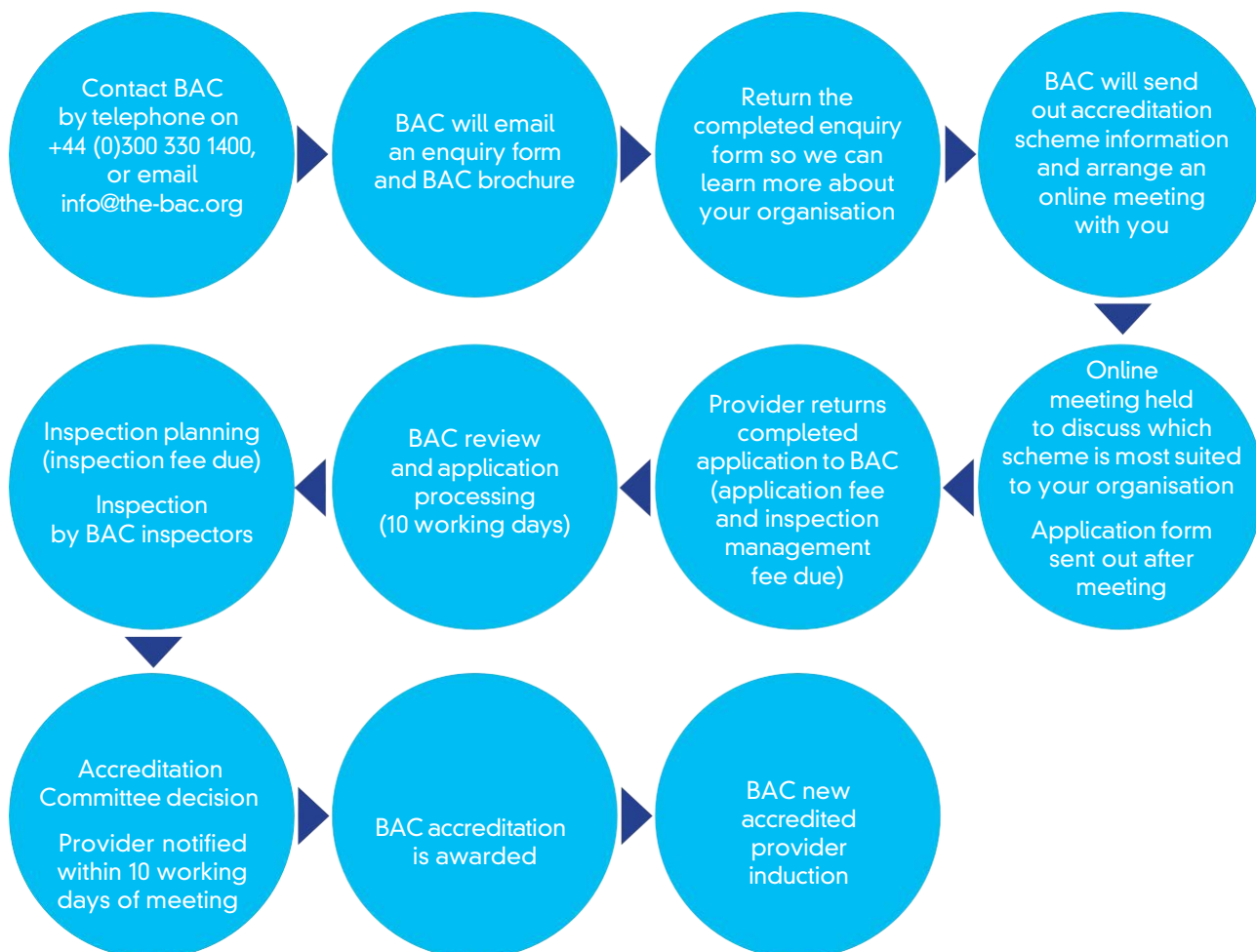
If an application is withdrawn before an inspection, the provider is entitled to a partial refund of 75% of the Inspection Management fee.

Refunds can only be made within one year of original payment.



BAC accreditation process and support

Contact us today to discuss becoming a BAC accredited provider.



All BAC accredited providers will receive dedicated ongoing support from the BAC team with additional help for new providers to 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 inspection and quality assurance process
- Tailored induction for new providers and re-accreditation guidance for existing BAC providers.

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





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