

**One Awards
Access Validating
Agency
20th Anniversary
1996-2016
*A brief history***



1996

Access to HE regulated by the HEQC

Teesside Region Open College
Network (TROCN) is licensed as an
AVA by HEQC as a department of the
University of Teesside

828 students are registered

Average student age is 30

1997

**Access to HE regulation
transfers to QAA**

**TROCN unitises all Access to
HE provision in the North East**

842 students registered

1998

**Initial version of QAA Access to
HE Recognition Scheme
approved**

**TROCN and University of
Teesside publish the Access to
HE Prospectus and distributes
this throughout the North East**

1140 students registered

1998: The University of Teesside sponsors the first TROCN (Teesside Regional Open College Network) Access to Higher Education booklet for mature students which is distributed throughout the North East.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Derek Fraser said:

“As the ‘Opportunity University’ we are proud of our long history of encouraging university entry from Access students and of helping colleges with the expansion of Access courses.”

Pictured left to right:
Professor Fraser,
Kathy Dunn,
Karan Green,
Edna Donnelly and
Angela Shaw



1999

**Definitive QAA Access to HE
Recognition Scheme approved**

**TROCN strengthens links with
HE partners via the widening
participation initiatives**

1170 students registered

2000

**The Learning and Skills Act 2000
published by the Learning and Skills
Council**

**TROCN leaves the University of Teesside
and becomes an independent charitable
company**

1082 students are registered

Average age rises to 31!

2000: 1st TROCN Adult Learner Awards - A great learner (Evening Gazette)

A caring mum is making up for lost time in her education, Amanda Jackson, 33 may have left school without any qualifications but she is now set to start university.

Mum of one Amanda plans to study for an Occupational Therapy Degree at Teesside University and is the first recipient of the Teesside Regional Open College Network Adult Learners Award.

Amanda was nominated in recognition of the commitment she had shown in completing her Access course. Now Amanda hopes she will be an inspiration to her 15 year old daughter Siobhan-Caitlin.

“I thought if I went to college and chose what I want to do, my daughter might follow in my footsteps”.

2001

**QAA publishes detailed AVA
licensing criteria**

**Dave Rippon appointed by TROCN
as first Access to HE Manager**



1464 students registered

2002

**Minimum Access to HE
registration age removed.
LSA funds 19+ learners**

**TROCN sees 10% increase in
learner achievement**

1396 students registered

2003

Government publishes the White Paper 'The Future of Higher Education' and QAA is asked to modernise the Access to HE qualification

TROCN undergoes 1st QAA review and is commended

17% increase in student registration to 1624

2004

QAA publishes new framework. Access becomes a credit based graded Diploma

TROCN launches Regional Access Programme

1565 students registered

2005

Tony Blair secures historic third term as Prime Minister

TROCN and NEOCN merge to become OCN North East Region

1406 students registered

Average student age falls to 29!

2006

**Access to HE 60 credit framework
introduced by QAA.**

**Government recognises
Access to HE's special case and
continues to fund the qualification**

**OCNNER, NIACE and NOCN hold joint
'Access Matters' Conference**

1259 students registered

2006: From Learner to Teacher

Barbara Armstrong is a shining example of how Return to Learn Programmes can encourage adult learners back into education, and motivate them to progress further than they would previously have dreamed possible.



Barbara achieved the Access to Higher Education Programme at City of Sunderland College and then gained a place at the University of Sunderland, on their Primary School Education course. This is a 4-year programme, which will provide Barbara with the teaching qualification she so richly deserves.

2007

**Tony Blair resigns as Prime Minister
and is succeeded by Gordon Brown**

**OCNNER appoint Susan Kirby as
Access to HE Manager**



1157 students registered

2008

QAA launches national grading pilot with AVAs and providers

OCNNER takes part in the national grading pilot with Newcastle College

1287 students registered

2008: Learning with OCN North East Region, gives Hellen passport to success

Hellen Duncan, a single mother and currently unemployed enrolled on to an Access to HE Diploma (Humanities and Social Sciences) at Redcar and Cleveland College which transformed her life.

Hellen describes her experience whilst studying the Diploma:

“No one within my family has previously been in adult or Higher Education and everyone was so helpful and caring. The encouragement I received and through hard work and sheer determination I achieved the Access to HE Diploma.”



Hellen went on to receive first prize at Passport Plus, which offers a £1,000 scholarship and sponsorship for her degree. She is currently studying for a Degree in Criminology at Teesside University.

2009

QAA Grading Scheme for Access to HE Diploma introduced

OCNNER appoint Jennie Lawson as Access to HE Manager



1537 students registered – a 30% increase

2009: OCN Learner presented with Award by Chair of Ofqual

Paula Wilson won the OCN North East Region Access to HE Learner Award.

Paula left school with few qualifications and worked at an insurance company for some time. After being diagnosed with cancer, she re-evaluated her life and decided she wanted to work with children. Paula embarked on the Access to HE programme accredited by OCNNER which gave her a new impetus, as her illness had left her with low self-esteem and social anxiety disorder problems.

She grew in confidence at each session and is now a different person to the one who started the programme. Paula is currently studying for a Primary Education Studies Degree at Sunderland University.

Pictured is Paula Wilson receiving her award from Kathleen Tattersall OBE, Chair of Ofqual.



2010

**David Cameron becomes Prime
Minister in a Coalition
Government**

OCNNER registers 1690 students

Average student age is 28!

2011

**BIS publishes Higher Education:
Students at the Heart of our
System**

**OCNNER launches the Access to
HE Results service for HEIs which
significantly speeds up the
acceptances process**

1338 students registered

2011: Janice achieves double award success

Janice has always wanted to be a nurse, but having left school without qualifications in maths or biology, and having been advised to seek work in an office, shop or factory, she felt that the dream was beyond her reach.

A Return to Learn advisor at Northumbria University recommended the OCN Access to HE Diploma (Health) course which she undertook at Newcastle College.

Janice says: “I cannot believe how my life has changed since enrolling on and completing this course; I was never once made to feel stupid and my confidence soared with the support of my tutors and each grade I achieved. I now have the learning ‘bug’ and just want to keep expanding my life through education”.

Janice was also the joint winner of the Regional Access to HE Student Achievement Award.



Janice Tinnion (left) receiving her award from Louise Morritt, OCNNER.

2012

UK universities take four of the top six global rankings

OCNNER works with Darlington Borough Council on innovative suite of Access to HE Diplomas

1569 students registered

2013

**Government introduces the
24+ Adult Learning Loan**

**OCNNER expands number of
providers from 14 to 21**

**A record
2578 students are registered**

2014

**New Access to HE Diploma
Specification launched by QAA**

**OCN North East Region
becomes
One Awards**

2172 students are registered



2015

QAA completes AVA reviews. All Access results are transmitted to UCAS directly for the first time

One Awards works with the Gatsby Foundation on offering the RSCiTech initiative

2272 students are registered

Average student age reaches 27!

1996-2016

Top five female and male student names over the last 20 years:

Female	Male
Sarah	David
Joanne	Andrew
Emma	Paul
Laura	Michael
Lisa	Christopher

We have registered 29,376 learners
Largest age group is 21-29 years old
Oldest learner was 92!