

# **AVA monitoring: individual feedback to ONE AWARDS on the September submission**

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **AVA monitoring: individual feedback to ONE Awards on the September submission - approved by the Access Recognition and Licensing Committee 15 November 2017**

#### **Outcome**

- 1 From the evidence provided in the September submission it is concluded that the outcome for ONE Awards is:
  - 1.1. **Part 1: Statement of compliance follow up**  
Report approved, AVA confirmed as compliant with all licensing criteria
  - 1.2. **Part 2: Annual grading report and Standards Action Plan**  
Report accepted, Standards Action Plan approved

#### **Summary**

- 2 The May submission identified a number of unmet Licensing criteria. The AVA was required to report progress in addressing each unmet criterion in the September submission. An examination of the evidence confirms that all unmet licensing criteria have now been met.
- 3 The report adheres fully to the QAA guidance and is fully referenced. The clear structure makes it easy to read and navigate. The AVA provides a detailed analysis of its grading data, discussed with reference to clearly presented charts and tables. The analysis is comprehensive and links to the standards action plan.
- 4 The AVA has provided a comprehensive grading standards action plan. Actions flow logically from the analysis and are cross-referenced with the QAA's analytical framework. The actions are clear, specific and measurable, and the plan includes appropriate timescales for completion of the work. The reporting arrangements for each action are also specified. When completed, the actions in place should enable the AVA to demonstrate continued compliance with the licensing criteria.
- 5 The AVA has fully complied with the requirements outlined in the QAA guidance. All data is clearly presented and appropriately referenced. The detail and comprehensiveness of the report demonstrates the AVA's full engagement in the monitoring process.

#### **Compliance with the licensing criteria**

##### **Part 1: statement of compliance follow up**

- 6 In the May submission the AVA identified a number of unmet Licensing criteria: LC29, LC50c, LC52, LC97, LC98, LC99, LC103 and LC112c. The AVA already had a clear action plan to address each of these, and in the September submission has provided evidence which explicitly addresses progress against each unmet criterion. The AVA is taking appropriate steps to manually check that data is secure, while continuing to explore a bespoke IT system to address licensing criterion LC112c. An examination of the evidence confirms that all unmet licensing criteria have now been met.

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- 7 No strengths, examples of good practice or weaknesses were identified in Part 1 of the submission.

### **Part 2: Annual grading report and Standards Action Plan**

- 8 The report is well structured and follows the template headings. The contents page, summary and conclusion make the report easy to navigate. The report provides very detailed information about its provision.
- 9 Clear information is given about the distribution of Pass, Merit and Distinction grades over a four-year period, cross-referenced with national data from QAA. The data is further broken down to show the variety of subject areas, as well as the grade profiles for each provider. An analysis is provided of potential factors influencing the variations between learners' different levels of achievement. All this data is discussed with explicit reference to clearly formulated tables and charts. At appropriate points, the report signposts the reader to the action plan.
- 10 The conclusion flows logically from the data considered in the main body of the report, referring to the outcome of previous investigations, mapped to the QAA analytical framework, and clearly identifies the themes to be investigated in 2017-18. The AVA has identified a range of actions to explore factors which impact on grade profiles across providers and Diplomas. In addition, the AVA has drawn up a specific action plan to be undertaken with each of the providers whose ABB+ profiles fall outside the QAA tolerances.
- 11 The AVA has discussed with individual providers whose ABB+ profiles fall outside the QAA tolerances their position with regard to the ABB+ tolerance levels. The providers are undertaking an internal analysis of their grade profile to report to the AVA. These reports and findings will be discussed at the Annual Quality meetings. This constructive engagement with providers is noted as a strength

### **Hindsight report requested**

- 12 A hindsight report is not requested.

### **Feedback on hindsight report where submitted**

- 13 The AVA did not submit a hindsight report.

### **Purpose of the submission**

- 14 The submission provides an AVA with the opportunity to confirm it is fully compliant with the licensing criteria and demonstrate management of standards. AVA grading standards action plans will be followed up through the grading standards action plan report in the February submission.
- 15 Based on the recommendations arising from reviewers' scrutiny of the submission the Access Recognition and Licensing Committee takes a view of compliance with the licensing criteria. Where any issues of compliance are identified, individual AVAs will be required to attend a review interview.