

# Access Briefing 1

## February 2007

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## Age Limit for Access Provision Lifted

The QAA announced in January that in response to the introduction of age discrimination legislation (Employment Equality [Age] Regulations 2006), and following discussions with the DfES, it has revised its guidance for the admission of students to QAA recognised Access to HE courses, as it relates to the minimum age for registration.

**The QAA has now removed the requirement that prospective students must be at least 19 years of age when they start an Access to HE course.** The change was made with immediate effect. QAA stated that they will issue new guidance in due course following further discussions with the DfES and other agencies.

OCNSER would advise centres to exercise caution with regard to recruitment of prospective students under 19 years of age at commencement of an Access course for 2007-08. Centres might wish to check with the LSC re funding for such students on Access to HE provision.

For Centres completing Access Course Recognition documents for re-validation of Access courses, we advise that you do not refer to any age range under target group but instead profile the general characteristics of potential Access learners, e.g. those who have not benefited from mainstream educational provision, who have a life experience which makes them better suited to the Access route etc.



We will provide you with further guidance once we have received further information from the QAA. In the meantime if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your OCN Development Manager.

Further information can be found at [www.qaa.ac.uk/access](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/access) and regional information can be found at [www.ocnser.org.uk](http://www.ocnser.org.uk)

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