

### **FE licence model for Quality Assurance is suspended**

During 2010, we have been discussing with you the need for greater autonomy around QA and assessment, and in response we have been actively developing a new FE licence model.

However, our ongoing work with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has recently brought to light important quality issues which impact on the FE licence model, and the way we have thought about the delivery of our Higher National suite in FE colleges.

As a result, in order to preserve the quality of our BTEC HNs and meet the national expectations for assuring higher education quality and standards published by QAA, we will not be able to offer these qualifications for delivery under a new FE licence model, and will instead be returning to the previous quality assurance model where Edexcel will take responsibility for allocating external examiners to FE colleges running BTEC Higher Nationals.

The reduced fee structure of HNs that had been embedded within the FE licence model will also no longer apply. If you need more information on fees, please do contact your Curriculum Development Manager, [CDM], who will be happy to discuss this with you further.

With the drive for increased autonomy in FE and the potential introduction of Foundation Degree and Taught Degree awarding powers very much front of mind, we are committed to continuing our work with Colleges on reviewing our QA model for higher education in the future, and we will keep you in touch with developments.

### **Appointment of External Examiners - next steps**

In the immediate term, we want to ensure you are fully supported in effecting a smooth transition back to the previous QA model.

If you have already appointed external examiners, please contact your Regional Quality Manager who will be happy to take their details. The delivery team in London will then explore the possibility of recruiting them onto Edexcel's team of external examiners. If they are successfully recruited, these external examiners will then be allocated to your centre.

If you have not yet appointed external examiners, you no longer need to do so and we will be in touch in due course about implementing the quality assurance process.

### **Your quality assurance model for BTEC Higher Nationals**

In essence, the quality model will now continue to work as it has for the past ten years.

Edexcel will appoint external examiners to programme groups in centres, and these external examiners will continue their visits to review the outcomes of internal assessment.

This will be effective immediately, and you should expect to receive your allocation of external examiners in the usual way towards the end of December 2010.

### **Your feedback on our future development plans**

We are also exploring some exciting new opportunities to enhance our BTEC Higher National portfolio and will be inviting you to give us your feedback on our development plans later in the year. We look forward to meeting and talking with you then.

We apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause you, and we remain confident that continuing the existing QA model will provide robust, high quality assessment for you and your learners. Please do contact me directly if you have any further questions about our quality assurance procedures for this academic year.

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