Partnerships in Validation and Accreditation

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British Accreditation Council: its role

- Established in 1984
- Leading UK provider of accreditation services for independent further and higher education
- Dedicated to establishing and raising standards
- Organisation structure
- Strong relations with many Government and sector bodies

Accreditation

- Awarded by the Accreditation Committee
- Period of up to four years
- Expect development and progress over this period i.e. long-term commitment from the institution
- Monitoring of accredited institutions
  - Spot check and interim inspections
  - Complaints procedures
  - Supplementary inspections
  - Detailed annual return (including annual accounts, student cohort progression and annual declaration)

Some statistics

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Applications received	160	218	135
Inspections conducted	237	390	600
Number of new institutions receiving accreditation	46	162	140
Total number of accredited UK institutions	255	367	488

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Full-time equivalent (FTE) students	66,586	89,954	110,921
% FTE change	NA	+35%	+23%
Actual student numbers (including full- and part-time)	138,352	157,775	178,675
% actual student number change	NA	+14%	+13%

HE provision

- *177 BAC-accredited institutions offer some HE provision*
  - *including over 1100 degree courses, 180 university-validated courses and 1060 courses from other validating bodies.*
- *They have links with 60 UK universities and 55 overseas universities, with over 30,000 degree students and 5220 students on non-degree university-validated awards.*
- *Of these, 22,550 and 3330 respectively are studying for UK university awards.*

Independent sector

- Scope & strengths
- Student profile
- Immigration & education?
- Student routes review
- Browne Review
- Degree awarding powers

Public-private partnerships: BAC's role

- Identification of institutions subject to broad external review of quality systems
- Further layer of review, complimenting university assessment
- Detailed inspection reports, outlining strengths and areas to work on
- Information sharing agreements
- Close links with regulators
- Joint events with CVU

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