



DistanceLearningCentre.com

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What's new at DistanceLearningCentre.com?

Welcome to the March 2019 newsletter!



We hope you have enjoyed some of the recent amazing weather - spring is almost here, although its not quite with us yet!

As always at the DistanceLearningCentre.com we are looking for ways we can develop and improve our service and support for students and have shared some of the ways we are doing this with you in this months newsletter, enjoy!

New.....Mobile Phones

New ways to contact your tutor

In February all the tutors received their new DistanceLearningCentre.com mobile phones. Your tutor will now be using these to make phone calls and send texts to you and you can contact your tutor on their mobile.

The best way to do this is to use WhatsApp as tutors use this app both on their phones and computers so there is less chance that your message will be missed.

Your tutor will of course still be using email and Skype to contact you too but we hope that everyone will be able to make the most of other ways of keeping in touch!

We have updated the [Student Contact Policy](#) to reflect the use of mobiles by tutors – you can find this on your learner account under [Policies and Procedures](#) in the toolkit.



New.....qualifications



English Functional Skills

We are now able to offer qualifications in Functional Skills in BOTH English and Maths. We are **the only education provider to offer these 100% online**, including all the assessments. So, unlike other providers you do not have to try to find somewhere to take the exams. **Many universities will accept these qualifications in place of GCSE** to meet their entry requirements, although not all of them do, and so it is important that you ask your university about this.

You can study Functional Skills alongside your Access Diploma units – if this is something you would like to do please contact your tutor or student services. More information about the [Functional Skills courses](#) can be found on our website.

If you are completing Functional Skills with us you are entitled to apply for a bursary (up to £500) to cover the cost of travel, textbooks and technology / equipment. Further information about this can be found [here](#).

Newoptions for UCAS

UCAS Extra

If you have used all 5 choices in your UCAS Application and are not holding any offers, there is no need to wait for clearing before exploring other options for university courses. UCAS Extra started at the end of February and through Extra you can apply for a different course or university.

This means that all your choices must be either:

- unsuccessful,
- you've declined any offers or,
- cancelled any choices you have not received decisions for.

If you are eligible to use Extra in the 'Your choices' section of Track on your UCAS application the option to 'Add an Extra choice' will become available. If you would like to add a further university click on this link and enter the details of the university and course – UCAS will then make your application available to them.

You don't need to use the Extra option right now but if you do find yourself eligible for this you can use it anytime up to early July.

If you would like to apply for a different course – say Nursing rather than Midwifery, you can't change your personal statement, so if you're applying for a course that's different from your initial choices, it's a good idea to contact the university or college you are applying to through Extra. Explain to them

you've changed your mind and offer to send them a revised personal statement.

You can read more about UCAS Extra [here](#)



New.....How to guide

How to Understand the UCAS Process

There are several 'How to Guides' in the materials area of your learner account. These guides contain a range of useful advice and information on a variety of topics including help with IT, Understanding Grading and Planning and Writing Essays.

We have uploaded a new 'how to.....' guide in the materials area. This guide is all about the application process to university through UCAS with advice on avoiding unsuccessful applications, researching your degree and completing your UCAS form.

All the 'How to.... Guides' are freely available on the materials page and don't need a password.

DistanceLearningCentre.com in Gloucester!

Rebecca Smith and Janet Preece – two of our tutors – attended a conference at QAA at the end of January.

QAA is the regulatory body for all Access Diplomas and work directly with Awarding Bodies to monitor and regulate the provision of Access Diplomas across England and Wales.

The meeting was useful to ensure that we remain up to date and well informed about Diploma provision to ensure we are offering the best possible service to all of our students.

As a result of the meeting we are now involved in several working groups looking at Diploma provision into the future!

Here are Janet and Rebecca outside Gloucester Cathedral.



QAA

New..... Examinations Officer!



We are thrilled to welcome Will to our team as examinations officer! Will is based in the Central Office and his role involves (amongst many other things) ensuring that all your grades are reported correctly to the Awarding Body and that you all receive your Diploma Certificates after certification!

Will has a wicked sense of humour - here is his poem to introduce himself to you all.....

He has an undergrad degree in Politics,
He enjoys music, fun and frolics,
He now officiates exams,
He hates email spam,
And he's never been described as bucolic.

He tells us that frolics is a very difficult word to rhyme with! From his final line its clear the rural life isn't for Will! Welcome to the team!

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