

What are the deadlines for registration?

OSCA registration is available from 15 September. If you wish to participate in the Exemplar Material Exercise you must register by 31 October to ensure that you have access to the full range of portfolios.

I already have an OSCA registration. What do I need to do next?

If you registered during 2007/8 (whether you achieved accreditation or not) you should renew your registration for the current academic year on Edexcel Online. Registration renewal should be completed by 31 October 2008.

Where can I get more information about OSCA and Accreditation?

Please visit our website www.edexcel.com. Alternatively, contact Edexcel Customer Enquiries at www.edexcel.com/ask or Edexcel Online customer support on 0844 576 0024.

For further information please contact us at:
Edexcel, One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH
Tel: 0844 576 0031
Minicom: 0870 240 3941
Fax: 020 7190 5700
Online: www.edexcel.com/ask
www.edexcel.com

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For the attention of DiDA Programme
Leaders/Department Heads

OSCA AND ACCREDITATION 2008/9

DiDA

What is OSCA?

OSCA (Online Support for Centre Assessors) is an Edexcel system which allows centres to develop understanding, receive feedback and demonstrate an ability to assess accurately. Successful participation in OSCA activities enables Programme Leaders/Department Heads to become *accredited*.

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What happens when I have been accredited through the OSCA system?

Accredited Programme Leaders/Department Heads are able to award marks for DiDA without eportfolios being subject to external moderation by Edexcel.¹

Once I have been accredited, for how long do I retain this status?

Accreditation will last for the remainder of the academic year in which it is granted and for the following two academic years.

Once accredited, assessors must renew their registration at the beginning of each academic year.

What happens if I move to another centre? Do I lose my accredited status?

No. Once granted, your accredited status stays with you wherever you fulfil the role of DiDA Programme Leader.

What is the fee for OSCA registration?

The OSCA/Accreditation support package (including access to a wide range of exemplar/training material) is offered completely free of charge to all DiDA teams.

How do I become accredited?

There are two routes to accreditation:

Route 1:

The Exemplar Material Exercise

Accreditation is granted to any Programme Leader whose team have accurately assessed the required number of 'exemplar' eportfolios (a detailed explanation of the accreditation criteria is provided online).

How does the Exemplar Material Exercise work?

There are three Exemplar Material Exercise 'windows', each presenting a range of eportfolios for you to assess and mark online. At the end of each window, commentaries completed by a DiDA unit specialist are made available for viewing and comparison with your own assessment. This allows you to apply the knowledge gained through your participation in each consecutive window.

Exemplar material for all DiDA units is provided, allowing you to decide which units to seek accreditation for. However, you are strongly encouraged to participate in all three windows to ensure you have access to the full range of eportfolios.

When is the Exemplar Material Exercise available?

The Exemplar Material Exercise windows will be available as follows:

Window One: 27 October until 7 December

Window Two: 19 January until 1 March

Window Three: 9 March until 12 April

However participation requires you to first register online as an OSCA Programme Leader.

Route 2:

Formal Moderation

Units assessed accurately during 'formal' moderation windows will also count as evidence in support of accreditation, provided that the Programme Leader has registered for OSCA Accreditation.

If you have submitted a full sample of accurately-assessed eportfolios during the summer window, you can apply for immediate accreditation without completing the Exemplar Material Exercise.

So how do I register on the OSCA system?

STEP 1: Nominate your centre's Programme Leader for DiDA. The 'Programme Leader' is defined as the individual with overall responsibility for the delivery of DiDA eportfolio assessment.

STEP 2: Ensure the Programme Leader is registered with Edexcel Online. If you are already a registered centre, contact the Edexcel Online administrator at your centre to set you up with an account. If your centre is not yet registered, please nominate an Edexcel Online administrator and ask them to call our Edexcel Online customer support team on 0844 576 0024 or contact our customer enquiry service, Ask Edexcel at www.edexcel.com/ask

STEP 3: Register for OSCA. You can access the OSCA Registration Homepage by clicking the 'Registration' tab on the Edexcel Online OSCA menu.

How many Programme Leaders can be registered for OSCA?

Only one Programme Leader may be registered for an individual DiDA unit. This is because the accreditation process is a recognition of good practice amongst a programme team, whose assessment decisions are standardised and submitted by one individual (i.e. the Programme Leader or Department Head).

You may appoint different Programme Leaders for different DiDA units. However, if you wish to use the Exemplar Material Exercise to achieve cross-level accreditation for a unit (e.g. for D101 and D201), the same individual must be appointed Programme Leader at both levels.

¹ A random selection of accredited programme teams will be required to submit a control sample during formal moderation windows to support Edexcel's quality assurance procedures.