



**BAC 2022–2023
Annual Report Summary**



We are pleased to share the fourth consecutive Annual Report Summary from the British Accreditation Council (BAC). This summary provides a detailed overview of our activities and financial standing during 2022–2023. The complete statement of our accounts for this period can be found [here](#). The value of BAC accreditation remains evident through our community of committed accredited providers and their continual engagement. We were pleased to be able to freeze fees for 2023–2024.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Bohrer".

Dr Janet Bohrer,
Chief Executive

The 2022–2023 financial period saw another busy year for BAC, with lots of inspection activity, 14 new providers gaining accreditation, and several projects coming to fruition. Our key activities and achievements for this period are highlighted on page 4. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to everyone involved in our work.

As a not-for-profit organisation, our primary goal is to achieve our charitable objectives (see below) by improving standards and ensuring confidence for individuals studying and training within the institutions we accredit. We are firmly dedicated to these objectives and committed to our strategic plan, ensuring BAC continues to have a positive impact well into the future.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Cardew".

Professor Phil Cardew,
Chair of Council

For example, in 2024, we will undergo our third full review by The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and apply for renewal of our listing on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). Keeping our membership and registration is a significant priority for us, not to mention critical for our ambitions for growth. We are committed to continuous improvement, and our membership and registration clearly demonstrate our alignment to European principles. We will continue to support our stakeholders by keeping our associated support activities under continual review.

All of us at BAC look forward to our ongoing engagement with you in the coming year.

Objectives and activities

The British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education is registered for charitable purposes and its objects are:

- providing a system of accreditation for educational and training institutions in order to promote public confidence in such institutions and their programmes of study
- assisting in the improvement and maintenance of the standards of accredited institutions through the offer of advisory and consultancy services principally in the field of further and higher education.



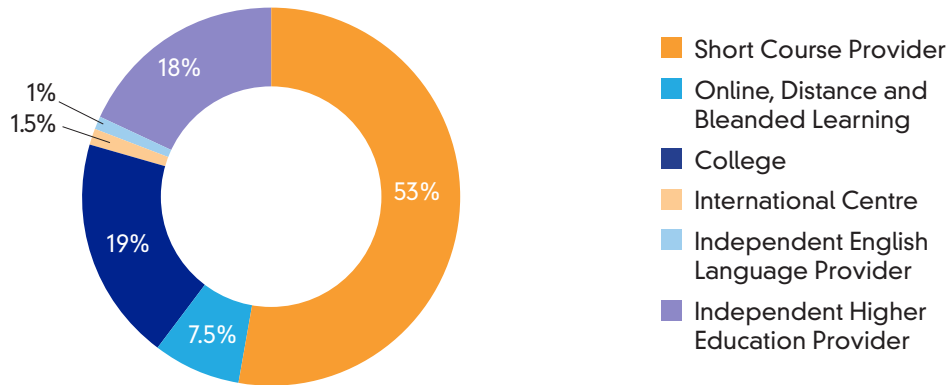
Summary of key achievements last year

- We achieved an end-of-year total of 195 **accredited providers**, of which 14 were newly accredited (page 4).
- Our **total income** increased from £620,447 to £735,709, including an increase of approximately 11% in inspection income and approximately 19% in accreditation fee income (page 5).
- We reviewed **all six of our accreditation schemes** (page 7) following the launch of the Common Quality Framework.
- We launched our **Micro-credentials scheme pilot** (page 7).
- We chaired an **ENQA working group** on the quality assurance of micro-credentials. The final published report informs a European-wide discussion about the development of micro-credentials; the report is available [here](#) (page 7).

Accreditation and inspection activity

In 2022–2023, we accredited 195 providers across our six accreditation schemes. The majority of providers were accredited under the Short Course Provider scheme.

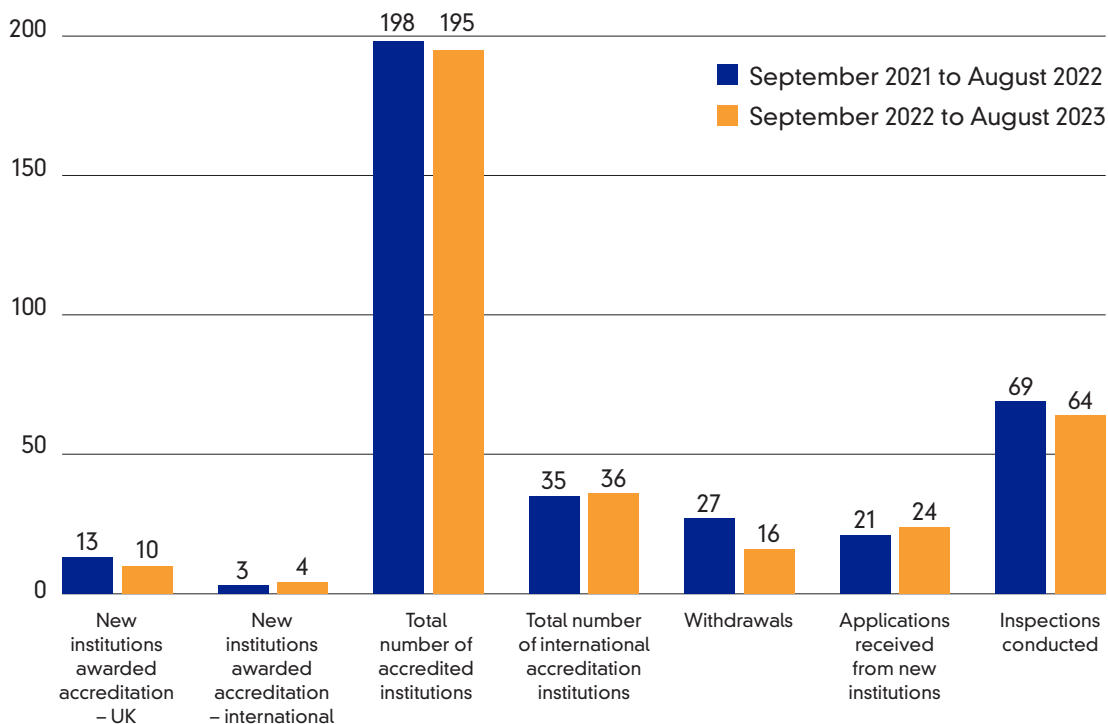
Accredited providers per scheme



82% of providers were based in the UK, and the remaining 18% were spread across 21 countries. Most of our international providers were accredited under the Independent Higher Education scheme.

We conducted 64 inspections this year and welcomed 14 newly accredited providers to our community. Withdrawals decreased by approximately 40%, and no providers were on dormancy by the end of the year.

Year on year comparison



Income and expenditure

More financial details are in the full annual report, available [here](#).

In the 2022–2023 financial year, our total income was £735,709, which increased by £115,262 compared with the previous year.

Accreditation fee income rose by approximately 19% to £393,989 in 2023, compared with £330,548 in 2022. This increase is attributed to a 5% rise in accreditation fees from the previous year and fewer organisations in dormancy. This is a sign of improvement for our providers who are expanding operations and achieving stability or growth following a challenging period. Inspection fee income increased by 11% to £280,397, up from £253,231 in the previous year. However, our investment income fell below expectations, resulting in a net loss of £66,313. This was influenced by global events affecting financial markets.

We withdrew funds from our investment income to address the predicted year-end deficit and support our growth and created 'The Development Fund'. The Audit Committee closely monitors the fund, which has been used or allocated for various projects.

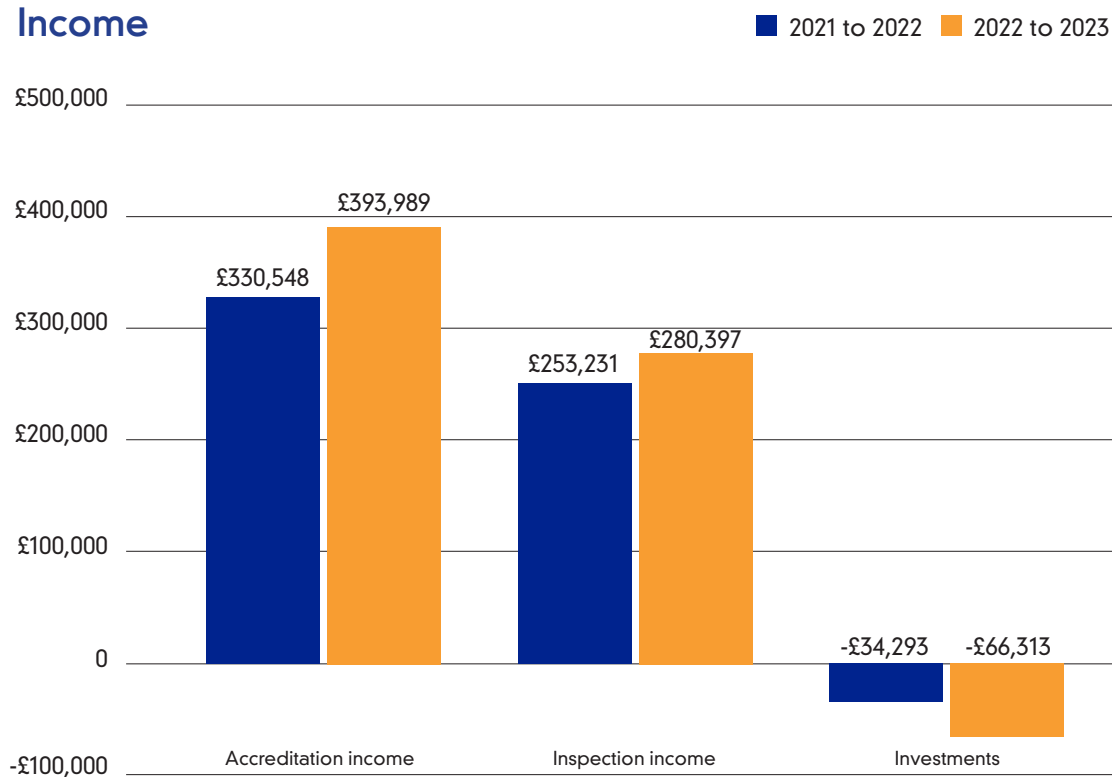
Direct expenditure increased by approximately 16%, reaching £185,843 in 2023 compared with £152,578 in 2022. This was in line with predictions from the previous year. The increased spending was anticipated due to higher inspection costs, strengthening our internal operations and general running expenses.

We ended the year with a net deficit of £94,175, primarily due to reduced investment income.

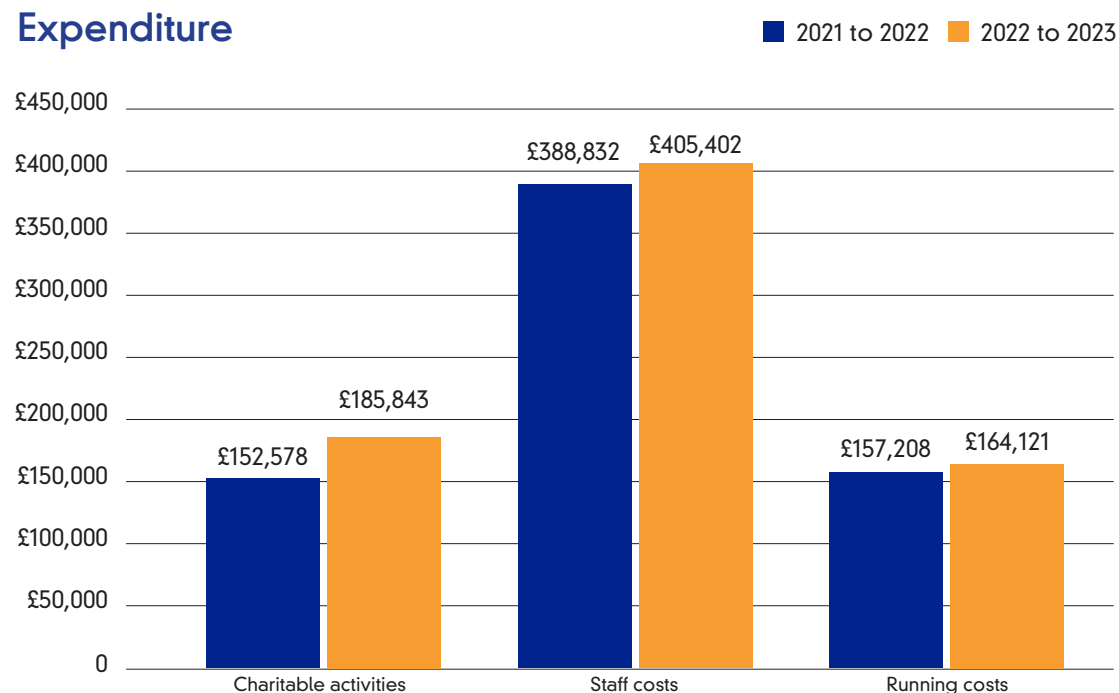


Income and expenditure

Income



Expenditure



Other activity

Scheme reviews

With the launch of the new [Common Quality Framework](#) in September 2022, and as part of our internal quality assurance procedures, we reviewed all six of our accreditation schemes last year. The College and International Centre schemes underwent a full review, and the remaining four schemes had a light touch internal review and were updated as necessary. We published the updated schemes on our website on 1 September 2023.

As part of the review, providers applying under the International Centre scheme can now apply for candidacy accreditation status, and international providers are now eligible to apply under the College scheme.

Micro-credentials Scheme pilot

We launched the Micro-credentials (MC) Scheme pilot in October 2022. We have conducted two inspections, and the reports were submitted to the Accreditation Committee in January 2024. Both providers were successfully awarded accreditation. We are currently reviewing the scheme and the process to decide the next steps.

ENQA working group

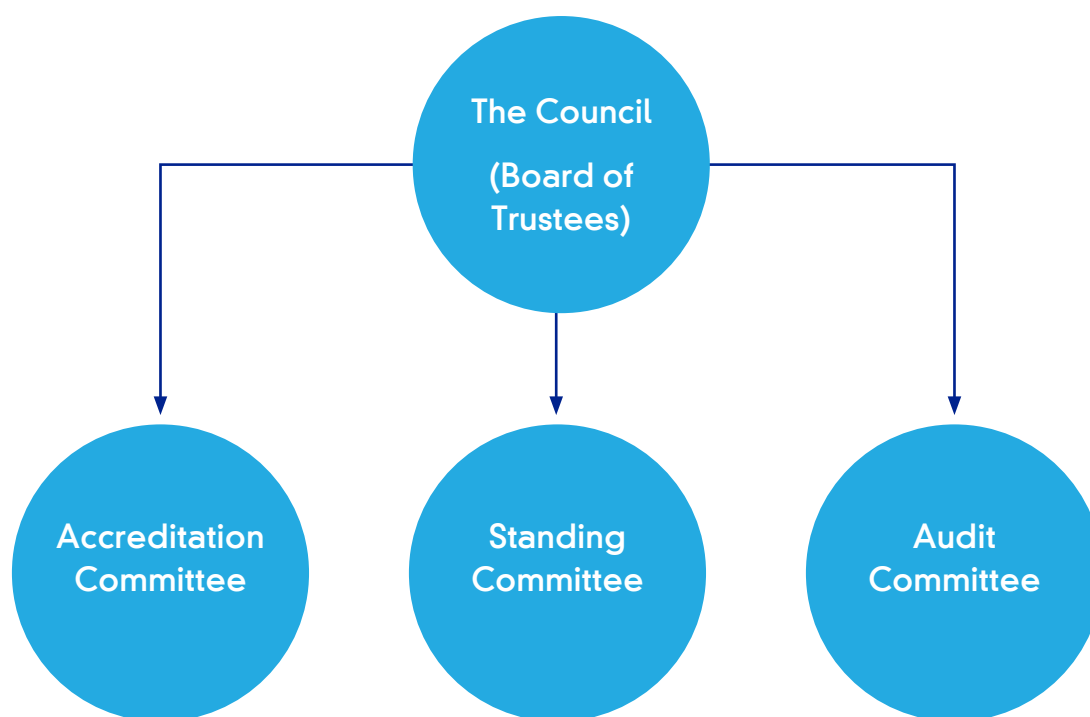
The dissemination event for the ENQA working group on external quality assurance of micro-credentials took place online on 27 September 2022. It was a great success, with over 200 attendees. It was clear how much work had occurred over the previous 18 months. Professor Anca Greere chaired the group on BAC's behalf, and we were delighted to have the opportunity to present a case study from our MC scheme pilot.

Annual Stakeholder Event

Our Annual Stakeholder Event took place in March 2023. The event's themes were internationalisation, qualifications, and recognition. Keynote speakers gave an overview of the topic, followed by case studies from accredited providers. Held online, over 50 attendees were present across eight countries, including Switzerland, Ghana and South Africa, to listen to BAC's update and hear from our speakers.

Governance

The BAC governance process supports all our activities. While this structure is continually reviewed to ensure it is the most effective arrangement possible, our trustees and committee members provide their expertise and support without payment, and for this, we are immensely grateful.



The governance structure consists of the Council, which is formed of the trustees and acts as the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Council is Prof Phil Cardew, appointed on 1 September 2022. To learn more about our current Council members, [visit our website for short bios](#). The Council meets three times a year.

The Council has three sub-committees:

The **Standing Committee** meets between Council meetings to provide continuity and support the charity. Its members are the Chair of the Council, the Deputy Chair of the Council, and the Honorary Treasurer.

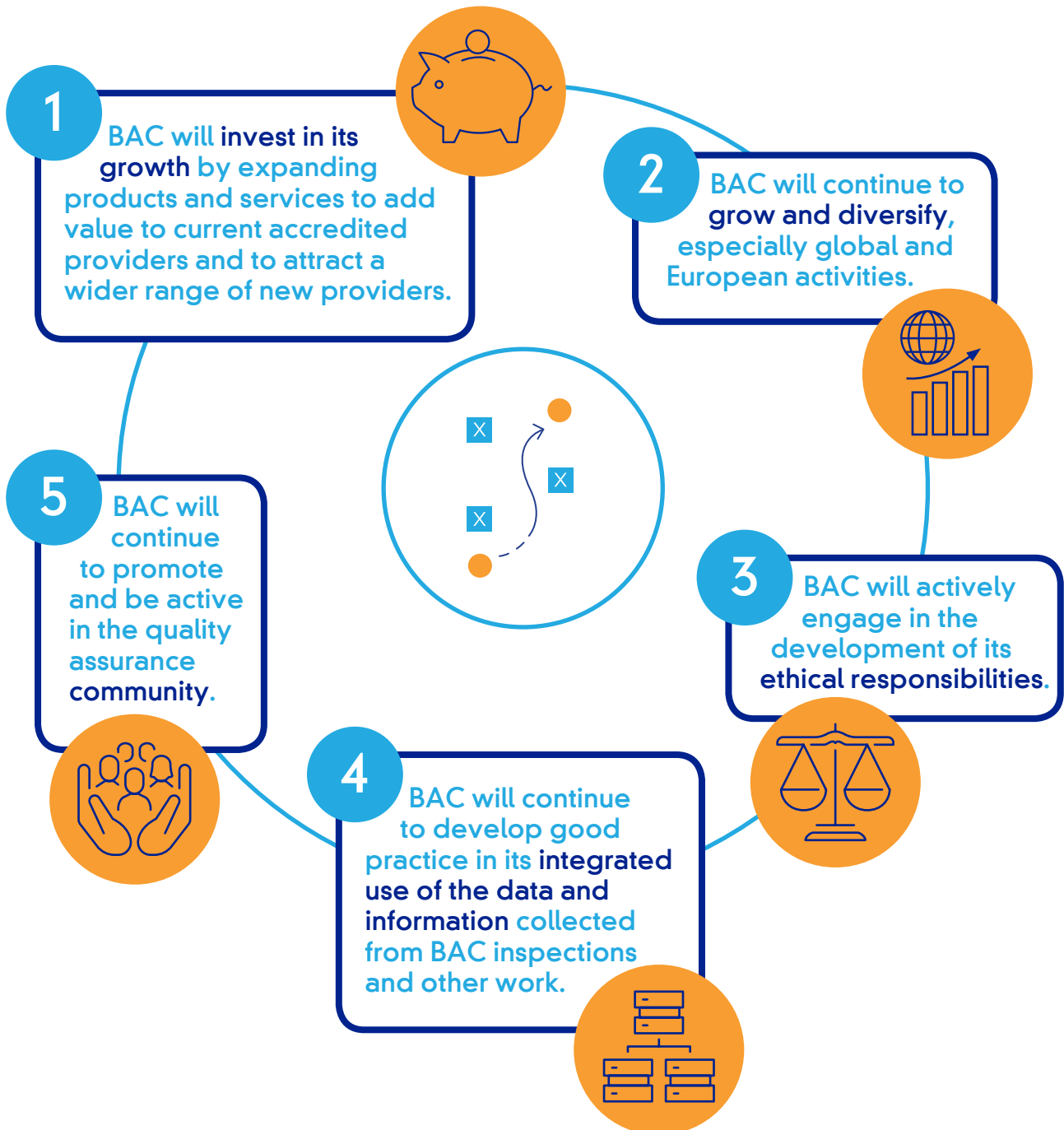
The **Audit Committee** provides financial and regulatory oversight and is chaired by Dr Stephen Jackson (Honorary Treasurer), who is also a Standing Committee member.

The **Accreditation Committee** is responsible for making decisions on accreditation and is chaired by Dr Anthony Manning.

The Accreditation Committee is appointed by the Council and consists of members appointed by virtue of their experience and expertise in educational standards. The Committee receives the reports of completed inspections and decides on the award or withdrawal of accreditation, making its recommendations based on BAC's accreditation policy and procedures. It also regularly reviews the quality assurance criteria inspectors use in making judgements and recommendations.

Strategic Plan 2021–2026

The strategic plan is our vision for the future and road map for how we see BAC developing over the five years, how we can further strengthen the sense of community between our accredited providers, and what support we can provide them.







Website: www.the-bac.org
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The British Accreditation Council is
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Charity no: 326652