

Common quality framework

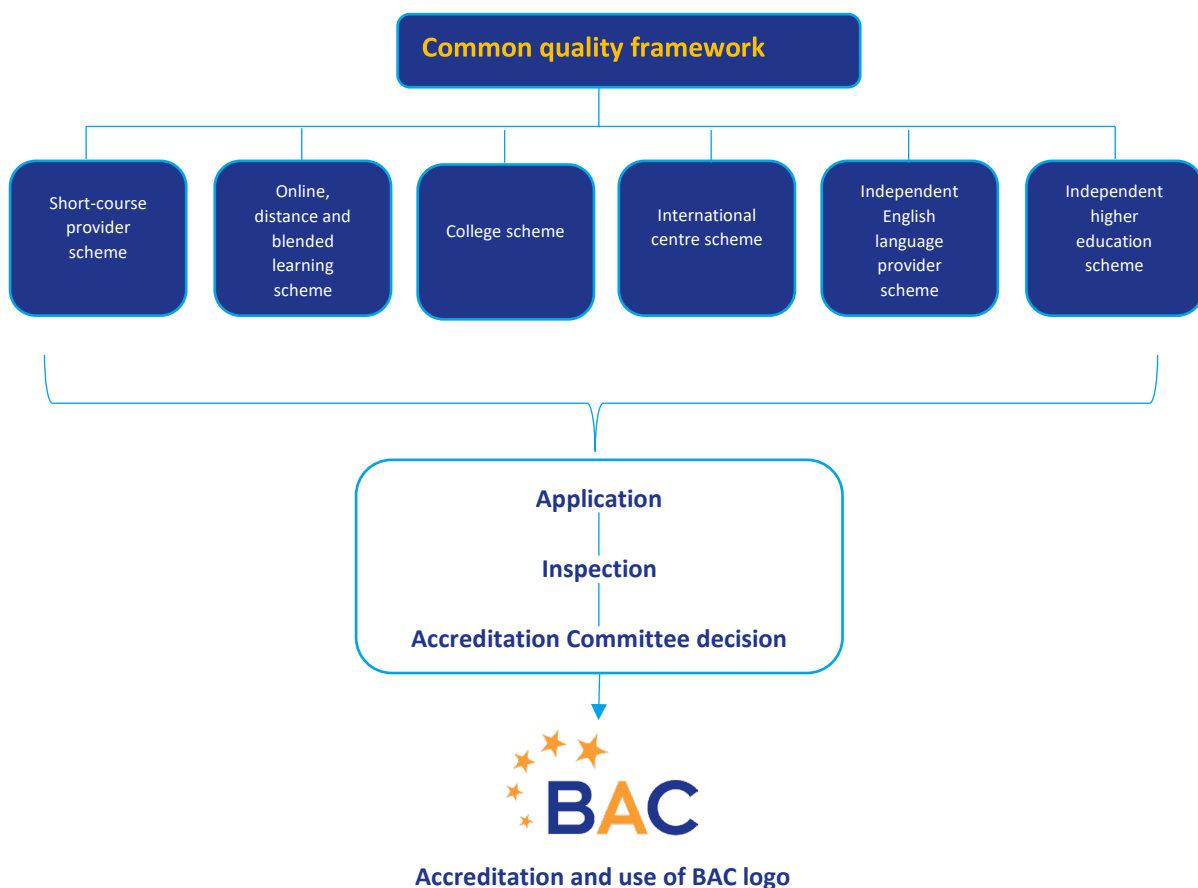
We, the British Accreditation Council (BAC), have a unique provider portfolio which brings together a community of independent, further education, higher education and training providers from around the world. We have assessed each of these organisations against a series of respected, and internationally recognised, quality assurance standards. We choose which standards to apply, through the most appropriate accreditation scheme, to suit the type of provider. Through our [six specialised schemes](#), we recognise the diverse and distinctive nature of our accredited organisations.

Adding value

As well as developing our new [Strategy 2021-2026](#), which was published in March 2022, we have been creating a comprehensive framework of standards.

With the needs of our providers and our strategic priorities in mind, we wanted to strengthen the message we give about us and what we do. We wanted to be able to explain clearly what it means to be accredited by us, no matter which accreditation scheme we use.

We set out to create a framework of standards that brings together the common qualities that unite all our schemes and providers. The aim of the framework is to explain what connects the providers we accredit and to recognise, and more effectively promote, the quality commitments that all our providers agree to meet.



What we did

The project was a thorough process involving our consultants, staff, inspectors and stakeholders. In the first phase we analysed all the schemes and standards by theme, then held focus groups with inspectors and providers. With the feedback from the initial work, we created a working group who, with a more strategic and operational focus, had discussions and created detailed papers for analysis.

Finally, inspectors, providers and our staff reviewed draft quality statements at an online meeting. They provided valuable feedback which led to us agreeing the five statements about our standards that make up the Common quality framework (shown below).

Common quality framework

The provider demonstrates appropriate governance and management arrangements, which support the delivery of its mission and vision.

The provider promotes a quality culture, which strategically seeks to achieve continuous improvement by appropriately engaging all stakeholders.

The provider offers relevant programmes, which are designed and reviewed to meet the needs and expectations of learners, employers and the wider communities.

The provider promotes effective learning, teaching and assessment methods which enable learners to reach their full potential.

The provider demonstrates adequate resourcing arrangements, which ensure a safe, supportive and sustainable educational environment.

What does it mean to be accredited by BAC?

All of the providers accredited by us have shown their commitment to each of the five quality statements above. Some accredited providers are in the early stages of demonstrating these qualities and others have them embedded deeply into what they do and are even going above and beyond the quality statements.

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