

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**ADVANCE HE ACCREDITATION FOR THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HIGHER
EDUCATION TEACHING & LEARNING**

1. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper provides an update regarding the University's Advance HE accreditation application for the newly validated PGCert in Higher Education Teaching & Learning programme. It provides details regarding the accreditation process and outcomes, and highlights the commendations received from the Advance HE Review Panel.

The University Education Committee is invited to note this paper.

2. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY /FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED

	Board/Committee	Date
Previously considered/approved by		
Further consideration/ approval required by		

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Members of the UEC are provided with this paper for information only.

4. DISCUSSION

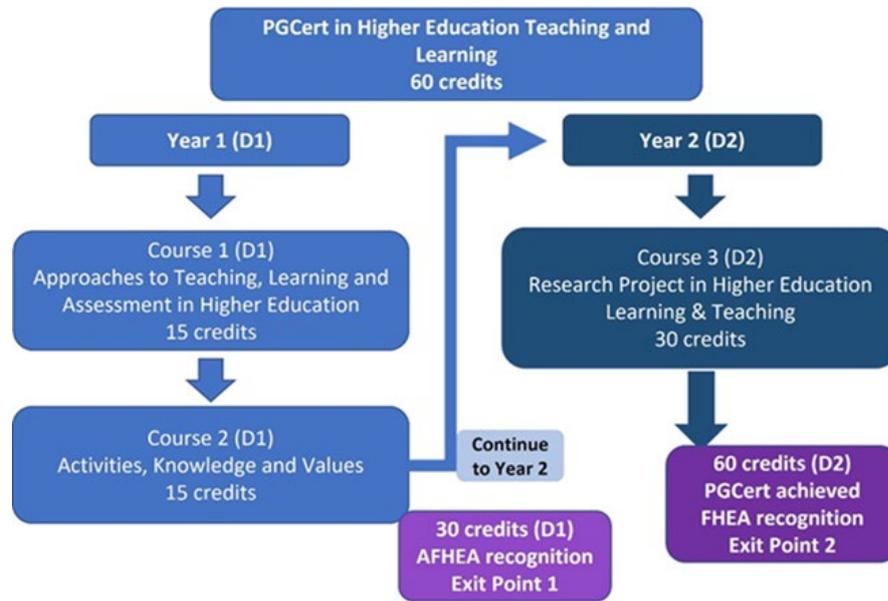
The submission for Advance HE accreditation for the newly validated PGCert in Higher Education Teaching & Learning programme was made in February 2022, which included:

- A review of the PGCert provision against the four Advance HE accreditation criteria, namely: institutional commitment, programme design, support and guidance, and fellowship judgement.
- Participant-facing guidance for each element of the PGCert programme.

The new online PGCert in Higher Education Teaching & Learning programme replaces the previous on-campus version. It comprises three credit-bearing courses, delivered across two academic years and includes a practitioner-based action research project. The programme has been validated internally through the University's quality assurance processes and then submitted to Advance HE for accreditation, to enable University of Aberdeen staff who teach or support learning to achieve Advance HE Fellowship (Fellow category, FHEA). Accreditation was awarded from Advance HE in June, alongside commendations identified by the review panel (see feedback below).

This newly accredited programme now forms part of the University of Aberdeen's existing Continuing Professional Development Framework for Learning & Teaching (CPDFLT). It is available across the Aberdeen and Qatar campuses, for staff currently employed by the University in a significant role in learning and teaching, or who have teaching-based leadership responsibilities. It is delivered online by the Centre for Academic Development (CAD) as part of the School of Education's suite of PGT programmes. The PGCert programme is designed to enable inclusive and engaging CPD, with integrated Advance HE recognition at

Fellow category (FHEA), for staff who teach and support learning, as outlined in the diagram below:



[Note: AFHEA is Associate Fellowship category and FHEA is Fellowship category]

The following has been extracted from the Advance HE Accreditation Panel feedback:

The Accreditation Panel identified many areas of good practice in relation to the submission and wishes to commend the University of Aberdeen on the following aspects:

- The University of Aberdeen 2040 Strategy sets out a clear commitment to learning and teaching, supported by professional development for all staff that teach and support learning. The strategy is underpinned by clear themes of Inclusivity, Interdisciplinarity, Intercultural Exchange and Sustainable Education, which are aligned to the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF).
- The University has invested resources to support the quality enhancement of teaching and learning in higher education through the Centre for Academic Development. The Centre has a key role in initiating and sustaining learning and teaching development for staff, promoting the University's commitment to the quality of teaching and learning, and delivering Advance HE accredited programmes as well as institutional professional development activities that are aligned to the UKPSF. Within the Centre's goals, Fellowship is utilised to both develop practice and recognise achievement.
- The Centre for Academic Development delivers an impressive range of high-quality training and professional development including induction courses for all new staff involved in learning and teaching, monthly learning and teaching and pedagogical inquiry network events, online discussion fora, and the Principal's Teaching Excellence Awards.
- The courses/programme submitted for accreditation directly contribute to the University's strategic priorities through the focus on approaches to teaching, learning, knowledge, values, and use of innovative formative assessments throughout the course. The courses/programme include summative assessment explicitly designed around teaching practice linked to two of the four themes of the University's 2040 strategy.
- The provision submitted provides staff that teach and support learning with the opportunity to achieve an appropriate category of fellowship via a route to suit the context of their professional practice and career stage.
- A thorough evaluation of the data, including participant feedback, underpins the honest and open reflection on the previous accreditation cycle and the changes introduced for the next iteration of accredited provision as a result.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Dr Joy Perkins, PGCert Programme Director (j.perkins@abdn.ac.uk) or Patricia Spence, Centre Manager (p.spence@abdn.ac.uk).

2 September 2022

Freedom of Information/Confidentiality Status: Open

Professor George Boyne
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Principal's Office
University of Aberdeen
King's College
Aberdeen
AB24 3FX

September 2022

Dear Professor Boyne

Subject: Confirmation of the award of accreditation to additional provision with updated certificate

We are very happy to award accreditation at the University of Aberdeen, to the following lines of provision:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning Years 1 and 2 – Descriptor 2
- Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education and Learning Year 1 – Descriptor 1

From **01 May 2022**. This accreditation is in addition to other provision currently accredited at your institution.

It is with great pleasure that I enclose an updated Certificate of Accreditation with this letter. The manager with overall responsibility for the provision will receive an electronic version of this new certificate.

Accreditation is now in place until **30 April 2024**, subject to our normal terms and conditions (accreditation policy, appendix 1).

I would like to express our congratulations on the achievement of accreditation and take this opportunity to thank your colleagues for their positive and active engagement with Advance HE.

Yours sincerely



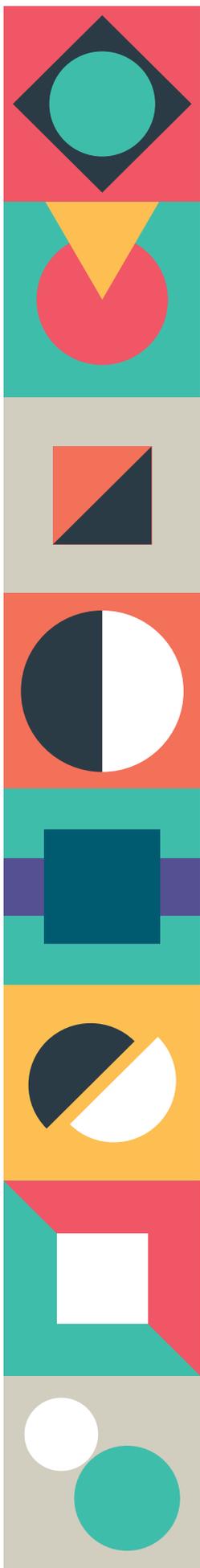
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Certificate of Accreditation

University of Aberdeen

Has achieved accreditation of the provision listed overleaf. This provision is aligned with Descriptors 1, 2 and 3 of the UK Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education (2011).

This accreditation is valid until 30 April 2024.

Alison Johns

Chief Executive
Advance HE

Stephen Marston

Chair of the Board of Directors
Advance HE



University of Aberdeen

Has achieved accreditation of the provision listed below:

Accredited provision	Descriptor	Accreditation case number
Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching & Learning Year 1	Descriptor 1	AP500234
Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching & Learning Years 1 and 2	Descriptor 2	AP500235
Principles of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (Associate Fellowship Route)	Descriptor 1	AP02898
Designing & Tutoring Online Courses (DTOCs)	Descriptor 1	AP02899
University of Aberdeen CPD Framework for Teaching & Supporting Learning	CPD Descriptor 1	AP02902
University of Aberdeen CPD Framework for Teaching & Supporting Learning	CPD Descriptor 2	AP02903
University of Aberdeen CPD Framework for Teaching & Supporting Learning	CPD Descriptor 3	AP02904