

Welcome to the latest edition of our Compliance Newsletter

This edition focuses on updating you on some exciting new developments from AIM for 2025 – 2026.



Quality

Based on your feedback, we are now focusing on how we can support you to use AI, future AI sessions will include demonstrations of AI use and discussions with our EQAs on how to spot AI. “You said, so now we are doing”, please join us for our Bitesize AI sessions. We are happy to visit your centre and work together to showcase best practice and we are interested in your experiences to gain further insights on how to use AI safely (click here to book: [Events](#)).

New Feedback process for AIM!

New feedback processes for AIM – we are very keen to hear from you, so we have now “changed gear” to provide as many opportunities as possible for “Your Voice”. This could be through feedback after training sessions or completing one of our short surveys (see page 2 for your first survey). Your voice makes a difference to us and allows us to provide meaningful support that makes a difference to you.



New Qualification approval process in development

We are currently developing our qualification approval process to ensure easy and streamlined approval. This will be launched at the end of February - we will keep you updated.

New SEND qualification! Launched in September!

The [AIM Qualifications Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for Teaching Assistants focusing on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(Diploma\)](#) is now available for you to deliver, IFATE and Ofqual approved, this non-apprenticeship funded route for adults to become a Teaching Assistant whilst working within the sector and addressed the demand for SEND expertise and specialists. Contact the quality@aimgroup.org.uk if you would like to chat about this course or [click here](#) to access the specification.



New HTQ L4 Counselling Practice qualification!

We are preparing to launch our new HTQ funded L4 Diploma in Counselling Practice in September 2026. Please join us for our next Counselling Best Practice Forum, where we will be providing guidance, support, the specification, preapproval information, and sample resource materials. Hope to see you there on 3 March 2026 @12:00, please [Click here to book your place.](#)



Compliance



EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT – GAMES, ANIMATION AND VFX SKILLS (GAVFX)

The March exams are fast approaching, scheduled for 18 and 19 March 2026. All learners should now be scheduled for their exams and any reasonable adjustments applied for.

Exam papers are due to be sent out to centres on w/c 9 March 2026 - so keep an eye out for further communications. If you need any support on the above, please contact us at compliance@aimgroup.org.uk

Training Opportunities - Shape the Future of Our Training!

Our training sessions have been receiving fantastic feedback, and we'd love for you to get involved! Your feedback is important to us:

- Are we covering the topics you need?
- Is the training helpful?
- Are there any new sessions you'd like us to develop?

Let us know so we can make our training even better for you! [Shaping the Future of AIM Training Feedback Survey – Fill in form](#)



External Quality Assurance (EQA)



NEW FACE TO FACE TRAINING ANNOUNCED!
The Journey to EQA: Elevate Your Assessment and Verification Practices
TO BE HELD AT THE DERBY OFFICE
FIRST SESSION: 25 MARCH 2026
Other dates available: 20 May 2026, 15 July 2026

Join us for an insightful training event designed to guide you through the essential stages of the EQA process. Whether you're a new centre to AIM or looking to sharpen your skills, this interactive session will empower you with practical knowledge on:

- Assessment Design: Build assessments that truly measure learner outcomes.
- Assessment Methods: Explore the right techniques to assess different qualifications effectively.
- Internal Verification: Understand the best practices to ensure consistency and fairness within your centre.
- External Verification: Learn how to excel in the external verification process and meet compliance requirements with confidence.

Embark on a journey towards assessment excellence! Click [here](#) to secure your spot today (limited spaces) and take your centre's quality assurance to the next level.

If you have any questions, please contact EQA@aimgroup.org.uk

Access to HE

Celebration of achievements and success!



Congratulations to AIM's Access to HE Learners of 2024-25 who completed their studies with:

- 3149 Access to HE Diplomas awarded
- 56% of grades awarded as distinctions, 31% as merits, and 13% as passes
- Offers secured at 16 out of the Times Higher Education Top 20 Universities

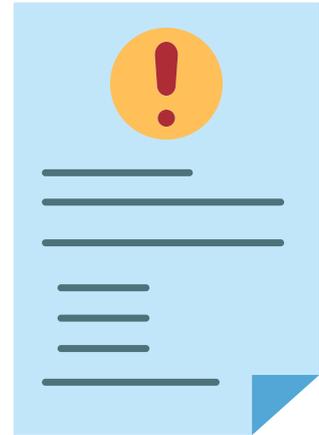
For further information please see [Access to HE - Progression Data 2024-25](#) | [AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group](#)



Extenuating Circumstances and UCAS applications.

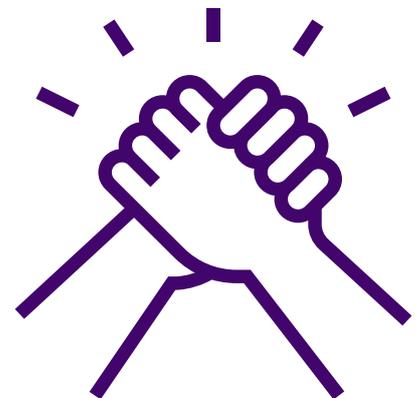
Recent changes to the UCAS reference and personal statements now mean that extenuating circumstances are addressed directly in the designated reference section rather than in a learner's personal statement. The referee will need to discuss these with the student to enable this section to be completed accurately and effectively.

Centres are encouraged to use the review of personal statements and opportunities during one-to-one tutorials to identify circumstances as early as possible and to follow up. AIM's Access to HE Progression to HE unit could also be useful as it requires learners to refer to their own personal circumstances.



Unit Specification Updates

Support for delivery and assessment is being expanded, with indicative content and exemplar briefs added to an additional 42 units, plus exemplar briefs for 14 units that already have indicative content. This year's approach will ensure that all mandatory Diploma units include both indicative content and an exemplar brief. These additions will help guide delivery and assessment, improving standardisation across centres and enhancing parity of student experience. Updated specifications will be released in mid-April 2026.



Standardisation

Thank you to everyone who has attended our in person standardisation sessions, and extended thanks to New College Durham and Barking and Dagenham Colleges for hosting. Materials will be available remotely for centres unable to attend to complete and for their responses to feed into the overall outcomes reports. A link to the guidance and materials on SharePoint will be sent to you all on Monday 23 February.



Training and Support events available for you!

We have many different events planned for you this year, highlights include the Compliance Forum, Counselling Best Practice Forum, Getting QA Right, EQA updates, AI in Education, GLH & TQT support, Access to HE support sessions and 'drop ins', Quality and Standards 'drop ins', to name but a few.



Visit our website [Events](#) page to review our broad range of support/training events and book your sessions today!



We will support you with changes to staff too

New staff joined your team?

Let us help to support their induction into AIM qualifications with our bespoke training designed to support staff new to AIM qualifications.

To request your 1:1 training, please contact
quality@aimgroup.org.uk
accesstohe@aimgroup.org.uk



Contact Us

Our team is committed to providing comprehensive responses to your queries within 2 working days and where possible we will direct you to any further support and guidance we can offer.

- quality@aimgroup.org.uk for queries related to centre and qualification approval, policies, Annual Declaration, and Quality Assurance.
- eqa@aimgroup.org.uk for EQA bookings, samples, EQA reports, second sampling, certification status.
- accesstohe@aimgroup.org.uk for Access to HE delivery, moderation, Final Award Boards, certification, and late registration.
- externalassessment@aimgroup.org.uk for queries related to the administration of external assessments and proctored examinations.

