

Professional Recognition

"I became a registered practitioner because I felt it would extend my opportunities to engage more widely with colleagues interested in developing learning and teaching approaches, both within my own and other academic disciplines. The notion of working within learning communities seems to me to be at the heart of reflective practice, enabling participants to gain new insights into what is being done, into why particular approaches are being adopted and into the impact they have." John Geoffrey Timmins,
Reader in Industrial History and History
Subject Leader, University of Central
Lancashire





“Something I make time to include in my work, because of the high quality of the service and the relevance of the materials to my own development and that of my colleagues.”

Professional Recognition

The Academy is committed to improving the standing and recognition of higher education professionals. One of the ways we do this is through the Academy’s register of accredited practitioners.

Why join the register?

Most important is the public recognition of your expertise and commitment to supporting the student learning experience. Registered practitioner status belongs to you – the individual.

It is a valuable portable asset which is recognised across the sector. Many universities view registered practitioners as key to the future development of their teaching and learning strategies.

Joining the register also gives you the means to influence the future of your profession. You can become involved in shaping national policy and take part in debates on key issues. This will help to

keep standards of practice where they belong – in the hands of practitioners.

Who can join the register?

Anyone in higher education (HE) who supports the student learning experience can become accredited and join the register. The register currently includes lecturers, learning technologists, staff developers, librarians, student support staff, Vice-Chancellors and many others. You can also apply if you support HE in a Further Education Institution.

You can join the register as either a Registered Practitioner or as an Associate Practitioner depending on your role and level of experience.

Registered Practitioner

Registered Practitioners usually have three or more years’ experience of teaching or learning support in HE and this is a key feature of their role.

Associate Practitioner

This category may be more appropriate for staff still very new to teaching or who have a very specific professional role supporting student learning.

How do I join the register?

You can become accredited and join the register through one of the following routes:

- the Individual Entry Route for Experienced Staff
- completing an Academy-accredited programme
- through a collaborative agreement between the Academy and another professional body.

www.heacademy.ac.uk



Registration Criteria

All registration routes are focused on the following:

1. Teaching and/or the support of learning in higher education
2. Contribution to the design and planning of learning activities and/or programmes of study
3. Assessment and/or giving feedback to learners
4. Developing effective learning environments and learner support systems
5. Evaluating your practice and personal development
6. Using your research, scholarly activity or relevant professional work to inform and impact on your teaching/student support.

All routes are assessed by a panel of trained accreditors. These are experienced practitioners drawn from across the whole of the UK higher education sector.

Individual Entry Route

This route is primarily intended for experienced staff. You submit evidence directly to the Academy, demonstrating that you satisfy the registration criteria through your professional experience. Registered Practitioners must demonstrate professional practice against all the criteria (outlined in the box above). Associate Practitioners must be able to satisfy the criteria of evaluating practice and two other areas of professional activity.

There is more information on the website at www.heacademy.ac.uk/IndividualEntryRoute.htm

Accredited Programme Route

If you have successfully completed an Academy-accredited programme of training in teaching and learning, you will automatically be eligible to join the Academy's register. You will find a full list of accredited programmes on the website. See www.heacademy.ac.uk/AccreditedProgrammes.htm

“Applying to become a registered practitioner forced me to think hard about why I approach my job in the way I do. Since then it has led me to meet others, especially those from different disciplines, which has broadened my horizons and introduced me to new ideas.” Nigel Duncan,
Principal Lecturer, Inns Court School of Law, City University London



Collaborative Agreement Route

The Academy has collaborative agreements with a number of professional bodies and subject associations (such as the General Teaching Councils for England, Scotland and Wales). These agreements recognise the equivalence of qualifications and accreditation awarded by other professional bodies to staff teaching or supporting learning in HE. There is a full list of current collaborative agreements on the website at www.heacademy.ac.uk/CollaborativeAgreements.htm

Fees

There is a one-off registration fee but no annual renewal/subscription fee.

Registered Practitioner £50

Associate Practitioner £30

Change of status fee from Associate to Registered £20

Application Evaluation Fee

If you are applying through the Individual Entry Route there is an additional fee of £35 for the evaluation of your application.

Future Developments

The Academy is in the process of developing a continuing professional development (CPD) framework. This will be available to individuals and institutions, and we have been working with institutions to pilot a number of possible models. The recent learning and teaching standards consultation will inform the CPD model adopted by the Academy. The Academy has good relationships with a variety of professional and subject bodies. We will be working with these bodies to ensure that the Academy's CPD framework aligns with their requirements.

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