

Why join UVAC?

Established in 1999, UVAC has a membership of over 100 organisations including higher education institutions, further education colleges, lifelong learning networks and a range of corporate members. UVAC was established by and is owned, managed and run for the higher education sector by the higher education sector.

UVAC aims to be the leading membership organisation involved in championing and mainstreaming innovation in vocational and work-based learning at all higher education levels.

Benefits of UVAC Membership

- Demonstrates your institution's/organisation's commitment to the higher level skills agenda
- National networking on higher level skills, employer engagement and vocational progression to higher education
- Participation in consultation and debate informing UVAC's dedicated, independent and collective voice for the sector on the higher level skills agenda
- Discounted rates for staff members attending UVAC events
- Free UVAC research and good practice publications. Recent research has focused on work-based progression to higher education and recognising employer learning programmes as HE qualifications.

UVAC's Achievements

Over the last decade UVAC has:

- Influenced and made a substantial contribution to the debate on graduate employability and the skills agenda, which is now central to higher education policy
- Published over 20 research reports and good practice guides on topics such as recognising and supporting higher level work-based learning, the accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL), the use of National Occupational Standards in higher education, level 4 and 5 NVQs, and progression to higher education from Apprenticeship programmes
- Held nine annual conferences, which have risen in standing to become the leading national conference for those interested in higher level vocational and work-based learning at all higher education levels
- Organised a range of other events – conferences, seminars and workshops on high level skills, Apprenticeships, credit, National Occupational Standards, APEL, fair admissions and level 4 and 5 NVQs
- Organised a national campaign to promote the value of higher level practical learning
- Developed and disseminated innovative, cutting-edge approaches to the validation of company-based learning programmes.

...championing higher level vocational learning

UVAC's Future Priorities

Our strategic plan for 2008-13 focuses on:

- Identifying, researching and disseminating innovation in vocational and work-based learning at all higher education levels
- Championing the potential of higher-level employer training programmes (at all levels and of all sizes) to be validated as higher education programmes, leading to the award of higher education qualifications
- Championing progression to higher level skills programmes from Apprenticeships, 14-19 Diplomas and work-based and vocational qualifications for both young people and adults.

Core to all our activities will be advocacy, the provision of member services, research and dissemination. A copy of UVAC's strategic plan for 2008-13 can be found at www.uvac.ac.uk.

Membership Categories

Membership is available in the following categories:

- **Full membership** – open to UK-based institutions with degree-awarding powers
- **Associate membership** – open to further education colleges
- **Corporate membership** – open to employers and organisations with involvement or interest in the higher level skills agenda
- **LLN membership** – a specific membership category for lifelong learning networks.

A different membership rate applies to each of the above membership categories; please check the membership application form for current rates and for more detailed information on UVAC membership criteria.

How to Join UVAC

The UVAC membership application form is available to download at www.uvac.ac.uk/0106.htm. Please complete the form and return to us via fax, post or email – details below.

If you would like to discuss UVAC membership, please call UVAC on **01204 903355**.

“UVAC has made a really significant contribution to the higher level vocational agenda over the last 10 years to improve both the quality and quantity of higher level vocational education, within and outside the workplace. UVAC has made a big contribution and we want to see UVAC support the development of provision that young people, adults and employers need, and a better connection between the world of education and the world of work.”

Chris Banks CBE, Chair, Learning and Skills Council

“The strength of UVAC is that it connects into the practitioners – the people in universities and colleges who we actually need to be able to deliver HEFCE promises to business. UVAC, more than anyone, can really get the message out to practitioners and can create the support mechanisms for practitioners who are trying to develop new types of provision and reach out to new customers.”

Hugh Tollyfield, Special Adviser, Employer Engagement Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

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