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# Accreditation and Recognition of **Foundation Degrees**

## Meeting National Industry and Education Standards

### **What is UVAC**

The University Vocational Awards Council was established in 1999 to influence and promote the development of vocational education and training with Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges.

It is committed to working with employers, Sector Skills Councils and the National Council for Work Experience to provide an education and industry national standard for foundation degrees.

### **Foundation Degrees**

Foundation Degrees were introduced to provide a vocational entry route into employment or further study to Honours Degree level and the programme are expected to demonstrate the involvement of Higher education, further education, employers and Sector Bodies. The programmes are occupationally specific and involve work experience, the utilisation of Key Skills and outcomes related to National Occupational Standards or NVQ's.

### **What is the Foundation Degree Kitemark**

The UVAC kitemark process is designed to recognise and raise the standard of the national delivery of Foundation Degree Programmes. Utilising the process will allow institutions to display the joint UVAC, relevant Sector Skills Council and Council for Work Experience recognition mark on all certificates and programme related materials. The kitemark can be obtained for distinctly identified individual Foundation Degree programmes or through the issuing of a licence to cover all Foundation Degrees offered by a particular institution. The kitemark is valid for three years following successful accreditation.

### **Benefits of the Kitemark**

The UVAC Foundation Degree kitemark is intended to provide national recognition by HEIs, industry, undergraduates and employees as indicating a high quality of provision which meets the national industry and education specification in what is, as yet, a relatively new and developing area of higher vocational education. The successful completion of the accreditation process would lead to having achieved Sector Skills Councils/Sector Bodies recognition and UVAC accredited status.

### **Steps to Accreditation**

- 1 Request application form
- 2 Return completed application form and send to UVAC with supporting documentation
- 3 Programme(s) documentation is reviewed by UVAC/Sector Representative or UVAC/Sector Representative attends validation event as appropriate
- 4 Education and Accreditation Committee recognises programme
- 5 Formal certificate of accreditation is issued for 3 years.

### **Costs**

The charges for this process are for UVAC members, £375 for each individual Foundation Degree accredited.

#### **For non UVAC members:**

£475 for each individual Foundation Degree accredited.

If an institution is submitting 6 or more programmes for accreditation at one time then a discount scheme will apply.

UVAC member institutions will receive a discount of 25% for a collective submission and Non UVAC members will receive a 10% discount.