



Your guide to Unit Award Scheme



**Unit Award
Scheme**

**Their journey
towards success**

What is Unit Award Scheme

Unit Award Scheme (UAS) is about celebrating every success and has been inspiring students and building their confidence since 1984. An AQA developed and owned product, UAS was designed with progress in mind, to help students flourish and reengage with their learning journey.

The scheme boosts confidence, improves engagement and increases motivation, helping students to make progress on their lifelong learning journey.

UAS rewards students with a certificate each time they successfully complete a unit. This allows them to have their achievements formally recognised and build a portfolio to evidence their skills, knowledge and experience.

We annually reward over 30,000 students of all ages and abilities through UAS.



How does UAS do this?

UAS gives clear learning outcomes, providing rapid reward through certification. It's used to:

- break down subject content into bitesize units to make it more accessible
- provides stepping stones towards GCSE English and Maths through mapped units
- accredit pre-entry, entry level, extra-curricular and enrichment study.

“The scheme helps us to recognise and reward both academic and practical skills, and increase the confidence our prisoners have in academic settings, many of whom have not previously been successful in learning environments.”

Diane Corr, HM Prison Low Newton

Why choose UAS?

1

Flexible, versatile and adaptable

UAS covers all topics from school curriculum subjects to life skills, outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and work-related learning.

In addition to the units already available, you have the opportunity to write your own for bespoke, tailored learning, ensuring you get the best out of each of your students.

2

A powerful motivation tool

The scheme motivates, incentivises and engages through the tangible and rapid reward of success.

Students can achieve an unlimited number of units each academic year, receiving certificates on-demand at any time throughout the year.

3

Simple and straightforward to use

The curriculum-led approach of UAS means you don't need to make changes to your programmes of learning or teaching styles. Its flexibility ensures it can fit around your timetable and slot in with your current lesson plans.

There's no need for moderation or standardisation with UAS. As the teacher, you're responsible for using your professional judgement and subject expertise to decide when a student has achieved. You simply record and collect evidence of the achievement.

Any responsible adult with an appropriate level of subject knowledge, including SENCOs and teaching assistants, can deliver the units. Because you know your students best, you can choose the most appropriate method of delivery to help them build their own futures.

4

Affordable for all

With a one-off joining fee and free training, UAS is affordable and allows unlimited usage. Just pay per active student, More detail on fees can be found on page 7.

How does UAS work?



Registering your interest and joining

If you're interested in joining the scheme, use our enquiry form (bit.ly/uas-get-in-touch) to contact one of our friendly team. They'll be in touch to support you on your UAS journey.

When you're ready to take the next step, fill in our simple form (bit.ly/uas-register) to join the scheme.



Training

Your nominated coordinator administers the scheme and will need to attend a 3-hour online training session to equip them with the knowledge and understanding to run the scheme smoothly and successfully.

This training is now free of charge and multiple dates are available. Visit aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme/join for details.

More than one person can be a coordinator and it's up to your centre to decide who performs this role.

"UAS gave us the freedom to create bespoke, appropriate pathways of learning that are tailored to the needs of our students. All students will leave the school with real clarity about the direction of their onward journey."

**Mark Clayton,
Willow Dene School**



Certification

A certificate is issued each time a student completes a unit. It lists all the unit outcomes, providing a record of the knowledge, skills and experiences your students have accomplished.

As UAS is on-demand, certificates can be claimed by your coordinator throughout the academic year – we recommend a ‘little and often’ approach. Certificates are issued within 10 working days.



Teaching units

Your teachers select the units they want to teach. Each unit clearly sets the learning outcomes and how to evidence them, to make planning your teaching as easy and quick as possible. You’re free to deliver this content in the most appropriate way for your students – there are no set specifications, nor do you need to use specific schemes of work or resources.

Learning can be tailored for individuals or groups of students, by choosing any combination of our standalone units. You can even amend existing units to suit your needs or write your own.

The student record of achievement is then completed by the teacher and evidence is collected.

When the student’s successfully completed the unit, the record of achievement and evidence are passed to your coordinator to claim the certificates.



Approval and fees

A one-off fee is payable once your registration is approved. Visit [aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme/join](https://www.aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme/join) for the current registration fee.

An annual charge is made for each student who’s active in the scheme. The fee is per active student regardless of the number of units achieved or the number of certificates issued. This covers the cost of certification and includes printing and postage.

Visit [aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme/learner-participation-fees](https://www.aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme/learner-participation-fees) for the current fees.

“For a once yearly payment we have endless chances to get our young people feeling success – priceless! I love the fact that the more we use UAS the better value it becomes.”

Mandy Seymour, Brunel and Burton Academies



Success stories



Mandy Seymour, teacher and SENCO at Brunel and Burton Academies in Devon, explains how UAS continues to be a success with both students and teachers.

As a body, our students struggle with attendance and being in learning spaces. They've all travelled a tough road to get to us and feel disaffected with education and their self-esteem is low which has a big effect on how they perceive learning and themselves as learners. UAS has been fantastic for us; it enables us to teach groups or individuals on a wide variety of topics and to evidence to the students how well they can learn, providing them with a real sense of achievement.

Staff tell me they appreciate:

- the scope and flexibility of the awards
- that the units give a clear set of outcomes
- the clear differentiation in outcomes created through using the terms 'experienced ...', 'acquired an understanding of ...', 'demonstrated the ability to ...' and 'shown knowledge of ...'
- the wide subject coverage; although we have used hundreds of different units this year I have only had to write five myself
- that gathering evidence is as simple or complicated as they want to make it.

Staff also appreciate that UAS acknowledge and trust teachers' judgements in assessing by observation or discussion.

Zoe Teague, Senior Education Officer at RSPCA Newbrook Farm Education Centre, has been using UAS for the past four years to complement a six-week rolling programme on animal welfare.

We chose UAS because it allows learners to receive official, external certification. Formal recognition by UAS has served to highlight the value of students' time away from school to study on our course. This has resulted in greater uptake from schools.

With UAS, young people and adults, who may have struggled in mainstream education, can build up their CVs with evidence of achievements through UAS certificates. This can help them secure places on other courses.

Another reason we chose UAS is because it offers flexibility. For example, we've been able to write our own units to match our courses perfectly. In spring and summer, we run a horticulture course. In winter, we run a project in our wildlife garden, covering practical skills such as pond relining.

UAS has helped prisoners at HM Prison Low Newton, an all-female prison near Durham, gain successful employment following release back into the community.

We currently run the AQA Unit Award Scheme at HM Prison Low Newton in our Manufacturing and Services workshops.

When choosing AQA UAS, we were looking for something that could help us build up the confidence of our women, who often come to prison with little or no belief in themselves, having often failed school or been part of the care system.

Our bespoke programme has been created to train our short-sentenced women in housekeeping to fill a gap in the labour market caused by Brexit. The programme, called Turnaround, teaches 10 AQA UAS units, from Pre Entry to Entry, and includes on-the-job training and consolidation of learning.

Our programme has placed three women into employment which has been a real success for us. We now run our Turnaround on a monthly basis and this will continue as business as usual for the prison with a dedicated new instructor.

Meet the team



Adrienne Nichols Head of Unit Award Scheme

Adrienne has been Head of UAS since 2011 and leads a dedicated team of nine supporting and advising teachers on how to get the most out of the scheme for their students, whether that be teachers brand new to UAS or those with many years of experience.



Chloe Reynard Registrations and Training Manager

Chloe has been in her role for three years and is passionate about UAS. Along with Alexis Collins, Registrations and Training Coordinator, she helps centres joining the scheme to ensure they have all the tools, knowledge and experience to deliver it successfully. Chloe supports new centres from enquiry stage through to registration and is happy to speak to any new customers wanting to find out more information about joining UAS.



Kirsty Maidment Customer Success Manager

Kirsty supports centres with the Unit Award Scheme to ensure that they are using the scheme successfully with their students year after year. Kirsty's well versed in supporting centres having previously worked within our Relationship Management department.



Roxanne Galvin Unit Development Manager

Roxanne oversees the unit side of the Unit Award Scheme, ensuring the units in the extensive library are of quality and meet the unit writing criteria. She works closely with subject experts to develop suites of units and her long career as a primary school teacher has given her the tools and the experience to support teachers in the writing of their own units.

The day to day support of existing UAS customers is headed up by Jessica Ramsey and her team of four administrators.

Their journey towards success



AQA
Questions matter

**Unit Award
Scheme**



Contact our team

Tel: 01423 534 235

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday

Find out more

For more information on joining visit
aqa.org.uk/uas

To find out more about UAS and our
resources visit
aqa.org.uk/uas-journey-towards-success

aqa.org.uk

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