

Accreditations

The British Accreditation Council (BAC)

The British Accreditation Council (BAC) was established by the UK's Department of Education and the British Council in 1984 to oversee independent further and higher education in the UK. The BAC is a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

The British Accreditation Council (BAC) accredits Academia Cerebra. In order to achieve BAC accreditation, Academia Cerebra has had to demonstrate that it meets BAC's rigorous standards in five inspection areas:

- Management, staffing and administration
- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Participant support
- Facilities
- Premises and facilities in the case of face-to-face delivery

Microcredentials

Also known as microdegrees or nanodegrees, micro-credentials are designed to be fast, accessible and specialised.

For example, if you are working in the legal field or have a generic business or design degree and you want to enter the fashion industry, at the end of a micro-credential course you will have certification of that new skill, which can be added on your CV and applied to your new role.

These accelerated short courses are ideal for studying around a career or other family and study commitments. In comparison to an undergraduate or postgraduate degree, microcredentials are a) more focused to a particular topic, b) and are normally cheaper in total outlay than a full degree and c) can be completed over a shorter time frame.

How do microcredentials work?

Microcredentials are mainly offered by universities, business schools, colleges and further education centres. These shorter courses are often listed along with the more traditional degrees for anyone to access.

Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable. They may be standalone or combined into larger credentials. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity.

Course participants must successfully complete all course modules to obtain their course qualification.

Why should you do a microcredential?

As the working world becomes more competitive the demand for specific skills is increasing. However, professionals who are working full-time don't always have the capacity to study a full degree. Microcredentials can provide a more efficient approach for employees to expand their skill set and increase their employability.

Microcredentials are more manageable because they can be completed in your own time and are shorter than a traditional degree. If a student then wants to cover additional skills, they can study stackable microcredentials, designed to be combined to create a comprehensive portfolio of qualifications in a subject area.

Not only is this a great way to remain relevant in your field, but it also looks impressive on your CV, showing commitment to the job and a passion to continue learning. Should an individual ever wish to make a career change they can access microcredentials to gain new skills in a different field and approach job applications more prepared for a new industry.

[Sources: The British Accreditation Council, Times Higher Education, European Commission: A European Approach to Microcredentials]