

FAQs – Completing an Advanced Certificate and Advanced Diploma in Nautical Science by Blended Learning, is it right for me?

1. Why would I choose to study for an AdC or AdD by Blended Learning?

If you work full time and cannot take time off from work to attend college, are based overseas or prefer to study in a flexible mode.

2. How is the course delivered?

Online, the course syllabus is arranged in sets and each set contains 2 or 3 individual modules; all learning material is supplied in electronic format. Each module contains formative assessments (FAs), and each AdC/AdD module is assessed by either an on-line assignment or college based written invigilated examinations. Please see the Programme Specification for details.

3. Will I need INTERNET access?

Yes, you must have a good INTERNET connection to access the resources, submit work for marking, view your progress and receive feedback.

4. If I enrol, how will I receive the learning material?

All learning material and resources are in electronic format available on the College VLE, we do not send out learning material. In addition to the college resources, students enrolled with Blended Learning will have access to maritime specific documents and e-Books including membership to Witherby Connect, Regs4Ships and Ocean Learning Platform.

5. Do I have to pay for the course in full at enrolment?

No, Set One must be paid for at enrolment along with the qualification's awarding body (SQA,) registration fee for the qualification. However, remaining modules can be purchased individually, or as sets, as you progress through your course.

6. How do I study the underpinning knowledge and work through the learning material?

Once you receive your login details for the course, a member of the Blended Learning Team will contact you to arrange a Canvas demonstration and student induction. You should read the Blended Learning Study Guide, before starting to plan your study. Students enrolled on the AdC can choose which module they wish to start from Set One, however, students enrolled on the AdD we be advised on which module to start. You can then begin to read the learning material for Learning Outcome 1 of whichever AdC/AdD unit you are starting on. Access Canvas for the associated resources, answer any self-checking questions and undertake research on that Learning Outcome. When you reach the end of the Learning Outcome, there will be a Formative Assessment to complete and submit for marking. Formative Assessments can be found on the module page and on the main page of the course on Canvas 'Assignments'.

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7. What happens when I submit my work for marking?

Once uploaded correctly to the submission point on Canvas, the Blended Learning Unit will be automatically notified, and your submission will be marked by a lecturer with the result and feedback appearing on Canvas. All FAs are marked as Pass or Refer. You may be asked to resubmit a question/s and in this case, you should only re-submit the work requested. Students should not submit more than one FA at a time for marking, the FAs are linked to the Learning Outcomes (LOs) and you should work through the LOs in order, completing each, before moving onto the next. You should not submit any further FAs until you have received the feedback of your first submission. If your submission is marked as a pass, you can proceed to the next FA.

8. What happens when I have passed all the Formative Assessments (FAs)?

Once you have passed all the FAs, you must attempt a pre-college test (PCT), this only applies to modules assessed by written exams. The PCT is designed to assess your standard of knowledge and ensures that you are as prepared as possible to come to college for the summative assessments/written exams. Before making any arrangements to travel to college you must have passed the PCT. Students benefit from the experience of completing a PCT as it provides essential preparation for time constrained conditions and gives the student an idea of how they could perform in the written exam. You can book the time and date of the PCT with Blended Learning team via MS Teams or email: blearning@blackpool.ac.uk. PCTs will be made available for you on Canvas.

For modules assessed by Assignment, submission dates are in line with the full-time delivery at college.

9. What happens when I have passed the pre-college test?

You can now arrange to come to college for the written exam. Dates for exams at college in each term, are made available to students for the academic year. If your rotation or work commitments clash with the college exam dates, you should contact the Blended Learning team to discuss.

10. How many exams can I sit in one day?

Students cannot attempt more than two exams in one day, and exams normally commence at 09.00 or 13.00.

11. What is the procedure if I fail an exam?

Students who have failed a unit will be provided with a maximum of one reassessment opportunity for each failed unit or part thereof. Please refer to item 2.3 Assessment [B&FC SQA regulations](#).

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12. What happens when I pass all the individual AdC/AdD unit assessments?

You will then sit the AdC/AdD Graded Paper which is a 3-hour exam for AdC and two, 3-hour exams for AdD, the Graded Unit exams give you the final over all result for your AdC/AdD.

13. Do I have to sit the MCA SQA external exams to achieve my AdC/AdD?

No, the AdC/AdD is an academic qualification awarded by SQA. To obtain a Certificate of Competency you must sit and pass the MCA SQA external exams, along with the MCA Orals and the required STCW short courses. Please refer to MSN 1856 for more information.

14. Are the MCA SQA external exam fees included in the AdC/AdD fees?

No, the AdC/AdD fees are for the academic qualification only and do not include, SQA MCA external exam prep or exam fee, Orals Prep or the MCA Signals exam fee.