

# AO-Forum

*the nuts and bolts of running an AO*

**Gordon Associates & FAB** cordially invite you to AO-Forum 2016

**Date...** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 2016

**Venue...** Woburn House Conference Centre, 20 Tavistock Square London WC1H 9HQ

... Nearest tube: Euston or Kings Cross – see [www.woburnhouse.co.uk](http://www.woburnhouse.co.uk) for further detail

**Cost...** £140 + VAT (£168). **Early Bird Price: £120 + VAT (£144)** for bookings received before end of March

## AGENDA

09.00 – 10.00 **Registration, Tea & Coffee**

10.05 **Welcome** – By Stephen Wright, Chief Executive of Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB)

10.05 – 10.35 **Marketing Qualifications Overseas**

*Martin Lowder, Head of Client Relations, British Council*

Martin will present an overview of an exciting project headed by the British Council and supported by FAB which will provide support for awarding organisations to market qualifications abroad. The project covers:  
Phase 1 - desk research - the current size, potential and features of the global TVET market.

Phase 2 - qualitative & quantitative research with FAB members to understand their current position, plans, challenges and needs.

Phase 3 - Develop a detailed plan to support and promote international expansion among awarding organisations with actions for FAB and an associated British Council plan to develop/promote an effective support service for AOs

The UK has an excellent reputation overseas for the provision of high-quality education – come along to this session to understand how you can exploit this opportunity for your business.

10.35 – 11.15 **Ofqual – An Update From The Regulator**

*Bryan Horne, Associate Director – Standards for Vocational Qualifications and Apprenticeships, Ofqual*

We are extremely pleased to announce that Ofqual will present an update on the latest information on the current regulation and reform programmes. The presentation will look at current thinking on qualification frameworks and guided learning hours, and on related monitoring and compliance arrangements and will help you to assess the impact on your organisation. This is your opportunity to hear the latest news from the regulator and ask the important questions to help guide your business.

11.15 – 11.45 **Tea & Coffee**

11.45 – 12.15 **Qualifications Wales – The Latest Developments From The New Regulator**

*Cassy Taylor, Associate Director, Qualifications Wales*

Qualifications Wales is the new independent regulator for general and vocational qualifications in Wales. It was established through the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 and its principal aims are to make sure that both qualifications and the qualifications system are suitable for the needs of learners, and to promote public

confidence in them. This is an exciting time for education in Wales. There are significant changes taking place in the Welsh education system, and Qualifications Wales looks forward to playing its part in shaping those new developments.

We are extremely pleased that Qualifications Wales will be joining us to provide an update on the latest developments for them as a regulator. The presentation will look at current thinking on areas including recognition, approval, monitoring & research in order to help you to assess the impact on your organisation.

**12.15 – 12.45 The Top 3 Challenges Facing Awarding Organisations Today – Discussion Session**

*Chaired by Rod Gordon & Stephen Wright*

A key objective of the AO-Forum is to provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences with friends in the industry and, as a lead-in to the lunch break, this session will discuss the main topics that are current at the time. Bring along your hot topics and hear how others are handling them. Topics could include funding, changes in the regulatory landscape, apprenticeships & trailblazers, endpoint assessment, IT systems, achieving more registrations – and much more.

**12.45 – 14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 – 14.45 The Lure of the International Marketplace: Is it Make-Believe?**

*Isabel Sutcliffe, Former NCFE CEO and Responsible Officer for Pearson*

Isabel Sutcliffe champions the importance of independent assessment & awarding organisations in maintaining the rigour, credibility and confidence of qualifications – both academic and vocational. Becoming 'independent' herself - leaving Pearson and embarking on a new career as an independent consultant - her perspective on assessment & awarding has now broadened beyond the UK. She will draw on her considerable experience in the UK as well as internationally to present a candid view of opportunities and challenges that exist for AOs working internationally.

**14.45 – 15.30 ePortfolio: Using Controlled Digital Frameworks to Assess Practical Synoptic Tasks**

*Patrick Craven, Director of Assessment Policy, Research and Compliance, City & Guilds*  
*Matt Wingfield, Chief Business Development Officer, DigitalAssess*

City & Guilds have an enviable reputation throughout the industry for their Walled Garden and they continue to be at the forefront in the provision of online services for centres and learners.

In this session Patrick will provide an overview of how they use the online assessment solution from Digital Assess to deliver controlled, synoptic assessments of practical tasks and projects to support the delivery of the TechBac and Apprenticeships, which capture the learning process to create rich records of progression that can contribute to the final judgements of the student's competence. The session will look at the issues encountered, how these were resolved and suggestions for how other awarding bodies should approach a project such as this.

**15.30 Closing – By Rod Gordon**

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## Conference Fees

£140 + VAT (£168)

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### To book a place:

Simply email [margaret@gordonassociates.co.uk](mailto:margaret@gordonassociates.co.uk) stating the delegate(s) name(s) or call Margaret Chamberlain on 01242 529820.

We will then send you an invoice (quoting purchase order number if required).

Or to pay by credit card please go to [www.awardingorganisation.com](http://www.awardingorganisation.com) and go to the AO-Forum tab.

*N.B. Certificate of Attendance for CPD can be provided if required.*