

HEAR FAQ's

What is the HEAR?

The HEAR, which stands for the Higher Education Achievement Report, is a key way for you to get recognition for your achievements! It's designed to showcase both your academic and extra-curricular successes, together with your knowledge and skills, to help you really stand out from the crowd in a competitive graduate market. This includes; module marks and degree outcome (section 4), extra-curricular activities, prizes and awards (section 6).

The HEAR can be used in two key ways:

- As a **summative** record of your achievements which is issued at the point of graduation.
- As a **formative** tool, this can be accessed electronically, to help with career planning and development. You'll be able to see your HEAR grow with you throughout your studies!

What are the benefits of having a HEAR?

Having a HEAR has lots of benefits.

- It can be used as a developmental tool so you can make informed choices with regards to your career and professional development
- It acts as an aide memoir to support you when job seeking and completing applications, and will enhance your CV
- It can be shared securely with future employers to provide them with verified information about your achievements
- It helps you to articulate and showcase your skills and abilities by providing you with a reflective account of your course and extra-curricular achievements, including the key skills involved
- Section 6.1 is your chance to show employers your extra-curricular achievements. You control what goes on there, and it is your opportunity to stand out from the crowd.

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What is Section 6.1?

Extra-curricular activities will be recorded within section 6.1 of your HEAR. Section 6.1 is your opportunity to demonstrate to an employer the skills, attributes and experience you have outside of your academic achievements.

The information is University-verified too which means that employers can be confident of your accomplishments!

There are three types of extra-curricular achievement that can be recognized within section 6.1 as listed below:

- **Additional Awards**, for example, the Big Essex Award or Languages for All
- **Additional recognised activities**, which will need to be completed through the Big Essex Award and includes activities such as Frontrunners, Peer Mentors and Student Ambassadors.
- **University, Professional and Departmental prizes**, for example, SU prizes and sports prizes.

In order to receive recognition for your extra-curricular activities, activities will need to be completed as part of the Big Essex Award.

What is the Big Essex Award?

The Big Essex Award is the University of Essex's employability and skills Award run by Careers Services within the Student Development Team. It will help you to identify the skills you have developed over your time at Essex so that you can show future employers why they should hire you. The award will recognise the extra-curricular activities that you complete during your time at the University. The highest level that you achieve during your time at the University of Essex will be displayed on your HEAR.

The Big Essex Award is made up of four different levels. Each level requires you to gain a number of units to complete that level; Bronze (50 units) Silver (100 units) Gold (150 units) and Platinum (250 units). The units for each level of the award can be achieved by completing a variety of different activities.

To achieve each unit you will need to complete the unique criteria for that unit. Once you have achieved the unit criteria, log this unit on GradIntel. Once this is approved by the activity verifier you will have completed that unit.

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Any student who is registered at the University of Essex can sign up to, and complete the Big Essex Award. There is no sign-up deadline and you have until the May of your graduating year to complete the award. This deadline gives us enough time to approve all your units and include it on your HEAR.

Sign up to The Big Essex Award on GradIntel.

What is the difference between the Big Essex Award and the HEAR?

The Big Essex Award is a mechanism to help you receive recognition for your extracurricular achievements. The HEAR is a formal transcript that looks to provide more detail about your academic and non-academic achievements. If you complete the Big Essex Award, you'll be able to have it entered under section 6.1 of your HEAR.

What is GradIntel?

Working with the University of Essex, GradIntel provides a platform through which you can access your official achievement record online. The University of Essex will register you with GradIntel and upload your HEAR to its website. An activation email is then sent out to allow you to activate your account and log in to view your HEAR and to share it with potential employers and other Universities. You can log your Big Essex Award activities through GradIntel.

How do I share my HEAR

To share your HEAR with a trusted third-party you have to issue a digital token. You have complete control over who can see your HEAR and for how long they can view it. You can also select the option to be notified when your token has been used and by what means. You can also keep a log of who you have shared your HEAR with.

At the moment, you are unable to print your HEAR.

Will I still get a hard-copy transcript?

The University of Essex no longer issues hard-copy transcripts to undergraduate students who registered after 2014 and postgraduates who registered after September 2018. Your HEAR is the complete record of your time at Essex including your academic achievements.



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What happens if I try to share my HEAR but it is not accepted?

If the organization that you wish to share your HEAR with won't accept it then, please contact the Graduation Office on award-docs@essex.ac.uk and they will be happy to talk you through the options available to you.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you would like any information at all on the HEAR or have any other questions, please get in touch:

Transcript: award-docs@essex.ac.uk

Big Essex Award: bige@essex.ac.uk