



Letter of Intent to cooperate

between

the **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom**

and

**RAK Free Trade Zone Authority, United Arab Emirates**

This Letter of Intent for cooperation is made between the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, hereafter referred to as '**QAA**'

and

Ras Al Khaimah Free Trade Zone Authority, a government entity, having its administrative office at Business Park, PO Box 10055, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, hereafter referred to as '**RAK FTZ**'

collectively referred to as '**the Parties**'.

#### **Whereas**

QAA was established in 1997 and is the independent body entrusted with monitoring and advising on standards and quality in UK higher education. To this end, QAA carries out reviews of UK higher education providers and develops and maintains the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, the definitive national point of reference for academic standards and the quality of learning opportunities.

RAK FTZ was established in 2000 and is responsible for issuing several types of free zone licenses for investors in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah.

#### **QAA and RAK FTZ**

In the context of establishing links of friendship and cooperation, QAA and RAK FTZ have agreed the content of this Letter of Intent (LoI).

This LoI is not intended to create legally binding relations between the Parties, and neither Party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other Party.

Both Parties, acting in accordance with the framework of laws and regulations and the laws and regulations of RAK FTZ, agree to exercise their best efforts to explore possible opportunities for cooperation in the following fields.

#### **a Mutual understanding**

Work to enhance the Parties' understanding of each other's approach to assuring quality in higher education, the respective systems in place for quality assurance and enhancement in higher education, and the critical matters relating to quality and standards in higher education in both countries.

**b Information exchange**

Exchange information and offer professional advice about each Party's activities and processes, about developments in their respective country's higher education systems, and about cross-border providers operating in both jurisdictions, having regard for the confidentiality of the information and relevant Data Protection legislation.

**c Staff development**

Where appropriate and possible, support the development of staff from each of the Parties through activities such as staff exchange, observing each other's review processes, and provision of training.

**Duration of Letter of Intent**

The Lol will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for two years unless it is terminated by the giving of two months' notice in writing by either Party. The Lol may be extended on mutual agreement of the Parties, such agreement to be made in writing.

**Alteration of Letter of Intent**

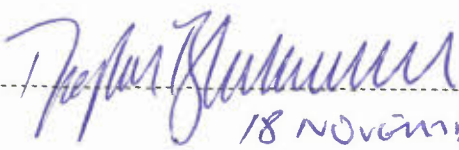
This Lol is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation, and its provisions are not intended to be binding. The provisions of the Lol may be altered with the consent of both Parties, such alteration to be confirmed in writing.

**Management and liaison arrangements for the Letter of Intent**

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Douglas Blackstock) and the Chief Executive of RAK FTZ (at the time of signing Ramy Jallad) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the provisions of the Lol and for reviewing the Lol to ensure its ongoing appropriateness and relevance on an annual basis. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of each Party's staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

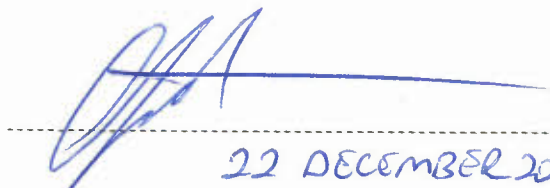
**Resources**

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed and confirmed in writing, with a view to meeting particular project requirements, each Party will cover any of their own costs incurred in the application or implementation of the provisions of the Lol.

  
18 NOVEMBER 2016

**Douglas Blackstock**  
Chief Executive  
QAA

**The Quality Assurance Agency  
for Higher Education**  
Southgate House  
Southgate Street  
Gloucester  
GL1 1UB  
United Kingdom  
Telephone: +44 (0)1452 557050  
Fax: +44 (0)1452 557002  
Email: international@qaa.ac.uk  
Website: www.qaa.ac.uk

  
22 DECEMBER 2016

**Taner Topcu**  
Director, Academic Zone  
RAK FTZ Authority

**RAK FTZ Authority Headquarters  
(RAK Academic Zone)**  
Al Nakheel Area  
PO Box 10055  
Ras Al Khaimah  
United Arab Emirates  
Telephone: +971 07 204 11 11  
Fax: +971 07 207 71 20  
Email: info@rakftz.com  
Website: www.rakftz.com