



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, Australia

This Memorandum of Cooperation is made between the **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education**, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, hereafter referred to as QAA.

and the

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency,¹ of Level 14, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, hereafter referred to as TEQSA.

Whereas

QAA was established in 1997 and is responsible for safeguarding the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications, providing information and encouraging continuous improvement in the management of the quality of 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.

TEQSA was established under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (TEQSA Act) as the independent, national regulatory and quality assurance agency for the higher education sector in Australia. TEQSA is responsible for the registration of higher education providers; accreditation of higher education courses for providers without self-accrediting authority; quality assurance; and dissemination of higher education standards and performance requirements. The Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) is established under the TEQSA Act and as of 1 January 2017 the amended *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015* will come into effect.

¹ Representing the Commonwealth of Australia

QAA and TEQSA

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the assurance of quality in higher education, and both being committed to the spirit of cooperation expressed in the QACHE Toolkit, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims

QAA and TEQSA agree through this Memorandum of Cooperation to cooperate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards enhancing regulation and quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improving the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom and Australia. This Memorandum of Cooperation 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. However, QAA and TEQSA agree to work together to implement this Memorandum of Cooperation in good faith.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, QAA and Australia, in accordance with the framework of British and Australian laws and regulations, will pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit and with a commitment to reduce unnecessary regulatory duplication on providers operating across borders:

(a) Mutual understanding

Work to enhance their 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 other's activities and processes, higher education providers operating in each jurisdiction, and about developments in each country's higher education systems.

(c) Staff development

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

(d) Use of each other's reviewers

Where appropriate and possible, draw on reviewers or other specialists from each other's systems to strengthen the international dimension of each other's review processes.

(e) Recognition

Where appropriate and possible, in operations relating to quality assurance of higher education within one party's jurisdiction but originating from the other party's jurisdiction, have due regard to the relevant decisions and judgements of the other party.

(f) Collaboration

Where appropriate and possible, collaborate in relation to mutually agreed projects and activities for the benefit of both parties, including the quality assurance of transnational education, the identification of fraudulent institutions, awarding bodies or accrediting agencies in the UK and in Australia, supporting student mobility, and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Cooperation will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for three years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the consent of both parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr Douglas Blackstock) and the Chief Executive Officer of TEQSA (at the time of signing Mr Anthony McClaran) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the Memorandum on an annual basis. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, each agency will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Signed in _____ on 1/06/16.



Mr Douglas Blackstock
Chief Executive, QAA

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Southgate House
Southgate Street
Gloucester
GL1 1UB
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 1452 557000
Fax: +44 1452 557002
Email: international@qaa.ac.uk
Website: www.qaa.ac.uk



Mr Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive Officer, TEQSA

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Level 14, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne
Victoria 3000
Australia
Telephone: +61 3 8306 2400
Fax: +61 3 8306 2409
Email: enquiries@teqsa.gov.au
Website: www.teqsa.gov.au