

A guidance note on the application of B10 to higher education providers without degree awarding powers

This guidance about Chapter B10 in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code), is intended to clarify what providers should comment on in their self-evaluations. This is prompted by the recent debate about how to use Chapter B10, particularly in providers who do not have degree-awarding powers.

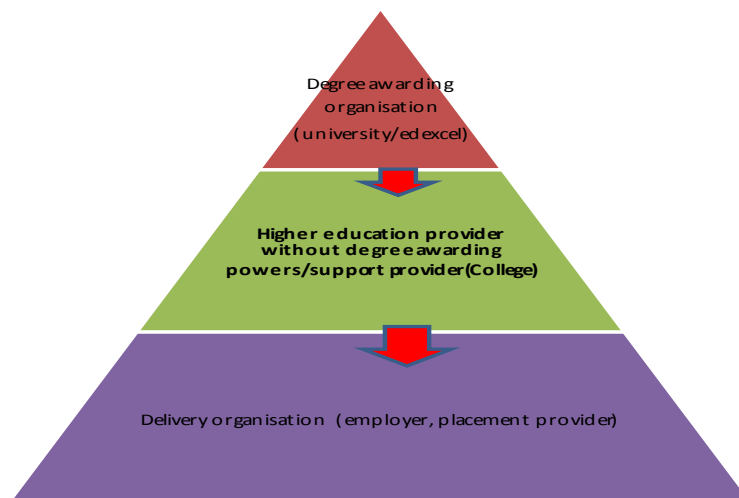
B10: Expectation

Degree-awarding bodies take ultimate responsibility for academic standards and the quality of learning opportunities, irrespective of where these are delivered or who provides them. Arrangements for delivering learning opportunities with organisations other than the degree-awarding body are implemented securely and managed effectively.

The prompts from the Quality Code chapter headings covering the 18 indicators of sound practice should be useful in facilitating your consideration of how the provider is meeting the overarching Expectation.

- Strategy and governance
- Developing, agreeing and managing an arrangement to deliver learning opportunities with others
- Responsibility for, and equivalence of, academic standards
- Quality assurance
- Information for students and delivery organisations, support providers or partners
- Certificates and records of study

For providers without degree awarding powers (DAP), B10 is about the provider (college) managing its relationship with other organisations to whom it has delegated responsibilities (for example, a college delegating responsibilities to an employer). It is not about the way in which colleges manage their part of the relationship with organisations who delegate responsibilities to it (such as degree awarding bodies). In other words, if we think of these relationships hierarchically with the awarding body at the top, in the case of non-DAP providers, B10 looks down and not up.



In essence, B10 describes what is expected of UK degree-awarding bodies managing arrangements for student learning to be delivered or supported by an organisation other than themselves (a delivery organisation or support provider). However, it also applies to higher education providers without degree-awarding powers (DAPs) that arrange the delivery or support of learning by a third party (by agreement with the degree awarding body). Although in both the Expectation and the subsequent Indicators explicit reference is made to the particular responsibilities reserved for degree-awarding bodies, both degree-awarding bodies, and higher education providers without DAP that are arranging provision by a third party are all required to meet the second part of the Expectation and will find the Indicators of sound practice helpful in this respect.

B10 applies to higher education providers without DAP that arrange the delivery of or support for learning by a third party (by agreement with the degree awarding body). For example, further education colleges may provide placement opportunities and/or Foundation Degrees that include work-based learning delivered or supported by other organisations. Although the focus of B10 is on how such arrangements are effectively managed and overseen by the degree-awarding body, it also applies to higher education providers without DAPs arranging provision by a third party. Ensuring that robust processes are in place to secure the quality of student learning opportunities, irrespective of where these take place or who provides them, is pivotal.