



## **Memorandum of Agreement concerning the collection and use of information**

between

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education,  
Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB

and

The British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher  
Education, 44 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4LL

### **Introduction**

This Memorandum of Agreement is made between the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the British Accreditation Council (BAC). Both organisations have a common interest in securing the quality and standards of educational opportunities offered to students by organisations and institutions providing higher education programmes.

QAA's mission is to safeguard the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications and to inform and encourage continuous improvement in the management of the quality of higher education. To this end, QAA works with higher education institutions to define academic standards and quality, and carries out reviews against these standards. QAA was established in 1997 and is an independent body funded by subscriptions from UK universities and colleges of higher education, and through contracts with the main UK higher education funding bodies. Publicly funded institutions, and non-publicly funded institutions with UK degree awarding powers that are audited by QAA, are recognised by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) as meeting the qualifying requirements as sponsors for international visa students.

BAC's mission is to improve and enhance the standards of independent further and higher educational institutions by the establishment of a system of accreditation. A registered charity incorporated in 1984, its Council members are nominated by many of the bodies concerned with the maintenance of educational standards in Britain. No officers or members of Council have a commercial or other beneficial interest in any of the accredited institutions. The responsibility for decisions on accreditation is delegated to BAC's Accreditation Committee, which includes members of the Council, recent practitioners and representatives of other accrediting bodies. Accreditation by BAC is recognised by UKBA as a qualifying requirement for institutions wishing to sponsor international visa students.

## **Article I**

### **Definition**

For the purpose of this Memorandum, the word 'independent' in relation to further and higher education institutions and organisations shall be taken to mean such institutions and organisations operating in the UK as are neither publicly-funded nor subscribers to QAA.

### **Aims of Memorandum of Agreement**

QAA and BAC hereby agree to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to cooperate in the collection and sharing of information in relation to the quality and standards of UK higher education awards delivered by independent institutions and organisations. Both parties will work together to identify common information requirements and sources of data that will support their various review and inspection activities. Wherever possible, and subject to any legal or other operational constraints, each party will make available to the other information that is collected as part of their respective activities and will take all reasonable steps to assist each other in the pursuit of their aims and objectives.

## **Article II**

### **Areas of cooperation and collaboration**

QAA and BAC will work together to:

- a coordinate the collection of information about independent higher education providers
- b wherever possible provide access to each other's evidence to assist in the conduct of review and inspection activity
- c monitor collaborative partnership arrangements between UK degree-awarding higher education institutions and independent higher education providers
- d foster close working links between key staff with responsibility for information at QAA and BAC
- e make available to each other all reports and other documents, produced by the organisations, that make reference to higher education provision by independent providers
- f cooperate in the identification and assessment of unacceptable practices by independent higher education providers
- g assist UKBA, institutions and each other in the implementation and monitoring of the points-based system for immigration, as it affects further and higher education.

## **Article III**

### **Duration of Memorandum**

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

## Article IV

### 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.

## Article V

### Officers responsible for managing the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr Peter Williams) and the Chief Executive of BAC (at the time of signing Dr Gina Hobson) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of staff in relation to specific areas of cooperation.

## Article VI

### Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, the two organisations will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum.

## Article VII

### Schedule of projects and activities

Any other projects, initiatives or related activities that are entered into under the terms of this Memorandum will be described in additional administrative schedules to be annexed to the Memorandum

### Signed:



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Peter Williams  
Chief Executive  
QAA



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Gina Hobson  
Chief Executive  
BAC

### Dated:

24 September 2009  
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24.9.09  
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