

Memorandum of cooperation

between

**The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Gloucester, United Kingdom**

and

**The British Computer Society
Swindon, United Kingdom**

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

and

The British Computer Society, (known as BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT), First Floor, Block D of North Star House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1FA, United Kingdom, hereafter referred to as BCS.

Recitals

Whereas:

BCS was founded in 1957. It is a chartered body and registered charity, established for the purpose of educating the public in 'Computing'. BCS is licensed by the Engineering Council to award Chartered Engineer (CEng) status and Incorporated Engineer (IEng) status, and by the Science Council to award Chartered Scientist status (CSci). BCS also has its own Chartered Status, Chartered IT Professional (CITP).

QAA was established in 1997 and is responsible for safeguarding 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 in the United Kingdom.

BCS and QAA:

recognising the importance of minimising the demands placed upon higher education institutions by bodies charged with reviewing or accrediting them

acknowledging the potential value to each party of the use of each other's accreditation and review processes and reports

now wish to establish closer relations as equal partners for the purpose of exploring ways and means for establishing co-operative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties and the higher education institutions.

Article I

Aims of Memorandum of cooperation

BCS and QAA agree hereby to enter into a Memorandum of Cooperation for the benefit of both parties and to work towards establishing a strategic alliance to provide for the greater effectiveness of both parties.

Article II

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

BCS and QAA will work together:

- to enable BCS to make an appropriate contribution to the development and review of the QAA Academic Infrastructure to the extent that it has a bearing upon BCS accreditation activities (in particular the subject benchmark statements for computing)
- to enable both organisations to inform the development of each other's respective review/accreditation practices
- to promote more effective regulation in their review work and the work of the higher education sector
- to encourage higher education institutions to share their BCS accreditation reports and outcomes with all stakeholders
- to promote public information and understanding of academic and professional standards
- to provide developmental opportunities as appropriate for staff and reviewers of both parties
- to collaborate in joint research of mutual benefit
- to cooperate in any other mutually agreed activities for the benefit of both parties.

Article III

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum will take effect from the date of signature and will continue in operation until and unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party.

Article IV

Alteration of Memorandum

The Memorandum may be altered at any time with the consent of both parties. A review of the effectiveness of the terms of the Memorandum will be undertaken in 2012, with a view to modifying its provisions to ensure that they meet current needs. Further reviews will take place at three-yearly intervals.

Article V

Officers responsible for managing the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of BCS (at the time of signing, Mr David Clarke) and the Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing, Mr Anthony McClaran) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the parties' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Article VI

Resources

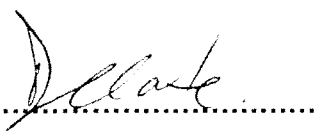
Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, the two agencies will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum.

Article VII

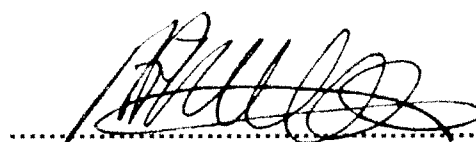
Schedule of projects and activities

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

Signed in Gloucester on Tuesday 14 September 2010



David Clarke
Chief Executive
BCS
United Kingdom



Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive
The Quality Assurance Agency for
Higher Education
United Kingdom

Schedule

Within the broad framework of the Memorandum of cooperation, the BCS and QAA will use their best efforts to promote collaboration in the following activities in the first year that the Memorandum is renewed (2010):

- the evaluation of the Academic Infrastructure in terms of: how relevant and effective it is as a means of helping to establish and maintain academic standards and quality in contemporary higher education; how appropriately it meets the needs of quality assurance in UK higher education; and whether it is sufficiently flexible to accommodate future developments in higher education
- the development and recognition of the master's level subject benchmark statement in conjunction with the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing
- the development of the new audit method for England so that it has an appropriate bearing on accreditation and takes due account of the BCS accreditation processes so as to reduce the burden on higher education institutions
- the follow-up work to the Thematic enquiries project into concerns about academic quality and standards in higher education in England, including public understanding of academic standards and quality.