



Educational Oversight: report of the monitoring visit of Amity Global Education Ltd t/a Amity University [In] London, November 2015

Section 1: Outcome of the monitoring visit

1 From the evidence provided in the annual return and at the monitoring visit, the review team concludes that Amity Global Education Ltd t/a Amity University [In] London (the University) has made acceptable progress with continuing to monitor, review and enhance its higher education provision since the [previous monitoring visit](#) in September 2013.

Section 2: Changes since the last QAA monitoring visit

2 Since the last monitoring visit the University has finished its franchise agreement with Anglia Ruskin University (ARU). The last intake onto the ARU BA (Hons) Business Management programme was in September 2013. Currently, there are eight students completing this programme, compared with 75 enrolled students at the previous monitoring visit.

3 The University has established two new franchise agreements with the University of Northampton and the University of Bolton. The former is for a BA (Hons) Business Studies, a BSc (Hons) Computing and an MBA Executive, the latter is for delivery of a doctoral research degree. The only approval condition, related to the format of staff CVs for one of the University of Northampton programmes, was resolved promptly. The University intends to recruit to these programmes in 2016.

Section 3: Findings from the monitoring visit

4 The University thoroughly reviews its higher education provision and evaluates the effectiveness of the actions through the Quality Assurance Progress Report, and the Quality Review and Assurance Committee (QRAC), overseen by the Amity Europe Strategic Advisory Board. It has developed detailed quality management systems to support future planned growth. These systems and processes will be fully implemented when the new programmes recruit and as such have yet to be tested and evaluated for effectiveness.

5 The University has developed comprehensive policies on student engagement and attendance, and regularly monitors student satisfaction. The Head of Student Services produces detailed reports and an annual summary, which are considered by the QRAC. Students are positive about formal and informal access to staff (to the level of the Principal) and the University's responsiveness to their feedback.

6 The new programmes have well documented admissions procedures. The University's Admissions Committee and Admissions Unit will manage these processes, which will be monitored by the awarding bodies. All candidates will be interviewed to assess their suitability. The awarding bodies will approve all offers to study on a programme. Staff have a good understanding of how the processes for admissions will work. The University provides scholarships for high achieving applicants and bursaries to broaden access.

7 The University has undertaken extensive preparation to support the delivery of research degrees. This includes the development of a Research Unit, Research Committee and Ethics Committee; funded postgraduate research bursaries; the appointment of Visiting Professors; a staff/student research seminar initiative; and a series of policies and guidance documents for research students and staff. National technology companies have expressed an interest in supporting research activities through the University's Strategic Advisory Board.

8 Learning resources are suitable for the University's planned programmes. Birkbeck College provides classrooms, information technology and full library facilities, and has confirmed support for future expansion of student numbers. Students have library borrowing rights at Birkbeck College and access to the University of London Senate House Library. Current students have a very high level of satisfaction with the classrooms, and are satisfied with the library and information technology resources. The University of Bolton has approved potential PhD supervisors. The topics of prospective research students will be matched to these approved staff to ensure that their research topics can be supervised effectively. The University has active international research links.

9 The University's published information is generally clear and appropriate for its intended audiences. Staff are aware of the processes required by awarding bodies for checking of information on programmes. There are, however, some minor ambiguities, including how admissions requirements for programmes are expressed in different media.

10 The majority of students stated that the reputation of the University was a positive factor in choosing to study in the UK. However, the University does not provide transparent and easily accessible information on its legal/educational status and ownership. Given its atypical status in the UK higher education system, its non-profit nature and the approved use of a university title, it would be helpful to prospective students if published information gave a clear explanation of how the University locates itself within the broader contexts of UK and international higher education.

11 There are effective assessment procedures for the current programme, which follow the awarding body's regulations and processes. Module guides and assessment briefs contain clear assessment criteria for each assessment. All assessment is marked by the University's module tutors, and is then internally and externally moderated. Staff have a good understanding of assessment requirements for the University's current and future programmes. Students are satisfied with assessment arrangements, including those for resits of failed assessments. They are also positive about feedback on assessed work, including its timeliness and quality, and in particular the opportunity for one-to-one discussion with academic staff. The PhD programme will be assessed according to the University of Bolton's Off-Campus Doctoral Programme Handbook. The University has developed detailed arrangements and procedures in readiness for the PhD programme, for example a Guide to the Assessment Criteria for PhD students.

Section 4: Progress in working with the external reference points to meet UK expectations for higher education

12 The University is continuing to align its policies to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code). In preparation for the proposed doctoral programme it has thoroughly mapped its provision against the indicators in the Quality Code, *Chapter B11: Research Degrees*, and has also mapped the assessment and feedback policy to the Quality Code. The staff development programme and the annual staff away day include sessions on developing and maintaining quality standards through the use of the relevant Quality Code indicators.

Section 5: Background to the monitoring visit

13 The monitoring visit serves as a short check on the provider's continuing management of academic standards and quality of provision. It focuses on progress since the previous review. In addition, it provides an opportunity for QAA to advise the provider of any matters that have the potential to be of particular interest in the next monitoring visit or review.

14 The monitoring visit was carried out by Mrs Catherine Fairhurst, Coordinator, and Dr Martin Lockett, Reviewer, on 25 and 26 November 2015.

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