

## QAA Membership in Northern Ireland 2023-24

In a rapidly changing higher and tertiary education environment, QAA Membership delivers inspiring, expert activities and resources which enable you to demonstrate excellence in quality and standards to UK and international audiences.



“ QAA membership is highly valued by the six further and higher education colleges in Northern Ireland. It supports, underpins and enhances quality assurance processes across HE provision with a positive impact on FE. ”

Karen Moore MBE, Head of Quality Enhancement,  
North West Regional College and Chair of the  
6 Colleges Quality Forum

### In session 2023-24, QAA will support higher education providers in Northern Ireland by:

#### Review activity

- Preparing the sector for the **development of a new approach to Quality Assessment in Northern Ireland**. While awaiting the outcome of the specification for the design of a new approach to quality assessment in higher education in Northern Ireland (submitted to the Department for the Economy by QAA in Autumn 2021), QAA will continue to work to prepare and provide detail of how a new review method will be designed in partnership with the sector. QAA will promote a partnership approach and ensure that the sector and students have appropriate opportunities to co-create the method through an External Quality Review Method Advisory Group, drawn from across the sector in the Northern Ireland, wider-UK and internationally, as well as hosting a series of consultation events.
- Supporting the sector to **embed and engage with the UK Quality Code** and promote opportunities to be involved in other **sector-wide reference points** including building on Northern Ireland's existing support for Subject Benchmark Statements.

## Enhancement activity

- Delivering the annual **QAA Northern Ireland Enhancement Conference**, bringing together staff, students and sector bodies to share, discuss and debate enhancing the quality of the student experience in Northern Ireland, building on the themes of the two previous successful events in 2021 and 2022.
- Continuing to offer **institutional liaison meetings** to ensure our members receive the latest QAA updates, a tailored approach to QAA Membership, and the opportunity to share current practices and challenges that QAA can support with.
- Providing regular bespoke communications through a **quarterly newsletter** highlighting opportunities for members and promoting the sector more widely.

## Influence and policy insights

- Maintaining **support for current sector groups**, for example through the Academic Registrars Council (ARC) Practitioners Group, The Quality Forum (TQF) and the HE in FE Quality Managers' Network, to provide relevant insights and updates.
- Ensuring QAA is responsive to the needs of Northern Ireland members through the **creation of a QAA Northern Ireland Strategic Advisory Committee** that will advise the QAA Board.
- Engaging regularly with our **key stakeholders**, including the Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland) and NUS-USI.

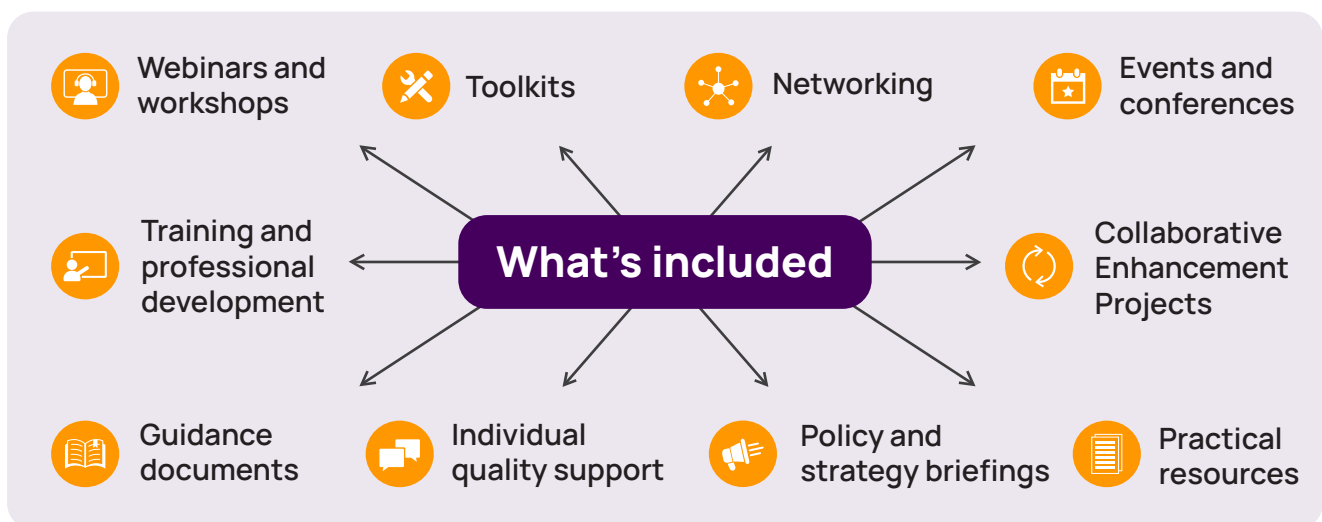
## Working across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

- Building on the interest and commitment to **collaborative working between the higher education sectors in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** to promote partnership, sharing of practice, opportunities for enhancing the student experience and identifying joint approaches for the future.



## Benefits for your whole institution

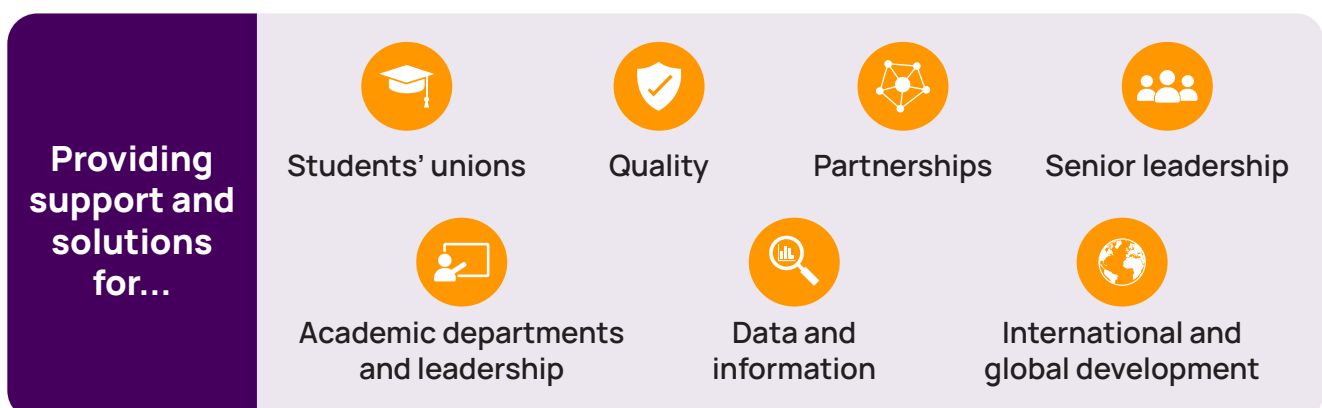
- **Horizon scanning**: equipping you with the latest intelligence on UK, European and global developments.
- **Influencing strategy and policy**: ensuring governments and other key bodies are informed by expert advice and experience.
- **Co-creating sector reference points**: giving you a strong voice, ensuring UK, European and international reference points reflect your needs and those of your students.
- **Being part of a vibrant membership community**: facilitating learning and shared insights across institutions and with other partners such as professional, statutory and regulatory bodies.
- **Driving innovation**: developing innovative approaches to evaluation and reporting on quality that improve effectiveness and address internal and external demands.
- **Empowering your staff**: supporting the professional development of your staff, equipping them to safeguard academic standards and enhance quality for your students.



## Our membership community tailored to you

In 2023 we have  
**over 300**  
UK-based members

Our activities are tailored to different types of providers, and we have opportunities for staff and students in all roles. Our highly valued networks include colleges; independent and specialist providers; students; programme leaders; senior academic managers; and quality leads.



## Priority topics and activities for 2023-24

Our activities cover a wide range of topics including:



### **Future approaches for learning, teaching and assessment**

Assessment design and delivery;  
Competence-based education;  
Differential outcomes and awarding gaps;  
Student engagement



### **Evaluation and quality processes**

Innovative quality processes;  
Effective evaluation; Evidencing value;  
Educational gain; Using data



### **Flexible pathways and student transitions**

Modular and micro-credentials;  
Student transitions; Creating a sense  
of belonging



### **Employability, enterprise and entrepreneurship**

Embedding skills; Supporting  
enterprise and entrepreneurship;  
Careers support; Apprenticeships



### **Quality and standards**

Subject Benchmark Statements;  
Degree classifications; Developing the UK  
Quality Code; Working with professional,  
statutory and regulatory bodies;  
Delivering and awarding in partnerships



### **Academic integrity**

Impact of artificial intelligence;  
Postgraduate provision; Embedding  
the Academic Integrity Charter;  
Managing misconduct



### **Global engagement**

Country resources; Developing  
partnerships; Supporting and enhancing  
the international student experience;  
Ensuring UK HE has a strong voice in  
Europe and around the globe



### **Collaborative enhancement projects**

Over 40 projects on priority topics  
including: Diversity and inclusion;  
Education for Sustainable Development;  
Mental wellbeing; Future pedagogy;  
Peer observation



### **Professional development and training**

Formal and informal training programmes and development opportunities  
including Introduction to Quality and Quality in Practice



## Explore your membership

We love hearing your suggestions, feedback and questions. Each provider has a named QAA Contact and you can also get in touch by email.

 [Access the Membership Resources site](#)

 [Register for events](#)

 [Find out about QAA Membership](#)

 [Sign up for our Member Newsletter and Northern Ireland Newsletter](#)

## Renewing your membership for 2023-24

Renewing is simple. We will email you in June about the renewal process.

We are always available to help.

Please contact your QAA contact or email us.

 [ARCAAdmin@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:ARCAAdmin@qaa.ac.uk)

Published – 20 April 2023

© The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education 2023

Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786

[www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)