Membership 2021-22 in England

Working with our members to safeguard academic standards, enhance the student learning experience and secure the global reputation of UK higher education
What QAA Membership means for you

QAA is an independent charity working to benefit students and higher education. QAA Membership provides vision, expertise and guidance through a strong partnership with our members.

Secures UK higher education’s global reputation for excellence

Safeguards academic standards and champions academic integrity

Enhances the student learning experience wherever students are studying

We work across the UK to secure academic standards and assure quality, in partnership with universities, colleges, specialist institutions and independent providers in each nation.

Informed by our strong international links and horizon scanning, we devise and deliver imaginative, timely and responsive enhancement activities. These are designed to ensure you and your students are well equipped to face the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing higher education environment.

QAA Membership provides us with a real opportunity to strengthen the quality of UK higher education and to support the maintenance and enhancement of the UK higher education’s global reputation for excellence.

Our University welcomes the collegial support from the QAA Membership team in helping to improve quality, secure standards and give students the best experience possible through the provision of expert insight, production of timely resources and planned CPD sessions.

Vice-Chancellor, QAA Member
As a student, working with QAA helps to expand your horizons and go beyond local engagement. I found it really valuable to meet with other education officers and students, and to share our practices and projects. It’s been a phenomenal opportunity. Student voice is so important, it’s integral in higher education and it should be valued at every level.

_Students’ Union Vice-President for Education, QAA Member_
All staff and students at QAA Member institutions can benefit from support and constructive challenge. Joining us gives access to QAA’s convening power: influencing, advising and informing governments and other sector bodies.

Practical resources
Ensure you have the right information and tools at your fingertips, in a range of imaginative and accessible formats.

Events and workshops
Provide opportunities to develop and exchange ideas on the latest policy and practice.

Insights and influence
Keep you informed and offer opportunities to shape strategy, policy and practice at sector, institutional and subject level.

Professional development
Builds capacity, supports continuous professional development and extends knowledge and skills.

Networking and engagement
Our extensive activities enable us to lead debate and facilitate discussion tailored to your organisation including:

- Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education Network (and equivalent roles)
- Engagement with professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs)
- Policy and practitioner groups, such as the College HE Network
- Annual events:
  - Quality Insights Conference
  - Evolving Student Engagement Conference
  - Quality Matters Conference
- Member Networks
- Quality clinics and member enquiries service
- Collaborative Enhancement Partnerships, enabling our members to work together on priority topics, supported by QAA
In 2021-22, our Membership offer spans **five interconnected themes**. These include UK-wide work to secure standards and quality, as well as enhancement-facing activities, co-created with our members to ensure they are responsive to the different contexts in which members operate.

### Beyond COVID-19 - The Future of Digital and Blended Delivery
Exploring good practice and creating practical resources.
- Digital and blended pedagogy, including the future role of the campus.
- Assessment in digital and blended delivery.
- Embedding work to align learning outcomes with assessment.
- Assessing skills and competencies.

> We’ve been enormously grateful to QAA for their ongoing leadership and support during the pandemic. It would be much more difficult to manage the situation without that support, guidance and advice.

*Director of Quality and Standards, QAA Member*

### Evaluation and Data-Based Decision-Making
Enhancing practice and evidencing impact.
- Evidence-based decision-making.
- Moving beyond the metrics to evaluate what really counts in higher education.
- Exploring effective approaches in evaluation and review.
- Influencing, advising and informing governments, sector bodies and providers.
Global Engagement and TNE

Supporting internationalisation across topics and regions.

- Engaging with governments, international agency partners and policy forums.
- Maintaining strong partnerships across Europe, providing a voice for UK higher education in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).
- Support for international students (in the UK and overseas).
- Enhancing quality and managing risk in transnational education (TNE) and international partnerships.
- Supporting members working with overseas partners through our country programme.

QAA has a global reach and recognition, influencing other countries and other international quality assurance arrangements. You can be assured that you’re aligning yourself with best practice in relation to quality assurance globally, and you are a member of an agency which ensures that best practice is shared amongst HEIs within the UK, for the benefit of all institutional members and in particular their students.

Academic Director, QAA Member

Creating Inclusive Learning Communities
- Flexible Pathways and Pedagogies

An imaginative enhancement offer to help providers deliver inclusive, flexible learning opportunities.

- Successful student transitions into higher education, postgraduate study and employment.
- Flexible pathways and modular qualifications.
- Inclusion and accessibility in the curriculum and student experience.
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- Work-based learning, apprenticeships, links with employers and professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs).
- Student mental health and wellbeing.
- Embedding Education for Sustainable Development.
- Promotion and ongoing development of the Access to HE Diploma.
Securing academic standards and assuring quality through UK-wide reference points.

- Academic integrity including creating and sharing practical guidance and support for staff and students.
- Degree algorithms and degree classifications including exploring the impact of changes in assessment.
- Subject Benchmark Statements including progressing a review and refresh of Statements to ensure they are inclusive and valuable for subject communities.
- Characteristic Statements including developing new Statements for areas such as micro-credentials.
- Qualifications and credit frameworks including devising supporting resources to embed the Credit Framework for England in programme design. Also, as key members of the ‘five nations group’, working with qualification regulators, funders and related bodies across the UK and Ireland to ensure approaches to qualifications frameworks and credit continue to be clearly understood.
How QAA Membership is structured

Our Membership offer is structured into a Core package and two additional enhancement services - Quality Insights and International Insights.

Core Membership

Working together to safeguard academic standards and secure the global reputation of UK higher education

Enhancement Services

- Quality Insights
  Practical application of membership frameworks, guidance and projects

- International Insights
  Support for engagement with international partner projects
Core Membership

Gives you the essential elements for securing academic standards and assuring the quality which are central to maintaining the UK higher education sector’s reputation for excellence.

Core services include:

- **Working with governments**, sector agencies and other bodies including the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment to **influence policy** and practice, ensuring that key quality considerations are understood in new or evolving policy initiatives.

- Horizon scanning and **thought leadership** on academic standards and quality.

- Leading agendas on **academic integrity**, such as our campaign to combat essay mills and other threats.

- Ensuring the UK Quality Code Advice and Guidance, Subject Benchmark Statements and other **sector reference points** are current, to support developments in institutions and within disciplines.

- Networking with governments, agencies and institutions around the world to **benefit UK higher education and its international reputation**, advancing UK HE’s leadership and voice in global quality assurance and enhancement.

- Empowering QAA Members to work together on priority topics through our **Collaborative Enhancement Partnership projects**.

- Providing solutions to current challenges and identifying opportunities for innovation through our **commissioned research** and associated findings.
As our membership activity is funded entirely from membership fees, we must prioritise our members when convening groups and supporting activities. For example, joining our Subject Benchmark Statement advisory groups is now exclusively for staff and students from QAA Member institutions, as is the opportunity to lead a Collaborative Enhancement Partnership project or to attend roundtable discussions at the highest level of government.

In this way, QAA Membership is not only providing access to particular resources and events, but also offering a seat at the table to influence future policy and practice.

Our QAA Membership gives us access to a wide range of resources that support us in assuring academic standards, as well as providing an excellent student experience. QAA also plays a vital role in safeguarding the academic standards, quality and global reputation of the UK HE sector.

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, QAA Member

- Continuing to provide a clear voice for UK higher education in Europe, for example, working closely with the European Higher Education Area, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European Quality Assurance Register to represent UK higher education in the revision of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).
- Leading and facilitating networks including championing engagement with PSRBs.
- Offering core training programmes - Introduction to Quality and Quality in Practice.
- Providing dedicated support including a named Membership Engagement Manager and access to specialist quality clinics.
- Designing and delivering dedicated events to support students and staff involved in student engagement.
Provides access to a wide range of enhanced services and practical resources including:

- **Quality Insights**
  - Our flagship annual Quality Insights Conference.
  - Training programmes on specific topics such as ‘Building confidence in using data and evidence for enhancement’.
  - A rich suite of workshops and events providing access to expert guidance, practical support and opportunities to share practice.
  - Practical resources, toolkits and detailed case studies.

> With QAA Membership, we have access to a wealth of information, guidance and networks. It enables us to assure ourselves that what we’re doing is right.

**Senior Student Education Services Officer, QAA Member**
International Insights

Provides practical support for your engagement with international partners to develop transnational education (TNE) and recruit international students including:

- Country reports and supporting resources.
- Events and workshops providing opportunities to engage with agencies and influencers in key countries, covering TNE delivery, managing risk and emerging markets.
- Regional studies and guidance on emerging markets in TNE.

“TNE can be a risky activity and it’s very important that colleagues understand how to mitigate those risks and how to work professionally within the legal framework for TNE. I know that if I have a need to understand something about the regulation of TNE in a particular country, I can speak to somebody at QAA. They’ve got such good relationships with national organisations, quality assurance organisations in other countries.”

Academic Director,
Global Partnerships, QAA Member
It’s easy to join or renew your QAA Membership. If you are joining us for the first time, simply send us an email.

For existing members, your Membership Engagement Manager will be in touch to discuss renewal arrangements. If you would like a discussion before then, please do contact your Engagement Manager directly, or email us.

**Find out more**

For more information on QAA Membership, visit our webpages which provide additional details on the full range of our work with, and for, our members.

In England, membership of QAA is voluntary, and our work to enhance quality and protect standards is funded solely through membership fees. QAA Membership is entirely separate from the statutory review work we undertake as the Designated Quality Body appointed under the provisions of the *Higher Education and Research Act 2017*.

Institutions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland benefit from access to all areas of membership as part of the agreements with the sector, funders and regulators in their devolved administrations. Providers in England can only continue to receive the guidance and resources paid for by membership fees if they continue to take QAA Membership.