



QAA's Purpose: "To safeguard academic standards and ensure the quality and global reputation of UK higher education. We do this by working with higher education providers, regulatory bodies and students' bodies with the shared objective in supporting students to succeed."

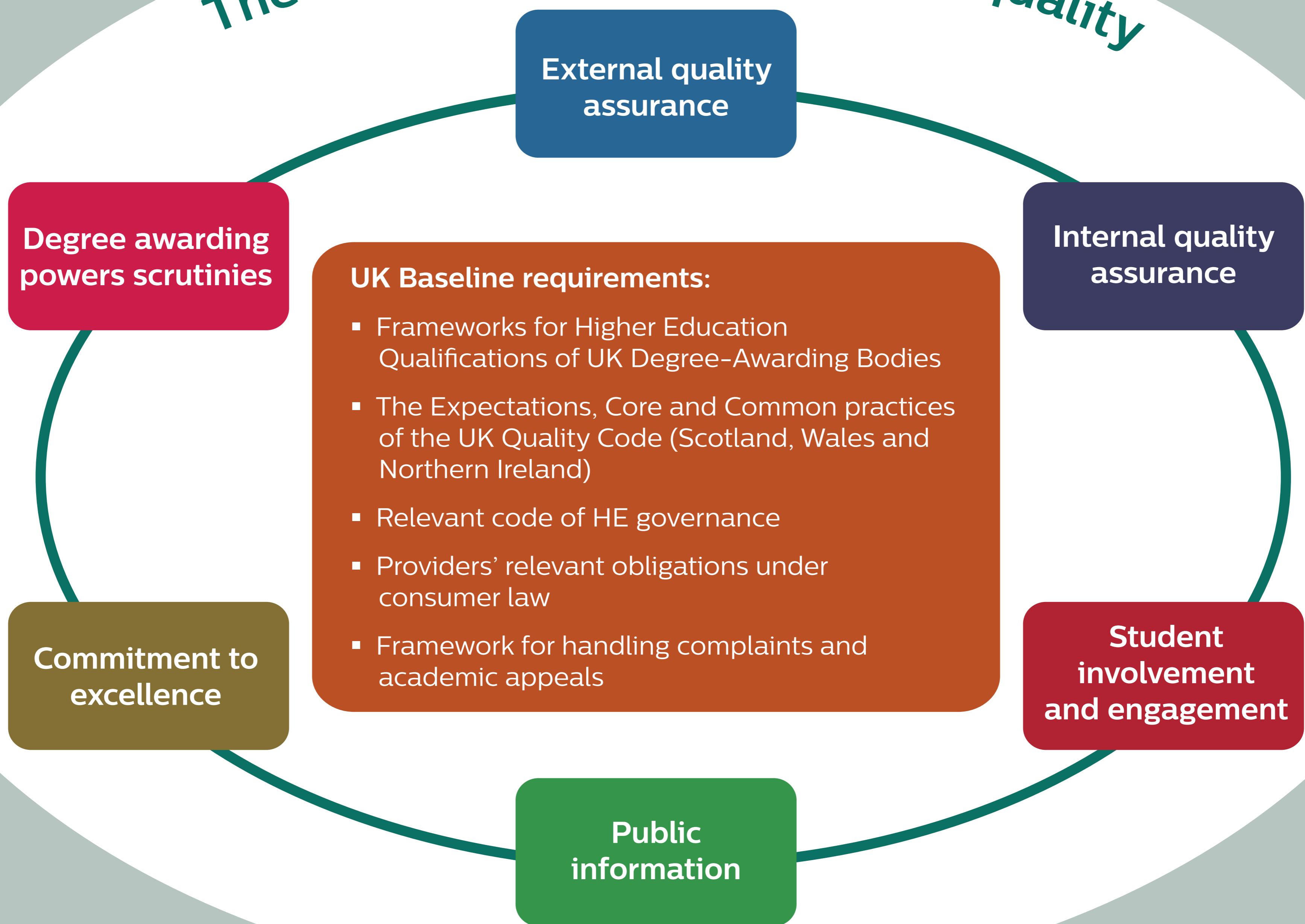
England

- Political oversight by UK Government and Parliament
- Office for Students (OfS) is the Regulator of HE in England. Primary focus is the student interest in its duty as a market regulator responsible for risk-based monitoring of indicators relating to the baseline quality and standards of provision, with powers of intervention and sanction. Maintains the Register of Providers in England.
- Market-based system. New market entry encouraged with faster access to degree awarding powers.
- Quality assurance: Risk-based and outcomes-focused quality assurance by OfS designed to minimise regulatory burden. [Quality and Standards Review](#) is managed by QAA for new providers that wish to join the OfS Register. QAA is the Designated Quality Body appointed by the Secretary of State for Education. QAA supports the [Teaching Excellence Framework](#), scrutiny of applications for degree awarding powers and university title, alongside other thematic work.

Scotland

- Higher education a devolved matter. Political oversight by Scottish Government and Parliament.
- Scottish Funding Council (SFC) is a non-departmental public body and the strategic body responsible for funding teaching and learning provision and research.
- Quality assurance: The [Scottish Quality Enhancement Framework \(QEF\)](#) is built on partnership and collective engagement. The 5 points of the QEF are: national [Enhancement Themes](#), cyclical [Enhancement-led institutional Review \(ELIR\)](#), [Institution-led reviews](#), student engagement and public information. Other activity includes [Focus On projects](#) learning from ELIR outcomes and sector-wide and thematic reporting.
- SFC have announced plans to develop a new quality assurance and enhancement framework for the wider tertiary education system.

The inter-connected system of quality



Northern Ireland

- Higher education a devolved matter. Political oversight by the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly.
- Funds for higher education are directly provided by the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.
- Quality assurance: Operating under 2016 quality arrangements with the expectation of a move to a more enhancement-led model. Currently continuing with a system involving [annual provider reviews](#).

Wales

- Higher education a devolved matter. Political oversight by Welsh Government and Parliament.
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is the Welsh Government Sponsored Body responsible for regulating the higher education sector. New Commission for Tertiary Education and Research expected to succeed HEFCW in coming years.
- Quality assurance: Overall Quality Assessment Framework for Wales with QAA undertaking [Quality Enhancement Reviews](#) of regulated HE providers every six years while [Gateway Quality Reviews](#) of HE providers test new entrants against the baseline quality regulatory requirements and manage specific designation.