Membership in Wales 2019-20

Supporting quality enhancement and transformation in Wales

Committed to quality
What membership means for you
Our work in Wales

As a QAA member in Wales, we will continue to work with you across a full range of activities specific to Wales - working collaboratively with you to support your commitment to enhance and enrich the learning experience of students.

**Quality Enhancement Review (QER)**

We'll continue to provide external quality assurance that is valued and respected, providing assurance to your governing body, to institutional partners, to staff, students and graduates, as well as to HEFCW and the wider public. Our approach will remain enhancement-led and responsive to the context of each institution. We will ensure that it continues to meet the Quality Assurance Framework in Wales and HEFCW’s requirements.

We will continue to maintain an expert pool of reviewers specifically selected and trained for QER, including an appropriate number of Welsh speakers.

We’ll work with you in the ongoing evaluation of the operation of QER and on the continued development of the method to deliver maximum benefits for your institution from engagement in external review.

**Responding and reporting to Wales**

Our review work in Wales is commissioned under the Framework Agreement with Universities Wales and individual higher education institutions. We will report on our work through Universities Wales to you, our members. This will cover events, liaison and other work as well as review activity.

Through the thematic and analytical reporting of QERs, we will seek to identify shared challenges and strengths, proving insight for the sector into what Wales does well and where there are issues and challenges. Building on this insight and knowledge gained from our wider involvement in Wales, we will design and deliver programmes of activity to support step change in practice in the priority areas you choose.

**Welsh Quality Network**

The Welsh Quality Network (WQN) has rapidly established itself as a valuable forum for discussion. We will continue to facilitate this sector-led group as the key place to consider quality-related matters by Quality practitioners in Wales.
Supporting collaborative engagement and sector-wide discussion

As part of membership, QAA in Wales will:

- actively contribute to Universities Wales committees
- use our expertise to contribute in the interests of higher education in Wales, to the development and implementation of relevant government initiatives and priorities - most obviously around the reform of the post-compulsory sector but also on the civic role of the university, widening access and the contribution of higher education to economic success and social cohesion
- continue to support the active participation of students as partners in our work and in quality enhancement in Wales, seeking further ways to deepen and strengthen student involvement and partnership
- promote the voice and interests of Wales equally with all of the UK’s home nations.

Non-Membership work in Wales

Importantly, we will continue to work closely with HEFCW and bodies such as Estyn and Colleges Wales. We will also conduct Gateway reviews and undertake Unsatisfactory Quality and Standards Investigations when commissioned to do so.

What membership means for you: Our UK-wide and international work

The UK-wide framework for Quality: Maintaining a shared responsibility for quality and standards

With our members we’ll develop the quality and standards frameworks fundamental to UK higher education. QAA Wales will both facilitate involvement from the sector in Wales and contribute our own staff expertise to the maintenance and development of UK-wide reference points such as the Quality Code for Higher Education, characteristics and benchmark statements and qualifications frameworks, alongside the supporting advice and guidance.

In the immediate future we will:

- collaborate with members and industry experts to commence the revision of Subject Benchmark Statements and map them to the new Quality Code for Higher Education
- review Quality Code Advice and Guidance, its impact and effectiveness
- develop a new characteristics statement for higher and degree apprenticeships.

And, we’ll continue to:

- maintain the tools to deliver the highest academic quality to your students, including the frameworks for higher education qualifications, ensuring continued compatibility and referencing with European qualifications frameworks as part of the Bologna Process
- provide an expert and independent voice on quality and standards
- respond to political imperatives, social and economic trends to identify emerging challenges and help you prepare for future developments
- convene a twice-yearly PSRB Forum, a valuable dialogue with a range of professional regulators and membership bodies on the hottest issues in HE.
Collaborating with you to address sector-wide challenges

Working in partnership with the UK higher education sector, QAA will continue to identify and respond to emerging issues to support you in delivering the highest quality experience for your students.

You will benefit from our work with, and on behalf of, the sector which includes:

- developing clear guidance on degree classifications, degree outcomes statements and other aspects of the Statement of Intent published by the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment
- leading the fight against essay mills and helping your front-line staff detect and deter cheating, and maintain academic integrity
- research to provide new insight on subjects chosen by our members, a recent example being our work on how student opinion can be used as an indicator of quality.

QAA is a member of a number of groups, panels and committees, giving the sector a clear, quality-focused voice influencing policy at the strategic level. These include the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment, which provides sector-led oversight of HE quality assessment arrangements across the UK, and the TEF Delivery Group and TEF Project Board, addressing issues with TEF implementation and shaping its future.

Maintaining and developing international partnerships and engagement

QAA works to advance UK higher education’s international voice in global quality assurance and enhancement. To support UK HE in its work and operation internationally, QAA maintains strategic relationships with national agencies in the countries and regions of most importance to UK HE. We engage with international and regional networks in furthering the development of quality assurance and promoting the principles and characteristics enshrined in the UK’s commitment to excellence.

As members you will benefit from:

- QAA's work shaping the development of pan-European approaches to quality assurance through strong links within the European Higher Education Area
- the development and maintenance of our strategic relationships and partnerships with governments, agencies and networks worldwide; extending understanding of the quality of UK higher education, strengthening cross-border cooperation and mutual recognition
- our country-specific reports on the landscape and regulatory environment in key countries for UK higher education, supporting your international partnerships and TNE work.
Our membership offer in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland provides continuity in our tailored services for each, together with easy access to the full range of our UK-wide activity. In England membership involves a core package together with further optional packages: Quality Insights and International Insights. Everything available through these membership packages in England is automatically included in Wales membership. Additionally, the Enhancement Themes website will remain a public resource - for all the many UK and international visitors to its pages.

QAA Membership is driven by its members for its members. As a member your voice can shape our future services through our Membership Advisory Group which comprises senior colleagues representing the wide range of QAA members. As a highly-skilled sounding board, this body will work in partnership with QAA to advise, influence and challenge us to develop and deliver activities and services that maintain the value and currency of the membership programme.

Our resources are extensively accessed by students, academic staff and governors as well as our more traditional audience of quality professionals and, increasingly, by data/planning and international teams.
Membership resources

Our dedicated membership site enables you to easily access these exclusive membership resources.

- sector guidance documents
- research
- viewpoints on key sector policy matter
- international country reports

Quality Insights
- webinar recordings
- case studies
- spotlights on quality-related topics
- Quality Insight updates
- event materials

International Insights
- webinar recordings
- case studies
- spotlights on international topics
- International Insight updates
- event materials

How to access membership resources
To access the dedicated membership site, please contact us to request a log-in:
- 01452 557000
- membership@qaa.ac.uk
- www.qaa.ac.uk/membership/resources
Further information

To find out more about membership, you can arrange a meeting with your named QAA contact or get in touch with our membership team:

- [www.qaa.ac.uk/membership](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/membership)
- membership@qaa.ac.uk
- 01452 557000