Membership in England 2019-20

Committed to quality
As a QAA member, there is a great choice of resources at your fingertips and the opportunity to belong to a partnership that is truly committed to the quality of UK higher education.

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As a member you also receive preferential rates for non-member QAA events and services. These include:

- **QAA annual conference**
- **Data Matters conference**
- **Student engagement events**
Welcome to QAA Membership 2019-20
- a new way to work with QAA

At the heart of QAA Membership is a strengthened partnership with UK higher education delivering services, expertise and guidance on key issues that are important to the sector and students.

The membership offer is built on the comprehensive and positive feedback we have received from the UK higher education sector about our proposals.

Working with you and for you, QAA Membership delivers high quality services that will:

- Help to maintain and enhance UK higher education’s global reputation for excellence
- Assure the standards and quality that are at the heart of UK higher education’s reputation
- Enhance the academic experience of your students wherever they are in the world

QAA Membership supports you to improve quality and standards continuously by giving you access to insight and valuable resources based on our extensive expertise.

At its core, QAA Membership gives you the essential elements that all UK higher education providers need to deliver high-quality outcomes for their students and ensure that UK higher education maintains its reputation for excellence.

Enhancement Services focus on the practical application of the frameworks, guidance and projects developed and delivered through QAA Membership.

How to become a member

- [www.qaa.ac.uk/membership](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/membership)
- membership@qaa.ac.uk
- 01452 557000
Create the membership that works best for you.

QAA Membership can be enhanced by purchasing the Quality Insights and International Insights services, giving you access to more practical tailored content and expertise that’s right for your institution and its mission.

QAA Membership
Working together to promote the quality and protect the global reputation of UK higher education

- Maintaining a shared responsibility for quality and standards
- Collaborating with you to address sector-wide challenges
- Leveraging international partnerships and engagement
- Providing expert advice on quality issues

Enhancement Services

- Quality Insights
- International Insights
As a member, you will benefit from being part of a membership community that is committed to quality.

QAA will work collaboratively with members to:

- address sector-wide challenges, including safeguarding degree standards
- maintain the tools to deliver the highest academic quality to your students, including current and relevant standards and frameworks, such as the Quality Code for Higher Education and revised Subject Benchmark Statements
- advance UK higher education’s international leadership in quality assurance and enhancement through our strategic partnership work with agencies across the world
- provide an expert and independent voice on quality and standards.

Through partnership working, QAA creates opportunities for you to influence and shape UK higher education’s drive for excellence.

Through horizon scanning, QAA responds to political imperatives and social and economic trends to identify emerging challenges and help you prepare for future developments.
Developing the quality and standards frameworks fundamental to UK higher education and to our shared approach to quality, enhancement and regulation.

You will benefit from:

- maintaining the frameworks for higher education qualifications and their alignment with international frameworks, such as ensuring continued compatibility and referencing with European qualifications frameworks as part of the Bologna Process
- collaborating with you and industry experts to commence the revision of up to 40 Subject Benchmark Statements and map them to the new Quality Code for Higher Education, ensuring your programmes maintain currency and relevance in light of the Statement of Intent on degree standards
- reviewing the impact of the Quality Code Advice and Guidance
- developing a new characteristics statement for higher and degree apprenticeships.

Membership in action
When we developed the Quality Code’s Advice and Guidance in 2018, we convened 24 representative advisory groups drawn from the sector. We used virtual solutions and approaches to develop flexible and agile ways of meeting your regulatory responsibilities under the Expectations and Core Practices of the revised Quality Code (a total of 1,600 interactions including consultation responses, event sign ups and work as a reader or writer).
QAA Membership

Collaborating with you to address sector-wide challenges

Working with and on behalf of the 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:

- 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
- producing guidance that provides solutions to challenges and opportunities for innovation, including updated guidance on embedding sustainability throughout the curriculum and revised credit frameworks
- leading the fight against essay mills, helping your front-line staff detect and deter cheating, and maintain academic integrity
- working with partners, such as the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education, to shape good practice and the development of quality assurance for degree apprenticeships
- research to provide new insight on a subject chosen by members, a recent example being our work on how student opinion can be used as an indicator of quality
- QAA’s work to promote and develop the Access to HE Diploma which brings over 23,950 students into UK higher education each year, many from under-represented groups.

Membership in action

In response to a request from the Universities Minister, a working group drawn from sector experts helped us to deliver guidance for providers on addressing contract cheating. We have since reconvened the group with additional members and a wider remit. In 2019, the group has already guided a successful campaign to remove essay mills from online platforms and will now review the impact of the guidance and consider legal solutions to combat the scourge of essay mills.
Leveraging international partnerships and engagement

Advancing UK higher education’s international leadership and voice in global quality assurance and enhancement.

You will benefit from:

- shaping the development of pan-European approaches to quality assurance through strong links within the European Higher Education Area
- development and maintenance of relationships and partnerships with governments and agencies outside of the UK; extending understanding of the quality of UK higher education, strengthening cross-border cooperation and mutual recognition
- up to four country-specific reports on the landscape and regulatory environment in key countries for UK higher education, supporting your international partnerships and TNE work
- working with strategic countries for UK higher education to shape and align frameworks for TNE, such as Malaysia and Sri Lanka
- planned new international partnership arrangements with Thailand, Nigeria and the UAE at federal level, adding to our 14 existing partnership agreements around the world.

Membership in action
In 2018-19, QAA collaborated with the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications to carry out joint reviews of UK TNE in Hong Kong. This is a significant step towards achieving reciprocal recognition of review outcomes.

Recent work with Nigeria’s National Universities Commission (NUC) includes providing external analysis of their blueprint for rejuvenating Nigerian universities, a Nigerian country report and strategic dialogue about how the NUC regulates this significant market for UK TNE.
Providing expert advice on quality issues

On behalf of our members, we will exercise our convening power effectively and strategically to reflect sector views and experiences when developing policy, providing authoritative and credible advice to governments and other key sector bodies.

You will benefit from:

- providing an expert voice on quality and standards to reviews and consultations, the media, and in UK-wide and international forums
- advising and expressing views on quality-related issues to governments, regulators and funding bodies
- working to facilitate students to engage in quality matters.

Membership in action

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:

- TEF Delivery Group and TEF Project Board, addressing issues with TEF implementation and shaping its future
- UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment, which provides sector-led oversight of HE quality assessment arrangements across the UK
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education Quality Alliance, inputting to the development and oversight of arrangements for quality assurance of higher and degree apprenticeships
- convening a twice-yearly PSRB Forum, a valuable dialogue with a range of professional regulators and membership bodies on the hottest issues in HE.
QAA Membership is driven by its members for its members. As a member your voice can shape our future services through a number of channels:

**Membership Advisory Group** – the group 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.

The terms of reference for the group are being finalised following a pilot meeting held on 27 June 2019 and will be published on the QAA website along with the call for members in late July 2019.

**Partnership working** – the consultative and collaborative approach deployed in the redevelopment and delivery of the revised Quality Code for Higher Education will characterise all of our membership activities.

**Named contact** – your named QAA contact will keep you updated on membership activities that QAA undertakes on your behalf and the benefits these bring to the UK higher education sector. You will be able to discuss these and share your feedback with QAA, ensuring we continue to understand your needs and meet your expectations.

**Network events** – opportunities to meet with UK higher education quality professionals to learn about and share good practice, and discuss how the changing approaches to quality assurance and enhancement are being put into practice.

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*Having that authoritative body of knowledge, which the QAA is, means we can share openly how we’re working and we know that it will work with us to help us drive up what we do.*
QAA Membership is for your whole organisation. We encourage you to share the benefits of membership throughout your institution:

- students
- academic staff
- quality professionals
- data and planning teams
- international teams
- governors

**How to access membership resources**
To access the dedicated membership site, you need a valid member email address to request a log-in and start making the most of QAA Membership resources, events and expertise.
Membership resources

A dedicated membership site enables you to easily access exclusive membership resources depending on the package you have chosen.

Membership
- sector guidance documents
- research
- viewpoints on key sector policy matters
- 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
Enhancement Services

Building on the work we do with you within QAA Membership, the Enhancement Services focus on the practical application of the frameworks, guidance and projects developed and delivered through QAA Membership.

The services are developed from:

- members’ needs and preferences identified through member voice and ongoing programmes
- QAA’s horizon scanning and expert insights.

Here is an overview of what you have to look forward to during 2019-20 if you choose these services:

### Quality Insights
- Webinars on the core themes and other topical developments in quality assurance
- Quality Insights quarterly newsletter
- Quality Insights conference
- Case studies on the effective practices and new approaches around the core themes and other topical subjects
- Spotlights on innovative approaches to delivering quality assurance

### International Insights
- Webinars on the core themes and other topical developments in international partnerships and student engagement
- International Insights bi-monthly newsletter
- Case studies on effective practices and new approaches around the core themes and other topical subjects
- Spotlights on innovative approaches to engaging with international students and developing effective international partnerships
- International briefings and reports

A consultation on the assurance of UK TNE is planned for later in 2019.
Quality Insights

Putting it into practice

Quality Insights is a strategic programme of practical events, webinars, guidance documents and facilitated discussions, focused on enhancement and practice. No matter how well-established your quality assurance approach, you will be able to benefit from the sharing of ideas, keeping your knowledge and skills up-to-date, and resources to enable you to assure standards and focus on enhancing the academic experience for your students. Content and expertise is tailored, so that it is right for your institution and its mission.

Themes

Core themes for Quality Insights 2019–20 include:

- Quality Code Advice and Guidance in action
- New developments in quality assurance and enhancement
- Effective student engagement in quality
What’s included

There’s a great range of activities and resources tailored to the needs of different organisations.

Webinars

The webinar programme provides access to QAA and wider sector experts, and includes topics from across the core themes such as:

- Quality Code Advice and Guidance in action (including course design, student achievement, monitoring and evaluation, research degrees and partnerships)
- Revised Subject Benchmark Statements (including forensic science, policing and architecture)
- New developments in quality assurance and enhancement (including quality meets data, apprenticeships, credit frameworks)
- Effective student engagement (including student mental health, academic integrity, apprenticeships and assessment).

Case studies – detailed examples of innovation and effective practice on a wide range of topics.

Quality spotlights – snapshots of innovation and new ways of working to increase knowledge and understanding of approaches to quality assurance, published on a regular basis.

Quality Insights conference – bringing together QAA members to discuss the latest developments in quality assurance and enhancement.

Quality Insights quarterly newsletter – keeping you up-to-date with ideas, the latest developments, exclusive member resources and events.
International Insights provides advice and support to help you explore issues on quality assuring and enhancing TNE delivery, and succeed in your institution’s own international work and partnerships. Tapping into our international expertise will enable you to improve practice and knowledge through regular updates and guidance resulting from QAA’s work with international quality agencies and other partners across the globe.

Themes

Core themes for International Insights 2019-20 are:
- International student engagement
- Partnerships in action
- Understanding in-country requirements

A consultation on the assurance of UK TNE is planned for later in 2019.
What’s included

As a member, you have unique access to QAA’s expertise to provide guidance on your international partnership questions.

Webinars

Engage with QAA’s experts and our international partners, to keep abreast of developments in the countries you work with to deliver TNE and recruit international students. The webinars are designed to develop your knowledge on key topics and help you to better understand UK and international expectations.

Webinars cover key topics such as:

- setting up TNE partnerships
- distance learning
- developing international collaborations and regulatory developments in important countries for UK TNE.

Case studies - detailed examples of innovation and effective practice on quality assurance challenges and opportunities in international partnership working, including those drawn from the TNE review of Malaysia in 2019.

International spotlights - snapshots of innovation and new ways of working to increase knowledge and understanding of approaches to quality assurance in an international context.

International Insights bi-monthly newsletter - keeping you up-to-date with ideas, the latest developments, exclusive member resources and events.

International briefings - practical information on working in specific countries.

“Many thanks for providing these webinars, they are an excellent way of keeping up-to-date with matters affecting the sector.”
Strong partnerships

In the UK, universities and colleges, regulators and funders, governments and students all look to QAA to undertake the core set of UK wide activity that underpins the UK’s reputation for the highest quality higher education in the world.

We have strong partnerships with quality agencies internationally and are recognised through external reviews of our work, our membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and place on the European Quality Assurance Register in Higher Education (EQAR).

In June 2018, the ENQA review panel found QAA to be:

> among the leading quality assurance agencies internationally, demonstrating consistently high organisational performance and valuable contribution towards shaping and implementation of common agendas in quality assurance of higher education.

We also work closely with the British Council to ensure that effective quality assurance of UK higher education remains a priority in international activity.

We have formal partnership agreements with all the main sending and receiving countries for UK higher education, including:

- Australia
- China
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Japan
- Trinidad and Tobago
- UAE (Dubai & Ras al Khaimah)
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Malaysia
- Malta
How to become a member

QAA Membership represents a commitment to the enhancement of quality and standards, and to the promotion and advancement of UK higher education.

Who can join?

Membership is available to higher education providers who are a legal entity registered or established in the UK, delivering UK qualifications at Level 4 of the FHEQ and subject to either review by QAA or the regulatory framework governing higher education in its home nation. Detailed eligibility criteria is published on the QAA website.

How much does it cost?

Details of membership fees can be found on the QAA website. We would be pleased to provide you with a quote for your institution.

Become a member

Becoming a QAA member is very straightforward. Just give us a call on 01452 557000 or email us at membership@qaa.ac.uk and we will get in touch to discuss your requirements.

QAA Membership gives you access to a wealth of services, events and guidance to help you enhance the quality of your HE programmes. Our work as the Designated Quality Body in England, through which we deliver specific quality assessment functions on behalf of the Office for Students, is not included in your QAA Membership fee.
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
✉️ membership@qaa.ac.uk
📞 01452 557000