

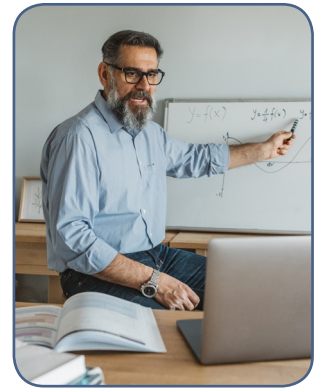


What are we delivering in QAA Membership?

Highlights at March 2021

We work in partnership with our members, providing support and constructive challenge to help you deliver the best possible experience for your students wherever they are studying. We engage proactively with governments and agencies to influence policy and build strong international relationships, confirming UK higher education's global reputation for excellence.

Thank you for your continued support, collaboration, co-creation and engagement. We look forward to our partnership continuing to grow.



“ The value of QAA Membership is in shifting our discussions, enabling us to take decisions informed by the wider context of sector best practice. This has speeded up our conversations and ensured the decisions we are making continue to benefit our students. ”

Professor Rebecca Huxley-Binns, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), University of Hull

Highlights of the 2020-21 membership year so far

Moving beyond COVID-19



Over 30 new resources, discussion fora and events supporting the maintenance of standards and quality during the rapid and significant changes required by the pandemic, including:

- ▶ academic integrity in a digital environment
- ▶ placements and practice-based course requirements
- ▶ how small, specialist and newer providers have adapted to the challenges of COVID-19
- ▶ advice on doctoral standards for research students and supervisors
- ▶ supporting student discussions on quality and value for money
- ▶ technology enhanced learning.



30+
resources

“ The ongoing guidance and resources QAA has developed with members to support the sector during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be an essential resource. ”

Professor Liz Barnes, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Staffordshire University



We convened roundtable discussions with the Minister of State for Universities in England, Michelle Donelan MP, and senior representatives from professional, statutory and regulatory bodies and higher education providers aimed at ensuring students on accredited programmes could complete their awards and move safely into the workplace.



Events such as this are always valuable as it gives an insight into colleagues' thought processes.



PSRB Roundtable, Feb 2021



Through the introduction of an Extraordinary Regulatory Framework in 2020, we have supported students studying on the Access to HE Diploma, enabling over 20,000 students to progress into higher education despite the pandemic.



Future work is focusing on:

- ▶ exploring how good practice in digital delivery and assessment has affected student engagement and success
- ▶ support for practice in aligning learning outcomes with assessment
- ▶ flexible learner pathways, microcredentials and connected curricula
- ▶ student engagement and transitions.

Helping to create a vision for the future



Our new Quality Compass series provides thought leadership on matters of priority in the sector. The first edition explores the future of digital assessment and the second considers microcredentials.



We published new research and supporting resources to promote data-led decision making in higher education providers' quality processes.



A colleague told me it was one of the most useful webinars that he had ever attended.



Research Launch: Using Data to Enhance Outcomes, Feb 2021



In association with Advance HE, we developed new guidance on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to ensure this can form part of all students' studies.

Partnership, collaboration and co-creation of resources



Working collaboratively with members, and with Professor Sue Rigby, Vice-Chancellor at Bath Spa University as Chair, we updated the Credit Framework for England.

“ I really value the QAA Membership approach of bringing people together to ensure work that’s being developed is future proofed and draws on a range of voices from right across our diverse sector. ”

Stephen Taylor, Dean of HE, Warwickshire College and member of the Credit Framework Advisory Group

We launched our new programme of [Collaborative Enhancement Projects](#) with 32 members responding to the call for expressions of interest. We are supporting around 13 projects involving more than 45 partners collaborating on a range of innovative and interesting topics including: inclusive language in assessment, evaluation of digital and blended provision, support for postgraduate research students’ assessment, support for student induction, flexible student pathways, and community engagement.



13
projects



45+
partners

Networking, engagement and building capacity



We introduced breakfast briefings for our network of pro-vice-chancellors to update on our policy work and share views on collective challenges. 81 members attended the latest briefing in January.

“ The PVC network meetings are so helpful. They provide a mix of hearing the expertise and the insight of our colleagues at QAA, together with a safe space for senior leaders from a range of institutions to discuss policy issues and to share practice. ”

Professor Sarah Speight, PVC Education and Student Experience, University of Nottingham



We established a practitioner group for college-based higher education with a focus on policy and practice affecting our college members. 49 members attended the pilot in February with the next meeting scheduled for May.



49
members

“ It was a very useful forum for HE in FE practitioners, who are often dealing with very different challenges to our HE counterparts, but have to meet the same regulatory outcomes. Great to have the opportunity to network and share ideas and experiences. ”

FEC Practitioner Group, February 2021



Plans are underway to establish further special interest groups and networks.



We offer two core training programmes as part of the Membership package: Introduction to Quality and Quality in Practice. So far this year, 85 staff in member institutions have joined one of these sessions. Our training and development offer is expanding with new modules being introduced later this year.



85
attendees

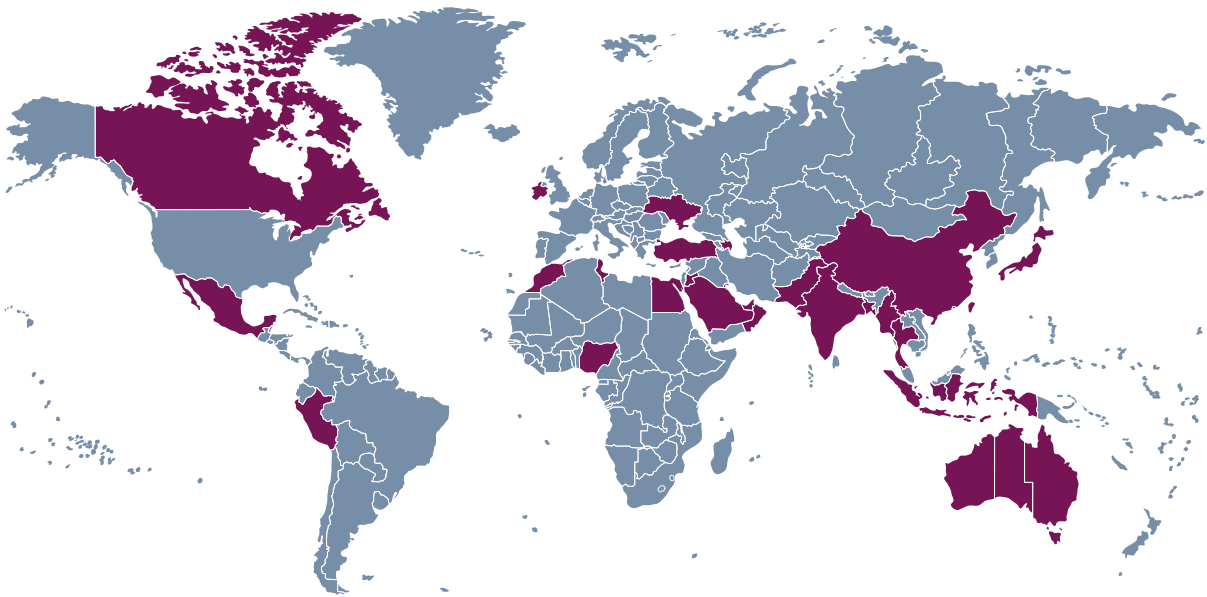
Leveraging international partnerships and engagement



We have worked with governments, agencies and institutions in over 28 countries across the globe. This engagement enables us to promote and improve understanding of quality assurance and enhancement between UK higher education and our international partners and is instrumental in helping to maintain and enhance UK HE's global reputation for excellence.

“ The university feels it is important that we continue to help to maintain and enhance UK higher education's global reputation for excellence. Being part of QAA Membership helps to assure the high standards and quality that are at the heart of this. ”

Professor Gavin Brown, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, University of Liverpool



Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Canada, Dubai, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine



28
countries

Encouraging academic integrity and preventing contract cheating



A dedicated series of online events are in place to support implementation of the Contracting to Cheat guidance published in June 2020, with associated practical materials.



We launched the Academic Integrity Charter, which represents the collective commitment of the UK higher education sector to promote academic integrity and take action against academic misconduct. Over 100 HE providers have signed up to the Charter.




100+
sign-ups



We worked in collaboration with academic staff from Swansea University to develop legislation to criminalise essay mills. We continue to campaign for action and use our influence with the Department for Education to lobby for legislation to progress through parliament.

Resources and activities for your whole organisation

(Aug 2020 to Feb 2021)

	34 webinars	1384 delegates	296 organisations
	9 events and workshops	607 delegates	151 organisations
	5 training programmes	85 delegates	65 organisations

4.4/5 ★

Continued high overall satisfaction for the quality of the content delivered to members through these activities.

Access to guidance and publications is open to all staff and students from our members:



104 new resources published in the period



1,460 registered Membership Resources Site users

We have a substantial improvement programme underway to ensure that the Membership Resources Site adds as much value as possible. Developments include improved log-in, accessibility and interactivity.