

Update on HE Sector Developments & QAA Activities

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England

- Designated quality body
- Design and implementation of new quality system
- Quality & Standards Review

Wales

- New Quality Enhancement Review and Gateway Review
- Post-compulsory education and training reform
- Welsh language standards

QAA'S WORK IN THE FOUR UK NATIONS

Scotland

- Latest enhancement approach
- Enhancement Theme (2017-20)
- Focus On projects
- Enhancement conferences

Northern Ireland

- Next approach to be confirmed

Common across all nations

**The UK Quality Code
for Higher Education**

**National Frameworks
and Statements**

QAA summary of 2017/18 (1)

Working across all nations

- Appointed Designated Quality Body (DQB) for England HE
- Implementation of Quality Assessment Framework in Wales (March 2018)
- QAAS continued commitment to Quality Enhancement Framework and enhancement-led approach in Scotland
- Completed Quality Review Visits of all FE Colleges in NI and new entrants to the HE systems in England
- Re-development of the UK Quality Code working with UK Standing Committee for QA

QAA summary of 2017/18 (2)

- Administration of Degree Awarding Powers (DAP)
- Quality Enhancement Network events
- Student Strategic Advisory Committee (SSAC)
- Student facing conferences:
 - Quality Matters (October 2018)
 - Evolving Student Engagement (June 12th 2019)
- PSRB Forum

Strategic International Development

- International Quality Review, international liaison, international insights, IQAP (International Quality Assurance Programme), bespoke services

Sector level contributions

- Investigative research into Degree Classifications
- Academic Integrity: Publication of guidance for tackling the problem
- Degree, Graduate & Higher Level Apprenticeship developments

2018 review of QAA by ENQA

- Review against European Standards & Guidelines (ESG)
- QAA Review report published July 2018
- Fully or substantially compliant in all areas
- 13 commendations

‘QAA is commended for its wide involvement of stakeholders (primarily academics, students, administrators, business, and education sector representatives) in the governance of the agency, development of quality assurance policies and procedures, and enhancement work.’

- Action plan developed against the panel’s recommendations
- PSRBs eligible to participate



QAA: developments for 2018/19

Implementation of new quality approaches in Wales:

- Quality Enhancement Review
- Gateway Quality Review: Wales

England: Implementing new fees for DQB & membership structure along with a range of membership services

- Continue with the liaison programme and Regional Network events
- Introduction of Quality Insights programme
- Good practice case studies programme

A quick note on the work of the Designated Quality Body (DQB)

Higher Education and Research Act 2017

Independent designated quality (QAA)
and data (HESA) bodies

Key functions of the designated quality
body:

- Assessment of quality and standards
- Advising the OfS on granting, varying or revocation of degree awarding powers and university title



Higher Education and
Research Act 2017

Features of the new English framework

'The Office for Students (OfS) is a new regulator for English higher education. It will adopt a bold, student-focused, risk-based approach, reflecting the significant changes to higher education of the last 25 years and seeking to anticipate the changes still to come.'

Features of the new regulatory framework include:

- Risk-based, proportionate, outcomes-focused approach to regulation (baseline compliance)
- Strong focus on value for money for students and taxpayers
- Single register for providers – 24 conditions of registration
- New concept in the framework – allows for institutional failure
- New degree awarding powers (NDAPs)
- Annual random sampling of providers (e.g. 5%)

Work of the designated quality body

Working with the OfS

New Degree Awarding Powers processes (NDAP) – All nations

Design and delivery of review methods:

- *Initial registration (Quality & Standards Review: Gateway)*
- *Breach of registration conditions (Enhanced monitoring)*
- *Random sampling*

Advice on standards assessments

Other sector-level activities



Update on consultations / workshops conducted with this Forum in 2017/18:

1. Changes to the data landscape for PSRBs (Session this morning led by our HESA colleagues)
2. New revised UK Quality Code (Session this afternoon)
3. Degree, Graduate & Higher Level Apprenticeship developments (March 2019 Forum)
4. Report on Degree Classifications
5. Academic Integrity / Essay Mills
6. Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

Degree classification: transparent, consistent and fair academic standards

Universities UK, GuildHE and QAA report *Degree classification: transparent, consistent and fair academic standards* published today - www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/.

The report:

- explores reasons behind the 55% increase in 1st and 2.1 degrees between 2007-08 and 2016-17
- proposes solutions such as providers should issue a sector-wide statement of intent, protecting value of qualifications over time, including commitments to:
 - review and publish evidence on their degree outcomes
 - agree common descriptors to be used by all providers describing the quality of work required for each classification
 - publish and explain scoring systems determining final degree classifications, including any differing practices

Consultation released today on:

- the proposed solution
- how the common descriptions should be incorporated into different national quality assurance and regulatory frameworks in the UK

Consultation closes on 8 February 2019, next steps expected in April 2019

A series of consultation workshops will be conducted across the UK in January 2019.

Academic integrity and contract cheating?

What are the common manifestations?

- Fake certification (HECSU Prospects)
- Inappropriate/Fraudulent degree validation
- Admissions Fraud
- Exam fraud
- Essay Mills
- 'Traditional' plagiarism
- Corruption

The Role of Quality Assurance in ensuring Academic Integrity

Cheating, including plagiarism, poses a threat to academic standards

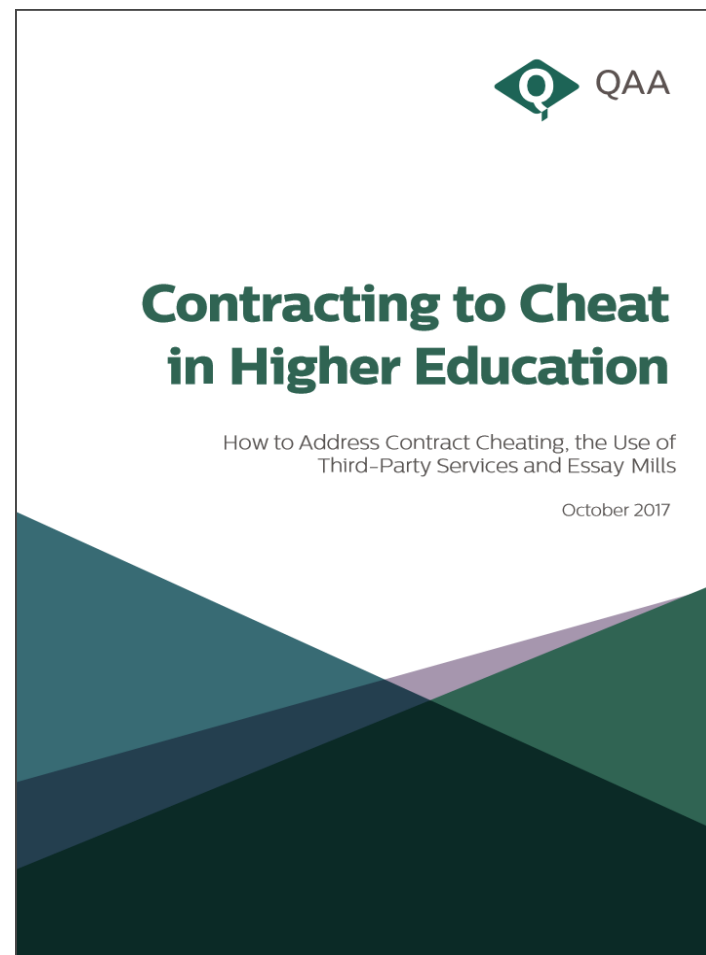
The UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Revised Code's core practice: "The provider uses external expertise, assessment and classification processes that are reliable, fair and transparent."

QAA is well-placed in the UK HE sector to lead on a matter that is clearly in the public interest

In 2017 QAA was asked by the Government to lead the sector's efforts against contract cheating and essay mills

QAA guidance (October 2017)



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Background

Summary of Council decision:

Two issues were investigated, both of which were Upheld

Ad description

A website for the essay writing service www.ukessays.com, seen on 28 July 2017. The home page featured text that stated "... GUARANTEED GRADE, EVERY TIME We're so confident you'll love the work we produce, we guarantee the final grade of the work. Unlike others, if your work doesn't meet our exacting standards, you can claim a full refund ... LOVED BY CUSTOMERS & THE GLOBAL PRESS UKEssays have lots of press coverage from all over the world confirming that a 2:1 piece of work produced by us met this standard ... We were the first company in the world to offer you guaranteed 2:1 and 1st class work".

Additional information about the service was included on pages titled 'WORLD CLASS GUARANTEES' and 'UK ESSAYS IN THE PRESS'.

All Answers Ltd

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Cross Street
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Nottingham
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The YouTube stars being paid to sell cheating

By Branwen Jeffreys and Edward Main
BBC Trending

🕒 1 May 2018

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The YouTubers selling cheating: 'Get an A on your paper - and you don't even need to do it'

YouTube stars are being paid to sell academic cheating, a BBC investigation has found.

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Developments and considerations

Academic Integrity Advisory Group

Experts across the sector, providers, representative bodies, UK Governments, Turnitin, HEDD & a parliamentarian. Identified two priority work streams;

- Is legislative action appropriate (even if no magic bullet)?

A UK Centre for Academic Integrity?

- Need to co-ordinate across all nations of the UK and internationally
- Letter from 45 Vice Chancellors and sector leaders from across the UK asking the Government to take action including *'supporting the QAA's proposed initiative to establish a UK Centre for Academic Integrity, with a formal remit to research, analyse and combat academic misconduct.'*
- How might a centre be funded?

Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

What QAA does

- Supports OfS in implementing the assessment stage of TEF at provider level and the Subject-level Pilots through:
- Provides staff to manage, guide and facilitate the panels' assessments
- Provides a secure IT system to manage the sharing of assessment information with panel members.
- Provides a pool of TEF Officer staff to guide and facilitate the assessments made by TEF panel members and assessors
- Develops and operationalises an IT Solution (TEF extranet) to support the work of the TEF implementation team, TEF officers, panellists and assessors.

TEF: what's new?

Provider level:

- Award duration
- Metrics improvements
 - Grade inflation
 - LEO date
 - POLAR4

Subject level:

- Student engagement
 - Panel members
 - TEF student representative
 - Submissions
- Model
- Criteria
- Metrics
- Outcomes

Next steps

- Independent review
 - Appointment imminent
- Full scale subject level TEF
 - Two year assessment period
- For this round of subject level TEF – the majority of subject panels now include a representative from a PSRB

Any questions?