



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

Bangladesh Accreditation Council, Bangladesh

And

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between:

the **Bangladesh Accreditation Council**, BSL Office Complex-2 (2nd Floor),
1 Minto Road, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, hereafter referred to as **BAC**

and

the **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education**, Southgate House,
Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, United Kingdom (UK),

hereafter referred to as **QAA**

BAC and **QAA** are referred to collectively as 'both Parties'.

Whereas

BAC was established in 2018 with the responsibility to accredit higher education institutions and academic programmes for ensuring quality assurance of higher education in Bangladesh. BAC is also responsible for the implementation of the Bangladesh National Qualification Framework (BNQF). BAC sets the quality standards of higher education and collaborates with regional and international quality assurance agencies for international recognition of higher Education of Bangladesh.

BAC organises training, seminars and workshops to create awareness and motivate the higher education community towards accreditation and to build capacity to prepare them for accreditation. BAC is striving to assure students, parents, employers and the public about the quality of higher education, institutional integrity and accountability.

QAA was established in 1997. QAA's purpose is to maintain academic standards and enhance the quality and global reputation of UK higher education. QAA does this by working with higher education providers, regulatory bodies and students, with the shared objective of supporting students to achieve positive educational outcomes. As a membership organisation, QAA represents and supports its university and college members, working in partnership with them to enhance the quality of their provision.

QAA works to secure academic standards in UK higher education wherever it is delivered across the globe and take a leading role in international developments in standards and quality, maintaining close relationships with many international quality assurance agencies, governments and higher education institutions.

BAC and QAA

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the assurance of quality in higher education, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Key principles: BAC and QAA

Both Parties understand and mutually acknowledge their respective independent regulatory responsibilities as authorised by the separate national governments and/or as membership organisations recognised by national governments.

Both Parties envision benefits to be achieved through dialogue and cooperation, with benefits accruing to both agencies and to the institutions under their purview.

Both Parties understand the critical necessity of maintaining the confidentiality of information related to institutions, as well as to the agencies themselves as developed through accreditation activities.

Therefore, both Parties agree to the following framework for mutually supportive and collaborative engagement.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not exhaustive and is not intended to be legally binding between BAC and the QAA, except where specifically stated.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, BAC and QAA, in accordance with the framework of Bangladeshi and British laws and regulations, will pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit:

(a) Mutual understanding

Work to enhance their understanding of each other's approach to assuring quality in higher education, the respective systems in place for quality assurance and enhancement in higher education, and the critical matters relating to quality and standards in higher education in both countries.

(b) Information exchange

Exchange information and offer professional advice about each other's activities and processes, about developments in their respective country's higher education systems, and about cross-border providers operating in both jurisdictions, having regard for the confidentiality of the information and relevant Data Protection legislation.

(c) Staff development

Where appropriate and possible, support the development of staff from the two agencies through activities such as staff exchange, observing each other's review processes, and provision of training.

(d) Use of each other's reviewers

Where appropriate and possible, draw on reviewers or other specialists from each other's system to strengthen the international dimension of each other's review processes.

(e) Recognition

Where appropriate and possible, in operations relating to quality assurance of higher education within one Party's jurisdiction but originating from the other party's jurisdiction, have due regard to the relevant decisions and judgements of the other Party.

(f) Collaboration

Where appropriate and possible, collaborate in relation to mutually agreed projects and activities for the benefit of both Parties, including the quality enhancement of transnational education, the identification of fraudulent institutions, awarding bodies or accrediting agencies in Bangladesh and in the UK, supporting student mobility and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

More specifically, at the end of this agreement, BAC and QAA aim to have achieved concrete collaboration in the following:

- Sharing experience in the field of evaluation and accreditation of higher education institutions.
- Exchanging and training of selected potential quality assurance professionals.
- Developing a programme for a UK study visit for BAC colleagues, to share experiences related to challenges and opportunities in quality assurance, accreditation and enhancement.
- Providing opportunities to participate in respective quality assurance and enhancement activities.
- Observing each other's quality assurance processes and undertaking quality enhancement activities such as a workshop for UK higher education providers.
- Exchange of information and views on matters related to quality assurance, enhancement and accreditation in Bangladesh.
- Provision of technical support to promote quality assurance, enhancement and accreditation in Bangladesh
- Providing support to organise international conferences/seminars on quality assurance, enhancement and accreditation delivered by BAC in Bangladesh.
- QAA offering one free delegate place annually to a nominated BAC representative to attend its Annual Conference.

If any additional costs will be incurred as a result of the collaboration, agreement to progress any allocation/reimbursement of costs should be agreed between BAC and QAA before any work is undertaken.

Confidentiality

Both Parties agree to ensure that any information of a confidential nature ('confidential information') that is shared between Parties is safeguarded and remains confidential.

Both Parties agree not to disclose confidential information received from the other without the written consent of the disclosing Party. Both Parties acknowledge that, in appropriate cases, they may reach a separate written agreement about the handling of particular confidential information or classes of confidential information. Both Parties agree that this paragraph is legally binding.

Retention of information

Information exchanged under this Memorandum of Understanding will be held and disposed of in accordance with BAC's and QAA's retention schedules. For both BAC and QAA, this will be up to five years.

Intellectual property rights

Any reports, notes, records, correspondence, documents, computer and other storage, such as disks or other documents and materials used in this Memorandum of Understanding, which has been generated or is already owned by either organisation, shall be, and shall remain, the property of that organisation.

The settlement

In the event of a dispute between both Parties, it shall be resolved by friendly consultations.

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for **3 years** unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either Party. It may be extended on mutual agreement of both parties.

Alteration of Memorandum

This Memorandum is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Memorandum may be altered with the written approval of both parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Chairman of BAC (at the time of signing, **Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed**) and the Chief Executive Officer of QAA (at the time of signing, **Ms Vicki Stott**) and will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the Memorandum on an annual basis. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agencies' staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, each Party will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Signed in ____ LOCATION _____ on 30 June 2022.

Signatures of the Parties:



Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed
Chairman

Bangladesh Accreditation Council
(BAC)

BSL Office Complex-2 (2nd Floor)
1, Minto Road, Ramna
Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh
Telephone: +8801313430992
Email: bac.gov.bd@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.bac.gov.bd>



Ms Vicki Stott
Chief Executive Officer

The Quality Assurance Agency for
Higher Education (QAA)

Southgate House
Southgate Street
Gloucester
GL1 1UB
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 1452 557000
Email: accreditation@qaa.ac.uk
Website: www.qaa.ac.uk



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