

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

the Knowledge and Human Development Authority, Dubai

This Cooperation Agreement is made between the **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education**, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, hereafter referred to as QAA,
and

The University Quality Assurance International Board (UQAIB) of the **Knowledge and Human Development Authority** by virtue of Law No. 30 of 2006 of the Emirate of Dubai, of P.O. Box 500008, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, hereafter KHDA.

Whereas

QAA was established in 1997 and is the independent body entrusted with monitoring and advising on standards and quality in UK higher education. To this end, QAA carries out reviews of UK higher education providers and develops and maintains the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, the definitive national point of reference for academic standards and the quality of learning opportunities.

Established in 2007, KHDA is a regulatory authority of the Government of Dubai and is responsible for the growth and quality of private education and learning in Dubai.

QAA and KHDA

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives especially in the quality assurance of private and cross border providers of higher education, and a common interest in the development and promotion of good practices and the interest of international students, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims

QAA and KHDA agree, through this Cooperation Agreement, to cooperate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards establishing a strategic alliance to enhance external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and to improve the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom and at private education institutions in Dubai. This Cooperation Agreement is not intended to create legally binding relations between the parties, and neither party has the authority to act on behalf of or otherwise bind the other party. However, QAA and KHDA agree

to work together to implement this Cooperation Agreement in good faith.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, QAA and KHDA, in accordance with the framework of British and Emirati laws and regulations, will pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit and with a commitment to reduce unnecessary regulatory duplication on providers operating across borders:

(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, higher education providers operating in each jurisdiction, and about developments in each country's higher education systems, 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 expertise

Where appropriate and possible, taking account of operational constraints, draw on each other's expertise to strengthen the international dimension of institutional reviews and/or accreditations, including reviews of cross-border education.

(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 assurance of transnational education, the identification of fraudulent institutions, awarding bodies or accrediting agencies in the UK and in Dubai, supporting student mobility, and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

More specifically, at the end of our agreement QAA and KHDA aim to have achieved concrete collaboration in the following activities:

- Provide an updated report targeted to UK education higher providers on the Dubai regulatory context for TNE, including ways in which QAA and KHDA cooperating with other UAE based bodies can assist in developing TNE arrangements in Dubai and securing and enhancing their quality;
- Observing each other's quality assurance processes, and undertaking quality enhancement activities such as workshops for UK higher education providers operating or wishing to operate in Dubai;

- Sharing information on QAA led International Quality Reviews (IQRs) for HEIs within Dubai;
- Providing opportunities for KHDA staff to observe QAA led IQRs undertaken by QAA in Dubai;
- QAA inviting one free delegate place annually to a nominated KHDA representative to attend its Annual Conference;
- KHDA to contribute to the delivery of a UAE-wide International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP), delivered in Dubai, or in an alternative location within UAE;
- Mutually representing accreditation-related interests at national and international levels.

Confidentiality

The parties agree to ensure that any information of a confidential nature (“confidential information”) that is shared between parties is safeguarded and remains confidential. The parties agree not to disclose confidential information received from the other party to this Cooperation Agreement without the written consent of the disclosing party. The 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. The parties agree that this paragraph is legally binding.

Duration of Agreement

The Cooperation Agreement will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for five years unless it is terminated by the giving of three months' notice by either party. It may be extended by mutual agreement of both parties. An annual review of progress against agreed collaboration outputs will take place.

Alteration of Agreement

This Cooperation Agreement is signed by the parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation. The terms of the Agreement may be altered and signed by both parties.

Dispute Resolution

Any dispute regarding the interpretation or implementation of any of the provisions of this Cooperation Agreement will be resolved through amicable negotiation between the parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Agreement

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr Douglas Blackstock) and the Chief Executive Officer of Strategy and Planning of KHDA (at the time of signing **Dr Wafi Dawood**) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Agreement and taking stock of the terms of the Agreement 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 agency will normally cover their own costs of implementing the terms of the Agreement. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

The text of Agreement is prepared in two (2) original copies in English, with one (1) copy for each Party.

Signed in UK and UAE on 25th January 2021.

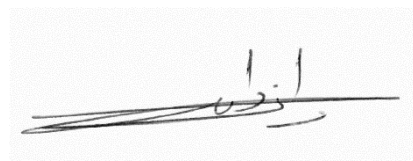
Signatures of the Parties:



Mr Douglas Blackstock
Chief Executive, QAA

**The Quality Assurance Agency for
Higher Education**

Southgate House
Southgate Street
Gloucester
GL1 1UB
United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 1452 557000
Fax: +44 1452 557002
Email: enquiries@qaa.ac.uk
Website: www.qaa.ac.uk



Dr Wafi Dawood
**Chief Executive Officer of Strategy
and Planning, KHDA**

**Knowledge and Human Development
Authority.**

Box 8, Academic City, PO BOX 500008
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Telephone: +971 4 364 0001
Email: info@khda.gov.ae
Website: www.khda.gov.ae