



International Quality Assurance Programme

Arundel House, 6 Temple Place
London WC2R 2PG

22-26 June 2026





The International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP) is a five-day training course that provides excellent opportunities to learn about current issues in higher education quality assurance and build relationships with quality assurance professionals from around the world.

Objectives

IQAP provides you with opportunities to:

- find out about current issues in higher education quality assurance
- learn from colleagues working in similar roles around the world
- reflect on your role and practices
- develop new skills related to the improvement of quality assurance processes and practice, and identify areas for further development
- participate in a Special Interest Group project that will focus on a quality assurance theme most relevant to your professional interests.

Learning outcomes

By the end of IQAP you will:

- be able to comment more effectively on issues facing quality assurance in education globally
- have gained knowledge and experience from working with colleagues from across the world
- be ready to apply new ideas and skills in quality assurance and enhancement within your own organisation.

"Participating in the IQAP programme strengthened my understanding of how a strong quality culture can be embedded across different levels of a higher education institution. The interactive discussions with colleagues from various countries offered fresh perspectives and practical ideas and provided an excellent opportunity to deepen my understanding of UK and global quality assurance practices."

Nilufar Shernazarova, Academic Registrar,
Westminster International University
in Tashkent



Facilitators

Dr Andrew Thomas Programme Co-leader

Dr Andrew Thomas has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Leicester, with a focus on leadership in inter-cultural settings. He has worked globally as an academic and senior leader with periods in Japan, Greece and Spain. He spent 17 years working in international education in the Gulf, specifically the UAE, Oman and Bahrain, before returning to the UK to take up a position at the University of Sussex.

As a Quality Specialist at QAA, Andrew has worked on projects covering: student transition and the first-year experience of international students; transnational education; distance learning, blended learning and the digitalisation of learning; capacity building for management of accreditation standards; and QAA International Quality Review and International Programme Accreditation exercises.

Ian Welch Programme Co-leader

Ian Welch accumulated over 30 years of academic and senior managerial experience within the arts education sector before joining QAA, where he has led on initiatives including the Teaching Excellence Framework and a range of QAA review methods. Internationally, he has delivered workshops across the Middle East, Europe, South America and Africa. He has led reviews in Albania, Nigeria and Macao and collaborated on the redevelopment of the Pakistan Higher Education Framework and review methodology.

Ian has worked closely with the Ukrainian, Kazakhstan and Tunisian higher education sectors on a range of capacity building initiatives. He is chair of the advisory board for the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance in Ukraine.



Special contribution

Caroline Carter

Caroline is an independent QAA board member. She has a portfolio of non-executive director, trustee and governor roles in higher education, access and schools, and is currently an independent member of council at Cranfield University (the UK's only wholly postgraduate institution), an adviser to AccessEd, a governor at Copthall School in north London and, until recently, a board member and trustee of The Brilliant Club. Caroline has also been an executive dean of a postgraduate law school of the University of Law in London. These roles followed her lengthy and extensive career as a senior equity partner of Ashurst LLP, a global law firm, where she held a number of leadership roles.

Caroline read English at the University of London and completed her postgraduate legal qualifications at the College of Law (now the University of Law) in London.



Guest speakers from QAA members in the UK

IQAP 2026 will feature new sessions that focus on quality management in transnational education (TNE) partnerships and the implications of generative AI on higher education quality assurance. We will be joined by guest speakers from UK universities who will share their expertise and experience of these critically important themes.

Louise Blair

Louise Blair is Director of Partnerships at the University of Essex, where she leads the strategic development and management of the University's global education and research partnerships. Working within the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, she is responsible for advancing Essex's international engagement agenda, including the expansion of TNE and the development of strategic partnerships worldwide.

Louise has more than a decade of experience in international higher education leadership, specialising in global partnership development, TNE strategy, online education, and international engagement. She is a strong advocate for the role of global partnerships in expanding access to education and fostering international collaboration for research and cultural engagement.



Rachel Frost

Rachel is an experienced practitioner in TNE and education partnerships. Her role as Senior Partnerships Manager at the University of Essex involves the approval, management and growth of academic partnerships in the UK and around the world.



Professor Annie Hughes

Professor Annie Hughes is Head of Learning and Teaching Enhancement at Kingston University. She leads on academic staff development, curriculum development and enhancement, and technology-enhanced learning. Annie is dedicated to inclusive education and has recently led projects funded by QAA, Advance HE and University Alliance. Her disciplinary background is in Geography, where she continues to influence debates around the pedagogics of fieldwork.

Annie's recent work, funded by QAA, brought together 11 UK universities to explore the opportunities AI offers to higher education and the graduates of the future. Annie is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a National Teaching Fellow.



Professor Gunter Saunders

Gunter Saunders is Director of Digital Capability Development and AI Leadership at the University of Westminster, where he leads the institution's strategic approach to AI readiness and digital transformation. He chairs an implementation group under the United Nations' Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), focused on AI in university management and administration.

A professor and Principal Fellow of Advance HE (PFHEA), Gunter has published on generative AI in education, including recently co-authoring a 2026 HEPI report on capabilities for a human-AI world. He is a regular speaker at international conferences on AI strategy, digital capability and the future of higher education.



Rachel McGregor

Dr Rachel McGregor is Academic Development Lead and Co-Director of the Future Skills and Education Research and Innovation Centre at Robert Gordon University. She is widely experienced in the enhancement of higher education learning, teaching and assessment. Rachel has previously led a national-award-winning learning development service and received an Advance HE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence for enhancing student experiences of welcome.

In her current role, Rachel is responsible for staff development in teaching and learning and advancing high-quality education research. She also helps to promote professional standards in higher education internationally as an Advance HE Fellowship Reviewer.



"Our participation in the International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP) was very useful, offering practical insights and opportunities to connect with international peers. These experiences have helped us improve our internal quality assurance system, including clearer policies for programme design, assessment, and student support. The UK Quality Code, together with ESG standards, has guided our governance and ensured alignment with international best practices."

Fariza Nizamova, Chief Specialist, Department of Quality Assurance and Accreditation, New Uzbekistan University





Visit internationally focused UK universities

IQAP 2026 delegates will visit two UK universities to develop knowledge of quality improvement practice within the higher education sector.

Richmond American University London has developed a pioneering approach to the delivery of international higher education, offering students the chance to earn a UK accredited degree and a US college degree. The university team will share their experience of working across multi-region regulatory frameworks.

A long-established leader in the provision of transnational education, distance learning and blended learning options, **University of London** has more than 40,000 students studying across more than 190 countries with over 120 Recognised Teaching Centres around the world.

Main venue

The training will take place at Arundel House, near Temple underground station and overlooking the River Thames. The building is located near to attractions such as the Courtauld Gallery, Covent Garden, the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, and much more.

**Arundel House, 6 Temple Place,
London WC2R 2PG**



Programme overview

During the five-day programme, you can expect interactive presentations by experts in UK and international higher education quality assurance, thought-provoking case studies and engaging group activities, as well as visits to UK higher education providers.

All delegates will receive a certificate of participation at the end of the programme, and we encourage you to actively participate in all sessions, discussions and activities to ensure you get the most out of IQAP 2026.

Day 1: Cultures of quality, national and international quality frameworks and internal quality assurance

- Exploring quality culture - institutional responsibilities and engagement
- Quality reference points in the UK and around the world
- Overview of the European Standards and Guidelines for Higher Education (ESG)
- Introduction to Special Interest Group projects

Day 2: Approaches and strategies for effective internal quality assurance

- Exploring approaches to effective internal quality assurance
- Defining regulation of TNE and examining opportunities
- Internal quality assurance - self-evaluations, quality enhancement and action planning
- Considering effective quality assurance approaches for TNE delivery and partnership management
- Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness

Day 3: External quality assurance, GenAI and its impact on quality

- Exploring approaches to effective external quality assurance
- GenAI as a catalyst for rethinking higher education
- Engaging with artificial intelligence in higher education while promoting academic integrity
- Preparation for UK university visits
- Social event - Afternoon Tea at The Library at County Hall, London

Day 4: Quality in practice

- Visits to Richmond American University London and University of London

Day 5: Group presentations, reflections and IQAP 2026 certificates

- Review of university visits
- Special Interest Group project development and presentations
- Awarding of certificates of participation



Full programme (Programme is subject to change)

Day 1: Monday 22 June	
09:00	Registration
09:30	Welcome - Facilitator and delegate introductions - Outline of the day and week
10:00	Session 1: What is quality? - What constitutes an internal quality culture? - Institutional responsibilities and engagement
11:00	Coffee and Connect
11:15	Session 2: National quality frameworks Common features of quality reference points in the UK, including the Quality Code, and around the world
12:00-12:45	Session 3: International quality frameworks Overview of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) and their alignment to other quality frameworks
12:45-14:00	Lunch and optional social activity (local guided walking)
14:00	Words of welcome from the QAA CEO
14:10	Session 4: Internal quality assurance - a culture of quality - Institutional responsibilities, mission and vision - Role of internal and external stakeholder groups in the development of quality assurance
15:45	Coffee and Connect
16:00	Introduction to Special Interest Group (SIG) projects Learning points and reflections
17:00	End of Day 1

Day 2: Tuesday 23 June	
09:30	Welcome Recap and outline of the day
09:45	Session 5: Internal quality assurance - self-evaluations - Exploring the link between self-evaluations and quality enhancement - Using evidence to demonstrate compliance with external standards - Addressing gaps in quality assurance
11:00	Coffee and Connect
11:15	Session 6: Quality assurance and transnational education (TNE) Defining TNE, exploring regulation of UK TNE and examining the opportunities and challenges
12:30	Lunch and optional social activity (local guided walking)
14:00	Session 7: Quality assurance and mutual expectations in TNE - TNE strategic drivers and considerations - Internal and external QA in TNE partnerships - Standards, data and the student experience
15:30	Coffee and Connect
15:45	Session 8: Internal quality assurance - enhancement - Examples of approaches to internal quality assurance - Ensuring appropriate actions are implemented - Working towards quality enhancement
16:45	Learning points and reflections
17:00	End of Day 2

Day 3: Wednesday 24 June	
09:30	Welcome - Recap and outline of the day - Get to know colleagues in your Special Interest Group
09:45	Session 9: External quality assurance - Introduction to external quality assurance considerations - Group-wide exercise: 'The Gallery Walk' - selecting evidence to demonstrate how institutions meet and exceed quality assurance standards
11:00	Coffee and Connect
11:15	Session 9 continued Feedback and discussions from The Gallery Walk
12:30	Lunch and optional social activity (local guided walking)
14:00	Session 10: GenAI as a catalyst for rethinking higher education We will be joined by expert speakers from three QAA member universities in the UK to explore the risks and opportunities posed by GenAI and the implications for quality assurance and wider higher education management
15:30	Coffee and Connect in Special Interest Groups
16:00	Preparation for UK university visits Learning points and reflections
16:30	Transport to County Hall
17:00	Social event: Afternoon Tea at The Library at County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB

Afternoon Tea at The Library at County Hall

The programme’s main social event is Afternoon Tea at The Library at County Hall, overlooking the River Thames and the Palace of Westminster - also known as the Houses of Parliament. Signature cakes, inspired by the views of the iconic Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben, will be served alongside a traditional afternoon tea of sandwiches, and scones with jam and clotted cream.



Day 4: Thursday 25 June	
08:30	Transport will be provided from Arundel House to Richmond American University London
09:30	Quality in practice - visit 1 Richmond American University London Building 12, Chiswick Park, 566 Chiswick Park, Chiswick High Road, London W4 5AN
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Transport will be provided from Richmond American University to the University of London
14:00	Quality in practice - visit 2 University of London Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
17:00	End of Day 4



Richmond American University London



University of London

Day 5: Friday 26 June	
09:30	Session 11: Review of university visits Group discussion of learning points and opportunities for comparison with your own local and national approaches
10:15	Session 12: Development of SIG projects This session is an opportunity to work with colleagues in your Special Interest Group to develop and prepare to present your project in the afternoon
12:30	Working Lunch
13:15	Session 13: SIG project presentations
15:00	Final learning points, reflections and actions
15:15	Closing ceremony and presentation of certificates Closing remarks from Caroline Carter, presentation of certificates of participation, photos and farewell!
16:00	End of Day 5

"Attending the IQAP 2025 conference was an excellent professional development opportunity. I left the conference with practical ideas and renewed energy to implement at my own institution. It was an honor to participate in such a well-organized and engaging training program."

Tshering Pelden, Deputy Chief Program Officer,
Royal Thimphu College (was Jigme Singye
Wangchuck School of Law)



Meet your IQAP 2026 organisers

Julie Till

Director of Global Business Development, QAA

Julie Till's role at QAA involves working with international universities, government bodies and regulatory agencies. Her portfolio includes QAA's international accreditation services, international membership and the design of a range of bespoke consultancy and training projects for higher education providers and government bodies across the world.

Julie's team is involved in the launch of new services for higher education providers internationally and in England, including voluntary enhancement reviews and support for providers seeking degree-awarding powers. She has an MA in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London) and an MBA from the University of Manchester, and is a Prince2 Practitioner.

Tim Carnley

Global Business and Engagement Manager, QAA

Tim Carnley has worked in the international education sector for almost 20 years, spending long stints in China, the Middle East and South East Asia. Tim's areas of expertise and experience include transnational education models, international education marketing strategies, international student recruitment strategies and international institutional and programme accreditation.

Before joining QAA, Tim worked in multi-region management roles at leading university pathway providers and, as a consultant, provided Asia market entry support to universities, international school groups and edtech companies. He also worked with the British Council, leading the Education UK promotion strategy in the UAE and wider Middle East region, and has held executive committee positions with the British Business Group and Chambers in several regions.



Dr Tullio Lobetti

Global Quality Assurance Consultant, QAA

Dr Tullio Lobetti graduated from the University of Turin with a degree in Foreign Languages and Literatures, with particular focus on the philosophies and religions of East Asia. He went on to complete an MA in Japanese Religions at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London), followed by a PhD in the Study of Religions.

Tullio achieved an MBA in Higher Education Management from University College London, worked as Senior Teaching Fellow at SOAS and then as Head of Quality Assurance at the Institute of Ismaili Studies before joining QAA. As a Quality Specialist here, he has led on a range of quality assurance and enhancement projects across the world.



International accreditation by QAA

QAA offers independent peer reviews for international institutions outside the UK. These review methods have been designed to enable institutions to demonstrate that their quality assurance processes meet international best practice, leading to accreditation from QAA.

International Quality Accreditation

QAA International Quality Accreditation (IQA) gives your institution a globally recognised quality mark, proving you meet rigorous international standards. It boosts your credibility and positioning, builds trust with students and partners worldwide, and drives growth through enhanced recognition and continuous improvement.

Find out more at

www.qaa.ac.uk/international/accreditation/international-quality-accreditation



International Programme Accreditation

International Programme Accreditation (IPA) enables non-UK higher education institutions to demonstrate that their approach to programme design, development and monitoring is effective and comparable to international best practice, supporting curriculum development and student achievement.

Through an independent peer review by QAA, IPA assesses the standards and quality of individual programmes of study against the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

Find out more at www.qaa.ac.uk/ipa



Become a QAA international member

QAA international membership provides vision, expertise and guidance on the topics that matter to your staff and students. It ensures your university or college is well equipped for the opportunities and challenges posed by a rapidly changing global higher education environment.

All staff and students at member institutions have access to a range of exclusive quality enhancement resources, designed to support institutions in improving their own provision. International members can also attend exclusive events, workshops, briefings and training activities that outline developments and best practice in international quality assurance.

Find out more at www.qaa.ac.uk/international-membership



Refer a colleague for IQAP 2027 at www.qaa.ac.uk/IQAP



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