



Letter of Intent to cooperate

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

the Quality Assurance Authority, Republic of Mauritius

This Letter of Intent for cooperation is made between the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, hereafter referred to as “**QAA**”.

and

The Quality Assurance Authority, 3rd Floor, Wing A, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower, Ebene, Cyber City, Republic of Mauritius, hereafter referred to as ‘QAA (Mauritius)’

collectively referred to as “the Parties”.

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.

The QAA (Mauritius) which was established in 2019, pursuant to the enactment of the Higher Education Act of Mauritius; is an independent body entrusted with the promotion, and maintenance and enhancement of quality assurance of higher education in the Republic of Mauritius in line with international standards. It is also set to play a major role as a catalysing agency in the context of positioning the Republic of Mauritius as the Regional Education Hub in the African Continent. It also aims to be a gatekeeper of quality in the Higher Education Sector through collaboration with relevant bodies.

In the context of establishing links of friendship and cooperation, QAA and QAA (Mauritius) have agreed the content of this Letter of Intent (LoI).

This LoI 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.

Both Parties, acting in accordance with the framework of their respective laws and regulations and the laws and regulations of Quality Assurance Authority, agree to exercise their best efforts to explore possible opportunities for cooperation in the following fields:

(a) *Mutual understanding*

Work to enhance the Parties' 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 Party'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; and

(c) *Staff development*

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

Duration of Letter of Intent

The Letter of Intent will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for two (02) years unless it is terminated by the giving of two months' notice in writing by either Party. The Lol may be extended on mutual agreement of the Parties, such agreement to be made in writing.

Alteration of Letter of Intent

This Lol is signed by the Parties in a spirit of amicable cooperation, and its provisions are not intended to be binding. The provisions of the Lol may be altered with the consent of both Parties, such alteration to be confirmed in writing.


Management and liaison arrangements for the Letter of Intent

The Chief Executive of QAA, Douglas Blackstock and the Chairperson of the Board of QAA (Mauritius), Dr Mitrasen Bhikajee will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the provisions of the Lol and for reviewing the Lol to ensure its ongoing appropriateness and relevance on an annual basis. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of each Party's staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Resources

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed and confirmed in writing, with a view to meeting particular project requirements, each Party will cover any of their own costs incurred in the application or implementation of the provisions of the Lol.

Signed in GROVECASTER on 9 MARCH 2020

Made in 2 originals, in English Language 



**Chief Executive, QAA
Douglas Blackstock**

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for Higher Education**

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**Chairperson, QAA (Mauritius)
Dr Mitrasen BHIKAJEE**

The Quality Assurance Authority

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