



19/January/2017

Mr Douglas Blackstock

Chief Executive

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB

United Kingdom

Dear Mr Douglas Blackstock,

I am very pleased that QAA and NIAD-QE have agreed to extend our partnership under the renewed Memorandum of Understanding. I believe we will continue our close collaboration to learn each other and enhance our mission in the field of the quality assurance of higher education.

Enclose to this letter are the two copies of the original MoU which have been signed for NIAD-QE side. When you sign the MoU, please return us one of the copies.

NIAD-QE wishes to continue our partnership over the years and appreciate your continuous support and cooperation.

With best regards,

Hideki Fukuda, Ph.D.

President

National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher  
Education (NIAD-QE)

Japan



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, Japan**

and

**the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom**

This Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) is made between **National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education**, of 1-29-1, Gakuen-nishi-machi, Kodaira-shi, Tokyo 187-8587 Japan, hereafter referred to as NIAD-QE.

And

the **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education**, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, hereafter referred to as QAA.

### **Whereas**

National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) is an incorporated administrative agency created in 2016 by the Japanese Act of General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agency and the NIAD-QE Act. NIAD, which was established as an academic degree-awarding institution in 1991, was renamed and reorganized in 2000 as the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE), an entity charged with evaluating universities in addition to its existing functions. On April 1, 2016, NIAD-UE and the Center for National University Finance and Management (CUFM) merged to form NIAD-QE.

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.

### **NIAD-QE and QAA**

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives especially in the quality assurance of 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**

Having similar missions and institutional objectives in the advancement of quality assurance in higher education, NIAD-QE and QAA now wish to continue the closer relationship as equal partners that was established with the initial MoU in 2007 and was agreed upon with the renewed MoU in 2012 for the purpose of creating cooperative and collaborative mechanisms for the mutual benefit of both parties.

## **Areas of cooperation and collaboration**

To this end, NIAD-QE and QAA, in accordance with the framework of Japanese and British laws and regulations, agree to pursue the following objectives to co-operate for the benefit of both parties and to work towards establishing a strategic alliance to enhance the operation of external quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improve the quality of higher education in Japan and the United Kingdom.

### **(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 Japan and in the UK, supporting student mobility, and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

As part of the implementation of this MoU, NIAD-QE and QAA will meet on an annual basis to share information and update each other of developments in the respective countries and agencies.

#### **Duration of MoU**

The MoU 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 on mutual agreement of both parties.

#### **Alteration of MoU**

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

#### **Management and liaison arrangements for the MoU**

The President of NIAD-QE (at the time of signing Hideki Fukuda, Ph.D.) and the Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr. Douglas Blackstock) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the MoU and taking stock of the terms of the MoU 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 MoU. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Signed in Japan on *19, Jan., 2017*

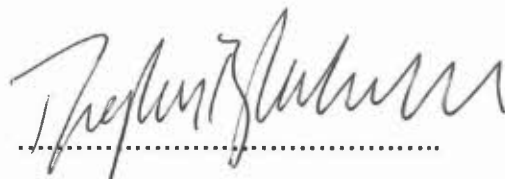
Signed in the UK on *27/01/17*



**Hideki Fukuda, Ph.D.**  
**President, NIAD-QE**

**National Institution for Academic  
Degrees and Quality Enhancement  
of Higher Education**

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**Mr. Douglas Blackstock**  
**Chief Executive, QAA**

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