MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications, Hong Kong

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UB, hereafter referred to as QAA.

and

The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic Qualifications, 10 Siu Sai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong, hereafter referred to as HKCAAVQ.

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.

HKCAAVQ was established in 2007 as a statutory body under the HKCAAVQ Ordinance (Chapter 1150). It is appointed under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Chapter 592) as the Accreditation Authority and Qualifications Register (QR) Authority under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework. It provides quality assurance and assessment services to education and training institutions, course providers and the general public.

QAA and HKCAAVQ

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives especially in the quality assurance of private and cross border providers of higher education, and having 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 HKCAA VQ agree through this Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate for the
benefit of both parties and to work towards developing their strategic alliance to enhance external
quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improving the quality of higher education in the United
Kingdom (UK) and Hong Kong. This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create any
agency, partnership, joint enterprise or other similar relationship between the parties, and neither
party has the authority to act on behalf of, or otherwise bind, the other party. However, QAA and
HKCAA VQ agree to work together to implement this Memorandum of Understanding in good faith.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, QAA and HKCAA VQ, in accordance with the framework of British and Hong Kong
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 the UK
and Hong Kong.

(b) Information exchange
Exchange information and offer professional advice about each other's activities and processes,
higher education providers operating in each other's jurisdiction, and about developments in each
other'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 and international higher education providers.

(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 and
international providers, the identification of fraudulent institutions, awarding bodies or accrediting
agencies in the UK and in Hong Kong, supporting student mobility,
and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

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

• sharing data and information about UK higher education providers operating in
  Hong Kong, and developments in each respective region
- progressing further reciprocal recognition of quality assurance decisions in Hong Kong and the UK, with a view to lessening unnecessary duplication of quality assurance/accreditation activity
- progressing cooperation in quality assurance activity/accreditation in other countries/jurisdictions
- 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 Hong Kong.

Duration of Memorandum

The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and shall continue for three 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 consent of both parties.

Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing, Mr Douglas Blackstock) and the Executive Director of HKCAAVQ (at the time of signing, Mr Albert Chow) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum. This responsibility may be delegated to relevant members of the agency's 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 Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Signed: [Signature]
Date: 14 October 2019

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Signed: [Signature]
Date: 25 October 2019

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