

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

the Knowledge and Human Development Authority, Dubai

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 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 responsible for safeguarding the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications, and to inform and encourage continuous improvement in the management of the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom.

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 Memorandum of Understanding 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 improving the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom and private education institutions in Dubai. This Memorandum of Understanding 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 Memorandum of Understanding 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:

- Sharing data and quality assurance outcomes, including recommendations, about UK higher education providers operating in Dubai.
- Producing a report targeted to UK higher providers on the Dubai regulatory context for TNE, including ways in which QAA and KHDA cooperating together can assist in developing TNE arrangements in Dubai and securing and enhancing their quality.
- Developing and delivering an International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP) localised to meet the needs of Dubai and the broader region.
- Observing each other quality assurance processes, and undertaking quality enhancement activities such as workshop for UK higher education providers operating or wishing to operate in Dubai.

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.

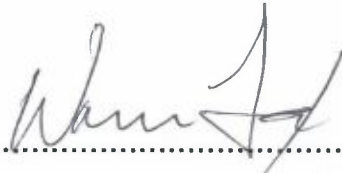
Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr. Douglas Blackstock) and the Executive Director of Higher Education of KHDA (at the time of signing Dr. Warren Fox) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum and taking stock of the terms of the Memorandum 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 Memorandum. For particular areas of cooperation donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Signed: 
Date: 18 JULY 2016

Signed: 
Date: Aug 1, 2016

Mr Douglas Blackstock
Chief Executive, QAA

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