



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, Malaysia

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 **Malaysian Qualifications Agency**, 14th Floor, Menara PKNS-PJ, No. 17, Jalan Yong Shook Lin, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, hereafter referred to as MQA.

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. 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.

MQA was established in 2007 with the coming in force of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency Act 2007. It was previously known as the National Accreditation Board which was established in 1997. MQA is responsible for quality assurance of higher education for both the public and the private sectors. With its main role to implement the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF) as a basis for quality assurance of higher education and as the reference point for the criteria and standards for national qualifications, the MQA is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the quality assurance practices and accreditation of higher education programmes and qualifications.

QAA and MQA

Having comparable missions and institutional objectives in the assurance of quality in higher education, both parties wish to continue and deepen further their cooperation upon the terms contained herein.

Aims of Memorandum of Understanding

QAA and MQA decide through this Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate for the benefit of both and to work towards enhancing regulation and quality assurance in both jurisdictions and improving the quality of higher education in the United Kingdom and Malaysia. This Memorandum of Understanding is not however 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.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, QAA and MQA, in accordance with the framework of British and Malaysian laws and regulations, will pursue the following objectives for their mutual benefit:

(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, and about developments in each country's higher education systems.

(c) Staff exchange

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) Sharing of each other's reviewers

Where appropriate and possible, draw on reviewers or other specialists from each other's system to strengthen the international dimension of each other's review processes.

(e) Mutual 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)/jointly decided 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 Malaysia, supporting student mobility, and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

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 Anthony McClaran) and the Chief Executive Officer of MQA (at the time of signing Dato' Prof. Dr. Rujhan Bin Mustafa) will have the 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.

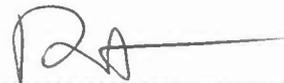
Resources

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 in **Chicago** on **1 April 2015**.



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Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive, QAA



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Dato' Prof. Dr. Rujhan
Bin Mustafa
Chief Executive Officer, MQA

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