



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad

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 **Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago**, Level 3, Building B, Pan American Life Plaza, 91-93 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, hereafter referred to as ACTT.

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.

ACCT was established in 2004 by Chapter 39:06 of the laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago as the overarching agency with responsibility and jurisdiction for the registration and accreditation of local post secondary and tertiary institutions and programmes and the recognition of foreign and transnational programmes and institutions operating in Trinidad and Tobago. Pursuant to Chapter 39:06 ACCT is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of national quality standards for the higher education sector and the conferment of institutional titles. ACCT is vested with the power to collaborate with recognised accrediting and professional bodies pursuant to the fulfilment of its statutory mission.

QAA and ACTT

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

QAA and ACTT 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 Trinidad and Tobago. 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 ACTT, in accordance with the framework of British and Trinidadian 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 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 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) 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 Trinidad and Tobago, 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 Anthony McClaran) and the Chief Executive Officer of ACTT (at the time of signing Michael Bradshaw) 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 in **London, United Kingdom and Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in April 2015.**

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Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive, QAA

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Michael Bradshaw
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