

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and the

National Commission for Further and Higher Education, Malta

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

National Commission for Further and Higher Education, Alamein Road, Pembroke, Malta, hereafter referred to as NCFHE.

Whereas:

QAA was established in 1997 and is responsible for safeguarding the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications, and for informing and encouraging 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.

NCFHE was set up by law in 2012 and is responsible for the licensing, accreditation and quality assurance of further and higher education in Malta. Moreover, it is the Government of Malta's statutory advisory body in this sector, performing the functions of the Malta Recognition Information Centre and maintaining the Malta Qualifications Framework, as well as being responsible for the Validation of Informal and Non-Formal Learning.

QAA and NCFHE

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

Aims

QAA and NCFHE 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 Malta. This Memorandum of Understanding is not, however, intended to create legally binding relations between the participants, 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 NCFHE, in accordance with the framework of British and Maltese 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) 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 and jointly decided projects and activities for the benefit of both participants, including: the quality assurance of transnational education; the identification of fraudulent institutions, awarding bodies or accrediting agencies in the UK and in Malta; supporting student mobility; and undertaking research on quality assurance related issues.

Duration of Memorandum

This 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 the mutual agreement of both participants.

Alteration of Memorandum

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

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 NCFHE (at the time of signing, Ms Edel Cassar) will have responsibility for managing the implementation of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding 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 of Understanding. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

Signed on behalf of NCFHE


.....
Ms Edel Cassar
Chief Executive Officer

NCFHE

Date 13 May 2015

Signed on behalf of QAA


.....
Mr Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive

QAA

Date 11 May 2015