

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom

and

the SkillsFuture Singapore, Singapore

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 SkillsFuture Singapore, Singapore, of 1 Marina Boulevard, #18-01, One Marina Boulevard, S (018989), Singapore (hereafter referred to as SSG).

Whereas

QAA is the Independent quality body for UK higher education with the mission to safeguard standards and improve the quality of UK higher education wherever it is delivered around the world. QAA carries out external quality assurance by visiting and monitoring universities and colleges to review how they are fulfilling their responsibilities. To support standards and promote quality enhancement QAA publishes a range of reference points, including the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, which sets out the expectations and practices that all providers of UK higher education are required to meet in setting the standards of their awards, and for managing the quality of their provision, as well as a range of guidance, analysis and insights. QAA is funded by subscriptions from universities and colleges, and through contracts with the higher education funding and regulatory bodies in the UK.

From 3 October 2016, the Council for Private Education has become part of a new statutory board - SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG). SSG will take SkillsFuture forward and strengthen the ecosystem of quality education and training. The SSG Board has appointed the Committee for Private Education (CPE) to carry out its functions and powers relating to private education under the Private Education Act (Chapter 247A), to regulate the sector, provide student services, consumer education and facilitate capability development efforts to uplift standards in the Singapore private education industry.

QAA and CPE/SSG

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 CPE/SSG 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 (PEIs) in Singapore. 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 CPE/SSG agree to work together to implement this Memorandum of Understanding in good faith.

Areas of cooperation and collaboration

To these ends, QAA and CPE/SSG, in accordance with the framework of British and Singapore 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. 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.

(e) 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 Singapore; and undertaking research on quality assurance-related issues.

More specifically, at the end of our agreement QAA and CPE/SSG 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 Singapore

- cooperating in running at least one UK Transnational Education (TNE) students' forum, which will inform a report produced as part of the Quality Beyond Borders Group's (QBBG) work on TNE student engagement
- producing a report targeted at UK higher providers on the Singapore regulatory context for TNE.

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.

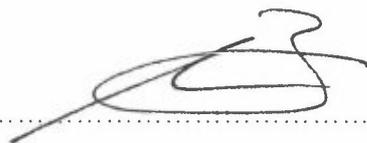
Management and liaison arrangements for the Memorandum

The Chief Executive of QAA (at the time of signing Mr. Douglas Blackstock) and the Director-General (Private Education) of SSG (at the time of signing Mr. Brandon Lee) 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 Singapore on 5 May 2018

Mr Douglas Blackstock
Chief Executive, QAA

**The Quality Assurance Agency
 for Higher Education**

Southgate House
 Southgate Street
 Gloucester, GL1 1UB
 United Kingdom
 Telephone: +44 1452 557000
 Email: enquiries@qaa.ac.uk
 Website: www.qaa.ac.uk

Mr Brandon Lee
**Director-General (Private Education),
 SkillsFuture Singapore**

**Regulation, Fraud and Enforcement
 Group (RFEG),**

SkillsFuture Singapore
 1 Marina Boulevard, #18-01
 One Marina Boulevard
 Singapore (018989)
 Telephone: +65 6512 1140
 Email: CPE_CONTACT@cpe.gov.sg
 Website: www.cpe.gov.sg