



Global services for higher education institutions

from The Quality Assurance Agency
for Higher Education, UK

www.qaa.ac.uk/international



About QAA

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) is an independent expert body entrusted with monitoring and advising on standards and quality in UK higher education.

With nearly 30 years of experience, QAA plays an active role in international developments in quality assurance, working with government bodies, quality agencies and universities worldwide. We have long established links and over 30 Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperation with international quality agencies and ministries of higher education.

We collaborate with higher education providers, regulatory bodies, agencies and governments around the globe to safeguard academic standards and support student success. If you are looking to benchmark with external international standards, such as the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG), or to enhance quality and maximise impact, we can offer expert, independent and trusted advice to senior leadership and quality assurance professionals worldwide.

We can help you to:

- align your internal quality assurance systems with international best practice
- strengthen institutional capacity in quality assurance
- promote international partnerships.

The logo for ENQA (European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies) features the lowercase letters 'enqa' in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, followed by a small orange dot.The logo for INQAAHE (International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies for Higher Education) features the text 'INQAAHE' in a dark blue serif font. To the left of the text is a stylized globe with purple and blue lines representing latitude and longitude. Below the text, it says 'Since 1991' in a small, dark blue sans-serif font.The logo for APQN (Asia-Pacific Quality Network) features the lowercase letters 'apqn' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'a' and 'p' are red, the 'q' is yellow, and the 'n' is red. Below the letters is a red curved line. Underneath the line, the text 'ASIA-PACIFIC QUALITY NETWORK' is written in a small, red, uppercase sans-serif font.The logo for EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register) features the lowercase letters 'eqar' in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, followed by four slanted parallel lines of increasing height.

QAA international expertise

We are active internationally to maintain, develop and share our expertise and insight including:

- supporting the development of quality assurance practices and regulatory frameworks internationally
- leading, contributing to and learning from cross-border projects
- working in partnership with international agencies interested in learning more about the UK's approach to quality assurance
- promoting UK practice through speaking engagements, presentations and events
- through the QAA Quality Evaluation and Enhancement of UK Transnational Higher Education Provision (QE-TNE) Scheme
- providing in-person or online bespoke training and strategic support to government bodies and higher education providers.



International institutional accreditation

International Quality Review (IQR) is a great place to start if you want to build your reputation, strengthen your global positioning or form long-lasting partnerships with UK and international institutions. IQR offers higher education institutions outside the UK the opportunity to have an independent evidence-based peer review against international standards. QAA's approach has been developed using our extensive experience of carrying out reviews in the UK and across the world.

‘ IQR was a phenomenal learning experience for the improvement of our university's processes. QAA supported and guided us at every stage. We felt delighted to work with QAA to achieve the prestigious accreditation of IQR. ’

**Prof (Dr) Balvinder Shukla, Vice Chancellor,
Amity University Uttar Pradesh, India**



A successful review enables institutions to demonstrate their own approaches to quality assurance are not only effective, but also comparable with international best practice.

IQR is designed to analyse and reflect on an institution's quality assurance approaches, to challenge and benchmark these against the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), and to support them to drive improvement and excellence in their own quality assurance approach.



‘ Internationally, we cooperate with more than 100 partner institutions in 39 countries and so we pursued international accreditation to raise our profile and credibility with overseas partners. Since accreditation, the incoming student cohort has grown steadily and external interest in organising joint and international activities with us has also increased. ’

**Sergey Pen, Provost,
Maqsut Narikbayev University,
Kazakhstan**



Case study: International institutional accreditation in Doha, Qatar

In 2022, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies successfully completed their International Quality Review and achieved QAA global accreditation. The review process facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the ESG requirements at Doha Institute, and helped to create improved structures and attitudes in relation to quality and quality assurance from various stakeholders. The IQR process is also being used to inform strategic planning and decision-making at Doha Institute, using the feedback and insights to prioritise resources in areas that are most critical for its long-term success.



Key benefits

- Developing and formalising Doha Institute's quality assurance system, directly impacting on many operational areas which has led to several enhancements
- Identifying areas for improvement and highlighting areas of strengths and good practices
- Demonstrating that Doha Institute's quality assurance system meets international standards, strengthening their global positioning and competitiveness
- Providing trust and confidence to students and the public in Doha Institute's academic programmes and delivery
- Fostering a quality assurance and improvement culture at the Institute through its continuous engagement with quality assurance principles and capacity building across stakeholder groups.

“ Obtaining IQR accreditation has acted as a multiplier for Doha Institute's visibility, credibility, and influence; enhancing stakeholder confidence, supporting student mobility, and reinforcing the Institute's leadership in quality assurance both nationally and regionally. ”

**Hala Sheikh Al Souk, Director of the Office of
Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance,
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies,
Qatar**

International Programme Accreditation

International Programme Accreditation (IPA) enables non-UK higher education institutions to demonstrate that their approach to programme design, development and monitoring are effective and comparable to international best practice, supporting curriculum development and student achievement.

Through an independent peer review by QAA, IPA assesses the standards and quality of individual programmes of study against the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). QAA's review team will also refer to relevant UK Subject Benchmark Statements when considering each programme's approach to learning, teaching, assessment, programme design, delivery and review.

The review includes the systematic monitoring and evaluation of learning and teaching, and the processes that support them. This is combined with specific review of individual programmes of study. This ensures that the standards of academic awards meet the required level and the quality of the student learning experience is being safeguarded and continually improved.



6 International Programme Accreditation is a great way to show that your courses and curricula are recognised internationally and stand together with the best globally.

Professor David Coates MBE, University of Dundee, UK

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Case study: International accreditation for English programmes in Kuwait

In October 2024, Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) in Kuwait successfully achieved International Programme Accreditation for the English programmes they deliver. The review process helped to strengthen quality assurance processes, foster international partnerships, and unite faculty and leadership around a shared commitment to continuous improvement and student success.

As a result of going through the accreditation process, the University's QA practices became more systematic and evidence-based. Faculty members now actively contribute to curriculum review cycles, and course learning outcomes have been revised to align with international benchmarks.

Since accreditation, several collaborations with UK universities have been established, including the University of Leeds and the University of Liverpool.



- 6 This accreditation journey has been deeply transformational. It has not only strengthened our internal processes and elevated our international standing, but more profoundly, the most significant benefit of international accreditation for our institution has been the internal cultural shift towards continuous improvement.

**Dr Asmaa Alduhaim, Head of the English Department,
Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait**

QAA International Membership

International Membership provides expertise and guidance on the topics that matter to your staff and students. It ensures that your university or college is well equipped to face the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing global higher education environment.

International Members can access a range of exclusive quality enhancement resources, designed to support institutions in improving their own quality assurance systems. These are available to all staff and students at member institutions, through QAA's Membership Resources site. International Members also have access to exclusive events, workshops, briefings and training that outline developments and best practice in all aspects of international quality assurance.

Our Membership Badges allows institutions to demonstrate their commitment to the enhancement of quality. There are two tiers of International Membership:

Accredited International Membership

- available to all institutions that have achieved QAA's International Quality Review (IQR) accreditation.



Associate International Membership

- available to institutions that do not yet have QAA's IQR accreditation but are recognised by their local quality agency.



6 Being part of QAA's International Membership allows us to share and learn best practice with a like-minded community of similar institutions around the world. As members, we have found QAA's guidance and good practice papers particularly useful to develop and enhance our own practices. We plan to continue to use QAA's resources to inform our policies, practices and continue to enhance and build upon the quality of learning, teaching and assessment.

Emilia Todorova, University of Gibraltar

Benefits of QAA International Membership

Developing your skills & networks

Cultivating connections and advancing your capabilities through a range of exclusive benefits designed to support your professional growth.

Enhancing your knowledge & practice

Enhancing efficiency by leveraging sector-wide expertise and best practices, allowing members to benefit without starting from scratch.

Addressing your priorities

Insight, networks and support to help you stay ahead of sector challenges and safeguard quality.

Amplifying your voice

Keeping you informed and elevating your institution's impact.

QAA Membership creates a secure place for quality teams, academics and strategic leaders to share practice, discuss challenges, and learn about the latest thinking and professional practices in quality assurance and enhancement. We collaborate with our members to deliver high-quality services that:

- safeguard academic standards and champion academic integrity
- enhance the quality of the student learning experience, regardless of where students are studying
- support continuous improvement in quality assurance practices.

Capacity building and professional development

We work with ministries of higher education and national quality assurance agencies, as well as higher education institutions and quality assurance professionals, offering expert, trusted advice and tailored solutions to build capacity and enhance their approaches to assuring quality.

We can design and deliver expert-led training on the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) or other accreditation/review methods required by your local regulatory body. We also offer customised training on key quality themes, including transnational education (TNE) development, digital learning, teaching and assessment, student engagement, and programme management.

“ Our work with QAA has inspired us to do more and at a much higher level to bring about systemic changes in higher education. ”

**Jamiliya Gulyamova, British Council,
Tashkent, Uzbekistan**





“ Learning by doing hands-on training and group participation, was very useful. ”
Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

Case study: Bespoke quality training for Tashkent State University of Law, Uzbekistan

In 2024, QAA delivered a five-day, in-person capacity-building programme for Tashkent State University of Law, training around 30 senior management staff, deans of the faculties and heads of academic and administrative departments to support the University's goal of securing international institutional accreditation. The training covered key themes such as fostering a quality culture, analysing quality assurance frameworks (particularly the European Standards and Guidelines), identifying gaps in existing QA systems, and drafting a self-evaluation document.



Key benefits

- enhanced readiness for international accreditation through structured training on global quality assurance standards
- stronger quality culture by engaging staff and students in quality assurance processes
- improved self-assessment capabilities, helping the university identify and address gaps in its quality assurance systems
- practical guidance on developing a robust self-evaluation document, a critical step in accreditation
- well-equipped with the knowledge, guidance and toolkits to advance the university's strategic plans effectively.



International Quality Assurance Programme

The International Quality Assurance Programme (IQAP) is QAA's flagship in-person professional development course for international delegates. Held every summer in the UK, it provides excellent opportunities to learn about current issues in higher education quality assurance and build relationships with quality assurance professionals from around the world.

IQAP enables attendees to:

- learn from experts in UK and international quality assurance
- reflect on different roles and quality assurance practices
- develop skills and identify key areas for further development at an institutional or national level.



IQAP also includes visits to world-leading campuses of UK universities to see examples of higher education quality in action; and networking in unique spaces in the global cultural and educational hub of London to connect with peers.

By the end of IQAP attendees will:

- have learned new skills that can be used to enhance quality assurance within their organisations
- be able to comment more effectively on key global trends and challenges in international quality
- have gained knowledge and experiences from colleagues working in other countries.

Learn about a range of topics

Building a quality culture

Self-evaluation

The student voice

International approaches to quality assurance

External quality assurance



Case study: Enhancing quality assurance in transnational education in Indonesia

With support from the British Council's Going Global Partnerships fund and in collaboration with Lancaster University, QAA delivered a 3-day workshop at Deakin University Lancaster University Indonesia (DLI) around developing well-governed, high-quality and equitable transnational education (TNE) partnerships in February 2025.

JPM-PTNBH, the Indonesian national quality assurance network of autonomous public institutions, also played a key role by inviting member institutions to attend and consult on the design of the workshop content and outcomes. The network chairperson provided opening remarks and noted the impact of the workshop in facilitating the exchange of best practice between Indonesian and UK quality assurance practitioners.



Thirty-five Indonesian institutions took part in the workshop, which explored TNE partnership models, strategies, risk, due diligence and management, all the while considering the Indonesian context and the challenges and opportunities Indonesian partner institutions might face when developing international partnerships.

Quality assurance frameworks and the importance of establishing a quality culture were also covered, with an in-depth exploration of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

Key takeaways for workshop delegates included:

- knowledge of the essential elements of a quality culture strategy
- ensuring the alignment of TNE strategy with institutional strategy
- introducing rigorous, inclusive self-evaluation to enable effective monitoring.



Contact us:



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