



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 35 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 practices
- strengthen institutional capacity in quality assurances
- promote international partnerships.



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 globally
- 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
- strengthening transnational education provision through the UK TNE Quality Scheme
- providing in-person or online bespoke training and strategic support to government bodies and higher education providers.



International institutional accreditation

International Quality Accreditation (IQA) is your gateway to enhancing quality, strengthening reputation and delivering strategic growth. IQA 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.

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

IQA 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.

"International accreditation 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."

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

"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



Find out more



Case study: International institutional accreditation in Doha, Qatar

In 2022, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies successfully 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.



"Obtaining QAA 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

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.

International programme accreditation

International Programme Accreditation (IPA) is your mark of programme excellence.

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 provides evidence that programmes meet rigorous expectations for programme design, delivery, assessment, quality assurance, student support and stakeholder engagement.

As a result of our experience developing and managing many of the UK's widely respected sector reference points, including Subject Benchmark Statements and Characteristics Statements, we have a deep understanding of high-quality programme design, delivery and outcomes. This expertise is embedded within IPA, ensuring that programmes are reviewed by an organisation that not only evaluates quality, but has helped shape academic excellence.

The accreditation process is conducted by experienced reviewers, including subject specialists, through a developmental, enhancement-led approach. The focus is not simply on validating quality today, but on helping institutions strengthen quality for the future.

"This accreditation is an important external validation of Nazarbayev University's commitment to global standards. It enhances the global recognition and value of a Nazarbayev University degree, and it drives our continued focus on student success."

Professor Waqar Ahmad, President, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan

Find out more



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.



"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

QAA membership gives you the expert guidance, resources, professional development and networking opportunities your institution needs to enhance quality, uphold academic standards and improve the student learning experience.

Through exclusive events, quality assurance resources, funded projects and practical opportunities to learn with others, we help you meet regulatory requirements, respond confidently to sector change and support your teams to embed effective, consistent quality practice. Resources are available to all staff and students at member institutions. 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.



"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

Insight that strengthens your strategy

Helping you make informed decisions and plan with confidence.

Tools that make quality work easier

Reducing duplication and freeing capacity across your teams.

Efficiency that reduces risk

Enabling rapid understanding of new developments without reinventing solutions.

A community that accelerates your progress

Giving you access to peers who are solving the same challenges.

Influence that shapes the sector

Creating ways for you to shape work that defines what good looks like across the sector.

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.

Find out more



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.”

Jamilya Gulyamova,
British Council, Tashkent,
Uzbekistan



“Learning by doing hands-on training and group participation was very useful.”

Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

Case study: Strengthening quality at New Uzbekistan University

As part of its ambition to become a leading international university, New Uzbekistan University has worked closely with QAA to enhance its quality assurance systems, build institutional capability, and align its practices with internationally recognised standards.

The University became an Associate International member in 2023, before further developing its capability through participation in the International Quality Assurance Programme in 2024. Building on this work, New Uzbekistan University successfully achieved International Quality Accreditation in 2026, recognising their commitment to internationally recognised quality standards.

Key outcomes from being a QAA member

- Improved staff understanding of quality assurance, leading to more consistent practices and a stronger culture of shared responsibility for maintaining standards.
- More structured and evidence-based approaches to curriculum development, learning outcomes and student feedback.

Key outcomes from attending the International Quality Assurance Programme

- Enhanced internal quality processes, including programme design, assessment and student support.
- Greater focus on continuous improvement and long-term strategic development.

Key outcomes from achieving International Quality Accreditation

- Strengthened international reputation and demonstrable alignment with global quality standards
- External validation of quality supports collaboration with other international universities and research institutions.



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

Find out more



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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