



QAA QE-TNE Scheme Agreement for UK Higher Education Providers

Our commitment to you

The QAA QE-TNE (Quality Evaluation and Enhancement of UK Transnational Higher Education Provision) Scheme represents our shared commitment to the enhancement of quality and standards, and to the promotion and advancement of UK higher education delivered overseas. Through the QAA QE-TNE Scheme, we will collaborate on solutions to shared challenges, sector-wide issues, and the enhancement of the student experience.

We are committed to engaging with you to shape and inform QAA QE-TNE Scheme, to ensure that our services meet the requirements of our community of QAA QE-TNE Scheme participants.

We will normally publish the countries that will be reviewed in each academic year between 2022-23 to 2025-26 at least 18 months in advance. We will maintain a published schedule for resources and events.

You will have a named point of contact who will be able to advise you how to make the most of your QAA QE-TNE Scheme benefits and direct you to published resources.

Further details of the QAA QE-TNE Scheme and the countries to be reviewed are available on the [QAA website](#).

When you register to participate in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme, you unlock access to all the benefits of the scheme for all members of staff and students at your institution and your TNE partners.

Eligibility for participation in QAA QE-TNE Scheme

To access QAA QE-TNE Scheme benefits, you need to be:

- 1 a legal entity registered or established in the UK

and
- 2 delivering UK qualifications recognised either at Level 4 and above of *The Framework for Higher Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (FHEQ), or at Level 7 and above of the *Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework* (SCQF)

and
- 3 subject to one of the following:
 - a) review by QAA; or

- b) the regulatory framework governing higher education in its home nation; or
 - c) the oversight of a lead provider subject to the regulatory framework of the Office for Students
- and
- 4 a UK degree-awarding body.

You must also confirm that you meet the Core and Common practices of the [UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#) and the [Advice and Guidance on Partnerships](#).

QAA QE-TNE Scheme term

To confirm your participation in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme, you simply need to pay your QAA QE-TNE Scheme invoice within 30 days of receipt.

The QAA QE-TNE Scheme runs from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2026. Eligible providers can normally only join up until 1 September 2021.

We will review QAA QE-TNE Scheme fees annually and communicate any changes before the annual invoices are issued. QAA will seek to minimise any changes to annual fees during the five-year term.

Participation in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme will terminate automatically in the event of non-payment of an invoice within 30 days, or in the event of any change which affects your ability to meet the eligibility criteria.

Participation in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme is non-transferable and non-refundable. When two or more QAA QE-TNE Scheme participants merge, eligibility for participation in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme of the new, merged provider will be considered and confirmed by QAA.

QE-TNE Scheme principles

When you register for the QAA QE-TNE Scheme, you are investing in the quality of your students' academic experience. The benefits that you get from participating in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme can be accessed by everyone at your institution along with your TNE partners and students.

There will be a tiered structure for access to published resources. Some materials will be for the exclusive use of QAA QE-TNE Scheme participants, accessed through our online portal; other materials will be for the exclusive benefit of QAA QE-TNE Scheme participants who are also QAA Members; and some for those who are QAA QE-TNE Scheme participants and International Insights Members.

All staff and students within an organisation that participates in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme will have access to QAA QE-TNE Scheme resources, subject to the above. QAA will confirm your log-in information when you join the QAA QE-TNE Scheme.

Participation in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme indicates a commitment to quality and to maintaining public confidence in UK higher education delivered overseas. This commitment is underpinned by an expectation of good conduct and professionalism. Participation in the QAA QE-TNE Scheme may be suspended or terminated if:

- a QAA QE-TNE Scheme participant or partner of QAA QE-TNE Scheme participant acts in a way that brings it or the higher education sector or QAA into disrepute
- a QAA QE-TNE Scheme participant or partner of QAA QE-TNE Scheme participant is found to be in breach of any regulatory condition, standard or requirement; or
- a QAA QE-TNE Scheme participant or partner of QAA QE-TNE Scheme participant breaches these principles.

This agreement should be read in conjunction with the full [terms and conditions](#) relating to the provision of QAA QE-TNE Scheme services, which can be found on our website.

Integrity and transparency

QAA will always aim to operate with integrity and transparency when delivering QAA QE-TNE Scheme services, including being clear with you about how we manage our different responsibilities across the UK.

The QAA QE-TNE Scheme is distinct from our regulatory functions. It is about sharing best practice and enhancing quality, not providing consultation, advice and guidance on your specific regulatory circumstances.

We are committed to protecting the confidentiality of information that you share with us as part of our QAA QE-TNE Scheme relationship. However, in exceptional circumstances, such as where our communications indicate that you may be in breach, or at risk of breaching, regulatory conditions, we will bring this to your attention, reminding you of your reporting responsibilities to the relevant regulator. If we have reason to believe that you are not discharging these responsibilities, we reserve the right to share pertinent information with the regulator.

About the regulation of higher education in the UK

Higher education policy and regulation is devolved to the four nations of the UK.

Oversight of quality arrangements or statutory regulation in the four nations sits with the Office for Students in England, the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland, the Scottish Funding Council, and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales. Each funder or regulator receives advice from QAA through our independent assessments and evaluations of institutions. At the core of QAA's work is the application of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, which is a key reference point across all of UK higher education, protecting the public and student interest, and championing UK higher education's world-leading reputation for quality.

QAA is the only body officially recognised across the whole of the UK to undertake independent assessments and evaluations, which are in turn used by all four bodies to inform their regulatory decision-making. QAA also works with the representative bodies of UK higher education providers and our individual member institutions.

QE-TNE was commissioned by Universities UK and GuildHE as a voluntary exercise to demonstrate the commitment of UK higher education to deliver a high-quality TNE experiences for students.

These reviews are not being conducted by QAA in its role as the Designated Quality Body in England. The Office for Students is responsible for the baseline regulation of the quality of TNE of registered providers of higher education in England. The conclusions of QE-TNE reviews do not have any regulatory status in England and a provider cannot rely on any reports or other outputs from QE-TNE for any purpose relating to registration with the Office for Students or as an indication of the likely outcomes of any assessment that QAA may carry out of the provider in its role as the Designated Quality Body.

Core to QAA's ways of working internationally and to our evaluation of TNE is the building of mutual trust and understanding with our counterpart bodies in the countries where UK degree-awarding bodies are active. We do this through our membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), and through bilateral relationships with partners with whom we have memoranda of understanding.

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