

# The Quality Evaluation and Enhancement of UK Transnational Higher Education Provision 2021-22 to 2025-26

## Introduction to the consultation document

The consultation document is the draft proposed new approach to the quality evaluation and enhancement of UK transnational higher education.

Please note the following:

- 1 Part 1 is the introduction to the Handbook. An appendix to the consultation provides a more detailed explanation of how the 11 principles shaped thinking in developing the proposal and outlines, in more depth, what enhancement means for the approach.
- 2 The Handbook outlined in Part 2 is a 'steady state' handbook for normal times. It was thought best as the initial step to ensure that a workable approach was developed that is logical and complete in itself. Once the basic approach has been finalised, work can be undertaken on 'contingencies' - that is, what is likely to be done in the face of disruption. Disruption may be related to: health as with COVID-19, MERS or SARS; a natural disaster such as a tsunami; a terrorist incident; or unexpected political unrest. Note that QAA routinely schedules overseas activity to avoid known seasonal weather (such as the typhoon, hurricane and monsoon seasons); it does not schedule major activity in countries that are predominantly Muslim during the month of Ramadan; and takes local holidays and festivals into account. The contingency advice and guidance for the new approach to TNE will address major and unexpected disruption that is separate from known factors that impact on scheduling.
- 3 Part 3 outlines proposals around pricing, participation and the statement of participation. It will not form part of the final published Handbook.
- 4 In the pre-consultation stage of development, QAA has benefited from the contribution of colleagues from higher education. The overall project has been overseen by a Steering Group comprising Universities UK International (UUKi), GuildHE and QAA. Thanks are due to all those who have helped shape the proposal - their generosity in finding time to contribute in these demanding times is gratefully acknowledged.
- 5 Next steps: four workshops will be offered to support the consultation; the outcomes of the consultation questionnaire and workshops will be analysed; areas for change will be identified and agreed with the Steering Group; and the Handbook finalised. The Handbook is due for publication by the end of January 2021.

- 6 Stage 2 of the development process will involve QAA finalising the fees and offer; working with UUKi and GuildHE on the initial countries for ratification by the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment (UKSCQA) and more detailed preparation and planning for delivery from September 2021. The work will include reviewer recruitment and training, work on contingencies and production of wider briefing material.

**The consultation document can be found at:**

[www.qaa.ac.uk/international/transnational-education-review/consultation](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/international/transnational-education-review/consultation)