QAA Collaborative Enhancement Projects: Call for Expressions of Interest

Following the successful launch of our new Collaborative Enhancement Projects programme in 2020-21, which resulted in QAA funding 13 projects involving 45 members plus additional stakeholders, we are inviting QAA Members to participate in a second round of projects for 2021-22.

We are offering funding for groups of member institutions to work together on areas of mutual interest that will enhance the quality of their own students' learning experiences while also developing outputs that will benefit the wider QAA Membership and higher education sector.

What is a Collaborative Enhancement Project?

Led by one institution, each project will comprise a group of member institutions (at least two) who will work together over an agreed period on an area of mutual interest. We anticipate the duration of the project could be between six and 18 months, depending on the topic and approach.

Each project should aim to deliver benefits for the participating institutions and their students, and also demonstrate the potential for the wider QAA Membership to benefit from the work once completed. Projects can involve a range of staff and disciplines, depending upon the topic, and should involve students and/or student representatives as part of the project design and delivery.

What themes could the projects address?

We are particularly interested in projects to address:

- **Education for Sustainable Development** - how institutions have embedded ESD across their curricula and the wider student experience, in particular how quality processes can be used to ensure this is done in a meaningful and relevant way.

- **Inclusion and accessibility** - considering approaches to curriculum design which address barriers to entry and student success. We are also interested in innovative approaches to engaging with the student voice for under-represented groups.

- **Academic integrity** - how students are supported to engage in positive academic practice and any changes that have been made to course delivery models or to processes to support academic integrity.

- **Employability** - activities to support student employment, which might include a focus on graduate skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship, or work-based learning (including apprenticeships). We are interested in activities that have a focus on the student learning experience, as well as arrangements to secure standards.

- **Hybrid delivery of learning, teaching and assessment** - how teaching, learning and assessment approaches need to flex to accommodate a hybrid approach and ways of supporting staff and students to ensure a high-quality experience.
Please note this is not an exhaustive list. If your project covers another topic that is a priority for you and others in the sector, and meets the criteria outlined below, we will be very interested to receive your proposal.

Timeframe

Expressions of interest need to be submitted to QAA by Wednesday 8 December 2021. Selection will be completed by Tuesday 7 January 2022 with inception meetings starting from Monday 17 January 2022.

Funding

Funding will be allocated on a project basis, depending on the scope and anticipated outputs. As a guide, it is likely that funding for each project will range between £2,000 and £10,000.

This funding will support your work and the proposed outputs, which might include:

- development of new practical resources to be published for the wider QAA Membership
- production of written material or multimedia resource for use by students and staff
- support for the evaluation of an existing initiative
- assistance with developing a good practice or quick reference guide for students and staff
- providing a small amount of funding to enable an institutional activity to be extended for the benefit of additional providers.

Again, please note that this is not an exhaustive list - other proposed outputs will be considered.

Selection criteria

Each expression of interest will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- the number of institutions (and/or student associations) actively engaged in the project (this must be at least two)
- the potential for the wider QAA Membership to benefit from the work once completed
- impact on/benefit to the participating institutions and their students
- the extent of student engagement in the project design and delivery
- the plans for disseminating outcomes across the wider QAA Membership
- value for money.

We are keen to receive expressions of interest from all, or any, of our members and we aim to support projects from a spread of our member types.

How to get involved

Please complete the Expression of Interest Application Form and email this to membership@qaa.ac.uk by midday on Wednesday 8 December 2021.

We are particularly interested in:

- the specific area of work your project involves
- your project partners and how you will work together
what you and your project partners hope to gain from the partnership
your proposals for the sector-wide, added value outputs that the partnership could develop
an outline delivery plan (timescales) and levels of funding required.

Find out more

Please visit the Collaborative Enhancement Project web pages to find out more about the current projects, the topics being addressed and the resources that are being developed.

You may also be interested to learn more about the Scottish collaborative clusters, including how the institutions approached these and their outcomes and outputs. Details of past and the most recent clusters are available on the Enhancement Themes website.

QAA is also supporting Collaborative Enhancement Projects in Wales that began in 2020-21, details of which can be found in a blog by Alastair Delaney, Director of Operations and Deputy Chief Executive at QAA.

Get in touch

If you have any questions, or would like to have a chat about your project with a member of the team at QAA, please email us at membership@qaa.ac.uk.