QAA Collaborative Enhancement Projects: Call for Expressions of Interest

We are delighted to invite QAA Members based in England to participate in a fourth round of Collaborative Enhancement Projects.

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 provider, each project will comprise a group of (at least two) QAA members 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 providers 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.

Who can participate?

These projects are primarily intended for QAA Members based in England and we can only accept proposals for projects that will be led by members located in England. Project partners can be drawn from across the UK, or even outside the UK. Project partners can also include organisations such as a subject association or PSRB. Please indicate in the expression of interest whether such partners are also offering part of the funding or providing support for the project in other forms - this will be particularly important if any partners are commercial concerns.
What themes could the projects address?

We are particularly interested in project proposals exploring the following themes.

**Meeting the challenges and opportunities of engaging with generative artificial intelligence (AI)**

For example:
- effective ways of supporting staff and students
- working with employers and industry.

**Imaginative approaches for assessing knowledge and skills**

For example:
- compassionate assessment
- competence-based assessment
- assessment in the performance and practice-based disciplines.

**Effective approaches to using qualitative and quantitative data to inform decision making about the quality of the student learning experience including the use of prospective indicators**

**Flexible pathways and modular study**

Including:
- the student-provider relationship in new study modes
- recognition of prior learning, and credit transfer.

**Delivering awards in partnership with other providers and organisations including perspectives from providers with and without degree awarding powers**

We are particularly interested in UK-based partnerships.

**Effective models of student engagement**

For example:
- student perceptions of high quality in a diverse learning community
- responding to student feedback
- recognising and rewarding student representation and engagement.

In all cases we encourage projects that cover undergraduate and postgraduate (taught and research) provision.

**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 willing to consider your proposal.
**Timeframe**

Expressions of interest need to be submitted to QAA by 5pm on Friday 10 November 2023. Successful applicants will be notified in early December.

**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 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 in England and we aim to support projects that involve 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 5pm on Friday 10 November 2023.

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. There will be a future call for expressions of interest for one project funded by HEFCW and facilitated by QAA. Information will be available in due course.

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