



# QAA membership for UK higher education providers in England

## Membership Agreement

### Our commitment to you

QAA membership represents our shared commitment to the enhancement of quality and standards, and to the promotion and advancement of UK higher education. Through membership, 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 our membership offering, to ensure that our services meet the requirements of our community of members.

We will publish an annual calendar which details the events, publications and resources that you can expect throughout the membership year.

You will have a named relationship manager who will be able to advise you how to make the most of your member benefits and will be able to direct you to published guidance and resources, or suggest additional, paid-for professional services.

We will keep you up to date through your nominated contact in respect of member services and benefits. Further details of the member benefits for this year are available in our [membership brochure](#).

When you sign up, you unlock access to all the benefits of membership for all members of staff and students at your institution.

### Eligibility for membership

If you want to access QAA member benefits, you need to be:

- 1 a legal entity registered or established in the UK or a UK crown dependency or a British overseas territory; and
- 2 delivering UK qualifications recognised either:
  - a) at Level 4 and above of The Framework for Higher Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ); or
  - b) 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 quality or regulatory arrangements that apply to higher education in one of the UK nations; or
- c) the oversight (for example through a formal collaborative partnership) of a provider which itself is subject to the quality or regulatory arrangements that apply to higher education institutions in one of the UK nations; or
- d) completed a contractual service with QAA within the last three years.

**International branch campuses will require a separate QAA membership to the home campus.**

### **Membership prices**

All you need to do to confirm your membership is pay your membership invoice within 30 days of receipt.

The QAA membership year runs from 1 August to 31 July. Eligible providers can join at any point in the year.

Irrespective of your joining date, your QAA membership will be renewable from 1 August every year. We will review membership prices annually and will communicate any changes before the end of the membership year.

Membership will terminate automatically in the event of non-payment of an invoice within 30 days, or in the event of any change which affects the member's ability to meet the eligibility criteria.

Membership is non-transferable and non-refundable. When two or more QAA members merge, eligibility for membership of the new, merged provider will be considered and confirmed by QAA.

### **Additional benefits**

Members have the exclusive right to purchase additional benefits such as the [Global Insights](#) package, the [UK TNE Quality Scheme](#) and discounted rates for other QAA [products and services](#) for providers in England.

Information is available in the membership brochure and on our website. Global Insights and the UK TNE Quality Scheme can be purchased at any point during the membership year. These additional benefits are valid until 31 July each year and are subject to renewal from 1 August each year following purchase.

### **Membership principles overview**

When you purchase QAA membership, you are investing in the quality of your students' academic experience. The benefits that you get from your QAA membership can be accessed by everyone at your institution. Some materials will be for the exclusive use of QAA members, accessed through our [Membership Resources site](#).

All staff and students within a member organisation will have access to membership resources.

QAA membership indicates a commitment to quality, and to maintaining public confidence in UK higher education. This commitment is underpinned by an expectation of good conduct and professionalism.

Full [terms and conditions](#) relating to the provision of membership services can be found on our website.

### **Suspension or termination of membership**

Membership may be suspended or terminated if:

- a member acts in a way that brings it or the higher education sector or QAA into disrepute
- a member is found to be in breach of any regulatory condition, standard or requirement
- a member breaches QAA membership principles
- a member can no longer demonstrate eligibility for membership.

### **Integrity and transparency**

We will always operate with integrity and transparency when delivering membership services, including being clear with you about how we manage our different responsibilities across the UK.

QAA membership is about sharing best practice and enhancing quality, not providing consultation on your specific regulatory circumstances.

We are committed to protecting the confidentiality of information that you share with us as part of our membership 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 may share pertinent information with the regulator.

Published – April 2026

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Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786  
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