



QAA membership for UK higher education providers in Northern Ireland

Membership Agreement

Our commitment to you

QAA membership confirms our continuing commitment to working with you to develop a tailored, responsive range of services that meet the specific needs of higher education in Northern Ireland. The range of our work is delivered in discussion with you and in liaison with the Department for the Economy.

Membership fully reflects the nature of the collaborative partnership working in Northern Ireland. Across the UK, members shape the work we do. Each year we will aim to design activities to meet the particular priorities you, as members, identify as most important to you.

As members of QAA, all staff and students at each member institution in Northern Ireland will continue to have access to all our resources. When you register as a user of QAA membership services, we will contact you by email to keep you updated about QAA news and membership updates, events and activities. This is under our legitimate interest to do so, as outlined in QAA's [Privacy Notice](#). If you do not want to receive these communications, you can inform engage@qaa.ac.uk.

Northern Ireland members can access all resources included in QAA membership and the [Global Insights](#) package.

Our members in Northern Ireland

Our members in Northern Ireland include the two universities, the two university colleges, the six regional colleges, the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and the Union Theological College, Belfast. The Open University is a UK-wide member of QAA and also accesses membership activities and resources in the devolved nations.

Eligibility for membership

To access QAA member benefits, you need to be:

- 1 a legal entity registered or established in the UK; 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.

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

Membership fees

The membership year runs from 1 August to 31 July and invoices are issued in June and July. Access to QAA activities and resources may be restricted if invoices are not paid within 30 days.

We will review membership fees annually and 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.

Membership in Northern Ireland continues to include a designated number of staff and student places at events designed for members in Northern Ireland or as part of our UK-wide programme of work. UK-wide membership includes places at QAA's annual conference, together with a wide range of UK-wide resources that can be accessed via our online Membership Resources site. Additional webinars addressing UK-wide issues and opportunities to collaborate UK-wide are also included.

Publicly available resources and membership resources

QAA will continue to publish all regulatory materials on the QAA website in line with the relevant regulatory arrangements in each nation. This includes the Qualifications Frameworks and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Current versions of other reference points (Characteristics Statements, Subject Benchmark Statements and Quality Code Advice and Guidance) will continue to be published on the QAA website and publicly available.

Future versions and updates of the reference points developed by QAA in conjunction with its member community may have member-only access. Any restrictions will be decided with our members.

A wide range of QAA's other publications will continue to have only headlines or summaries on our public websites with the full information available exclusively to our members, accessed through our Membership Resources site.

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.

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