

Foreword

by Vicki Stott

Chief Executive, QAA

QAA plays a vital role in tertiary education across the UK and internationally. We're trusted by universities and other education providers, and by regulatory bodies, to maintain standards and enhance quality. Our collaborations with governments, agencies and institutions globally benefit the UK sector and its students.

Our work includes reviewing the quality of provision, holding the pen on sector-owned standards, producing advice and guidance, and helping providers enhance the quality of teaching and learning. Internationally, we're recognised as one of the world's leading quality agencies, and the growing demand for our international accreditation highlights the value of our brand on the global stage.

We engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including universities, colleges, professional bodies, regulators and students. And we love what we do! Collaboration and partnership are central to our identity and to the effective delivery of our services as an agency.

In today's rapidly evolving higher and tertiary education landscape, providers face unprecedented challenges and opportunities. QAA Membership offers the essential support and resources your institution needs to thrive in this dynamic environment.

With nearly 30 years of experience, QAA has built extensive expertise and insight into the quality and standards landscape. Our reimagined enhancement programme is designed to adapt to the changing external environment and best support the sector. By becoming a QAA Member, you gain access to a wealth of resources, activities and support, empowering your institution to excel in both UK and international higher education arenas.

Continue to unlock the full potential of your institution with QAA Membership. Together, we can shape the future of higher and tertiary education. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a community dedicated to excellence and innovation.



QAA Membership

The benefits of QAA Membership



Amplifying your voice

We have close relationships with institutions, quality agencies and partner bodies in the UK and internationally, and with professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs), sharing the expertise of QAA Members on a global stage.



Developing your skills and networks

We work in partnership with institutions to support you with enhancement while respecting your autonomy and the diversity of the sector. Collaborative by design, QAA Membership thrives on building effective relationships, creating meaningful opportunities to network and engage with the wider sector, and helping to develop skills and experience across your whole institution.



Enhancing your knowledge and practice

With nearly 30 years of expertise as a world-leading impartial, independent quality body, QAA has helped establish quality systems around the globe. We can confidently support you to make practices and processes more efficient and effective, to maximise the impact from using our toolkits, guidance documents and policy and strategy briefings.



Addressing your priorities

The overarching themes of QAA Membership are crafted to tackle significant sector challenges head on, ensuring you stay ahead in the ever-evolving landscape of higher and tertiary education. We engage with you and your colleagues to understand your unique position and to support you to achieve meaningful change.

Amplifying your voice

Keeping you informed and elevating your institution's impact

> Championing standards and quality

We actively work with governments, sector agencies and other influential bodies to shape policy and practice. Our goal is to ensure that quality considerations are at the forefront of new and evolving initiatives. By joining us, you become part of a collective voice that influences key decisions and drives the quality agenda forward.

> Thought leadership and horizon scanning

Stay ahead of the curve with our timely insights on emerging trends and policy developments related to quality and standards. Our expert analysis and forward-thinking approach provide you with the knowledge and tools to navigate the ever-changing landscape of higher education. We offer exclusive access to reports, webinars and events that keep you informed and prepared for the future.





Amplifying your voice

> Global recognition

Our international activities open doors to new opportunities, collaborations and partnerships that enhance your institution's profile and impact worldwide. We leverage the excellent global reputation of QAA and UK higher education to expand into new areas, benefiting UK tertiary education.

> Your voice and representation

Participate in advisory groups and contribute to the development of sector reference points and benchmarks. Ensure these standards remain meaningful and accessible to you and your colleagues. Your input helps shape the future of higher education, ensuring that our work is informed by the sector and meets the needs of institutions and students alike. We provide a platform for your voice to be heard and your expertise to be recognised.

One of the huge benefits of QAA Membership is the ability to draw on the expertise and insights of QAA teams who work across the sector. QAA staff understand the diversity of universities, appreciate the scale and complexity of what we do, and both bring their advice and serve as critical friends in their interactions with us. Over many years within the Scottish sector, we have benefited from QAA Scotland's approach to creating shared resources (such as the Focus On resources) that meet the needs of QAA Members and that are typically co-created with members.

That shared approach is invaluable to creating a shared understanding of how we can continuously enhance the quality of the student learning experience.

Professor Moira Fischbacher-Smith,
Vice Principal (Learning & Teaching),
University of Glasgow



Developing your skills & networks

Cultivating connections and advancing your capabilities through a range of exclusive benefits designed to support your professional growth

> Training and professional development

Build your capacity and expand your areas of expertise with our comprehensive training programmes. Our training sessions are tailored to meet the specific needs of our members. Whether you are looking to enhance your current skills or develop new ones, our programmes are designed to help you achieve your professional goals.

> Engaging events

Participate in workshops, conferences and webinars that cover the themes and topics most relevant to your role and institution. Our events are designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to succeed. From interactive workshops that offer practical skills and techniques to thought-provoking conferences that explore the latest research and innovations, our events provide valuable learning experiences. Our webinars and online events offer the flexibility to learn from anywhere, making it easy to stay informed and engaged no matter where you are.





Developing your skills & networks

> Networking opportunities

Connect with peers, exchange ideas, share insights and learn from the experiences of others. QAA Membership provides you with the opportunity to discuss important issues and collaborate with like-minded higher education professionals. We host networking events, both in-person and virtual, that allow you to build meaningful relationships with colleagues from across the sector. These connections can lead to new collaborations, partnerships and opportunities for professional growth.

> Collaborative Enhancement Projects

As a QAA Member, you have the opportunity to apply for funding in partnership with other institutions on shared priorities. Tackling important challenges and driving innovation, our Collaborative Enhancement Project (CEP) programme is designed to enhance the student learning experience through research and resource development. By working together with other institutions, you can share knowledge, pool resources and make a meaningful impact in your field.

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) has been a steadfast pillar of support throughout the years. Their invaluable advice, guidance, and extensive networks have not only facilitated significant achievements within our institution but have also propelled my personal professional objectives. With their continued dedication and expertise, I have no doubt they will remain instrumental in shaping our success in the future.

Rosie Scott-Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Hartpury University

💡 Enhancing your knowledge & practice

QAA Membership enhances efficiency by leveraging sector-wide expertise and best practices, allowing members to benefit without starting from scratch

➤ Extensive resource library

Gain access to a comprehensive library of membership resources, including research papers, policy briefs and case studies. Stay up to date with the latest developments and best practices in quality assurance and higher education.

➤ Guidance documents

Find solutions and follow effective practices with our detailed guidance documents. These resources are designed to help you navigate complex challenges in higher and tertiary education and implement successful strategies. Whether you are dealing with policy changes, accreditation processes or quality improvement initiatives, our guidance documents provide clear, actionable advice to support your efforts.





Enhancing your knowledge & practice

> Practical toolkits

Make your tasks more efficient with our practical and adaptable toolkits. These materials are tailored to support your daily operations and enhance your productivity.

> Policy and strategy briefings

Receive comprehensive summaries of key policy developments to support your strategic planning. Our briefings provide you with the insights needed to make informed decisions and stay ahead of the curve. We cover a wide range topics, from regulatory changes to emerging trends, ensuring you have the information you need to navigate the of complex landscape of higher education.

Being a QAA Member is truly a privilege. The membership offers a diverse array of development opportunities and a treasure trove of resources crafted by fellow members. Leading the Programme Leader Network (PLN) has been particularly rewarding, as it has allowed me to connect to members from various regions to share insights and learn from one another about the current challenges in programme leadership within higher education. Our presenters, who are leaders in the sector, have generously shared their best practices and professional experiences in an engaging and accessible manner. This is just one of the many thoughtfully curated opportunities that come with QAA Membership.

Samantha Grierson,
Quality Review & Enhancement Manager,
University of Warwick

Addressing your priorities

Our themes for 2025-26 will be threaded through all membership activity, including the diverse programme of events and suite of resources

> Supporting high-quality teaching and learning

Helping providers as they are evaluated for their quality above the regulatory baseline

QAA Membership provides your institution with the tools and guidance required to deliver high-quality teaching and learning. Our resources support the design, delivery, enhancement and evaluation of learning and teaching across all types of provision. Membership also provides you with the tools necessary to demonstrate both the quality of learning and teaching at your institution and your commitment to improving the student learning experience.

> Innovation in delivery

Embracing generative AI, academic integrity and more

As the tertiary and higher education sectors continue to innovate and change, QAA Membership keeps you at the forefront of these developments. We provide insights and support on the latest trends, including the use of generative artificial intelligence and maintaining academic integrity. Our resources help you navigate these innovations, allowing your institution to remain competitive and compliant with evolving standards.

> Maintaining quality in challenging times

Enhancing efficiency in your quality function

In times of uncertainty, maintaining high standards of quality can be challenging. QAA Membership offers practical solutions to help your quality function work more efficiently. Our resources and support enable you to streamline processes, reduce administrative burdens and focus on delivering excellent education to your students.



Elevating your membership

Included as part of membership in Scotland, the **International Insights** enhancement package provides access to resources and events tailored to international partnerships and student support. Over 120 QAA Member institutions across the UK are part of the International Insights community, connecting with each other, shaping priorities and tapping into QAA's global network and expertise.

International Insights supports QAA Members in their international work through activities and resources for staff involved in:

- developing, managing and monitoring international partnerships and transnational education (TNE) arrangements
- delivering international programmes
- supporting international students
- overseeing quality assurance and enhancement of international activities
- recruiting international students.

The programme provides significant value by:

- **enhancing international partnerships** – offering guidance on managing and developing international collaborations, ensuring strategic and sustainable partnerships
- **supporting international students in the UK** – focusing on improving aspects of the international student journey such as pre-arrival, induction, transition and integration, academic support and skills, and careers and employability
- **showcasing best practices** – sharing examples of effective practices in areas such as strategy, partnership arrangements, research and exchange
- **providing in-depth insights** – delivering detailed reports and webinars on three countries per year, focusing on the higher education landscape, quality assurance and TNE
- **facilitating professional networks** – offering opportunities for staff to share their skills and knowledge, and discuss the latest developments in international partnerships, policy and practice.

Visit the [QAA website](#) to find out more about International Insights in 2025-26.

Next steps

Renewing your [QAA Membership](#) for 2025-26 unlocks continued access to our unparalleled support and resources, helping your institution to excel and innovate in the dynamic higher and tertiary education environment.

The next steps are simple. You will receive a link to your renewal form when renewals open in May.

Just click on the link in the email to submit your form and we will do the rest!

To find out more about making the most of your QAA Membership, contact our [Sector Engagement team](#).

It is my privilege to lead the Membership Delivery team, whose responsibility is to ensure that resources, training, Collaborative Enhancement Projects, membership events and networks are designed not only to support QAA Members but also to have a measurable and transformative impact on practice.

I look forward to the coming year of membership, where we will partner with providers to explore and inspire exceptional teaching and learning. The quality of this work has the potential not only to enhance the learning environment but also to change the lives of those involved, both practitioners and students. While there will inevitably be challenges ahead in the higher and tertiary education environment, both in the UK and internationally, I am confident that the next year of QAA Membership presents an opportunity for growth and enthusiasm toward the aspirational enhancement of quality.

By working together, we will continue to thrive and, in doing so, retain the quality perspectives and academic standards that we, as a sector, are all so proud of.

Steph Tindall, Head of UK & International Membership Delivery

