

## QAA Membership in Northern Ireland 2024-25

In 2024-25, QAA will work with the higher education sector in Northern Ireland to develop a bespoke culture of quality enhancement, which will be embedded in the Northern Ireland context and supported by a new approach to peer-led external quality review.

### In 2024-25, QAA will support higher education providers in Northern Ireland by:

#### Development of enhancement-led peer review

##### Developing a new approach to quality review

In partnership with the higher education sector in Northern Ireland, develop a new approach to external quality review, which will be peer-led and have student and learner engagement at its heart.

Respond to the Department for the Economy's ambition for quality review, including activities and events to support the sector to successfully embed a new approach and ensure that the method meets the aims of the sector, the Northern Ireland context and promotes a high-quality learner experience.

##### Embedding the UK Quality Code

Support the sector to engage with and embed the new, re-developed UK Quality Code for Higher Education including opportunities to be involved in the development of the Advice and Guidance and Subject Benchmark Statements.

##### Putting students and learners at the heart of review

Provide support for students and learners involved in the new review method to increase engagement and value, including training for Lead Student Representatives and a Student Guide to Reviews.

##### Promotion of enhancement-led approaches to review

Recruit and develop a diverse cross-nations reviewer pool to support quality review activity across enhancement-led review methods in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



## Enhancement and leading sector conversations

### **QAA Northern Ireland Enhancement Conference**

Deliver the fourth annual QAA Northern Ireland Enhancement Conference, which will bring together QAA and the Northern Ireland sector in person to collaborate and discuss key priorities in the higher education quality landscape.

### **A partnership approach to membership**

Deliver institutional liaison meetings to provide a tailored approach to QAA Membership to ensure your membership meets and contributes to your strategic needs and effectively supports your staff, students and learners.

## Influence and policy insights

### **Support for sector voice**

Promote the voice of Northern Ireland through the establishment of a Northern Ireland Strategic Advisory Committee, which will advise the QAA Board, to ensure QAA's work continues to support the higher education sector in Northern Ireland.

### **Proactive stakeholder engagement**

Engage proactively with the Department for the Economy to support the development of the higher education quality landscape in Northern Ireland, providing expert input into policy developments based on our unique insights from Northern Ireland, other UK nations and internationally.

Continue to work with key sector stakeholders including NUS-USI, and support current sector groups such as the regional college networks and The Quality Forum (TQF), which includes the higher education institutions in Northern Ireland.

## Collaboration across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

### **Collaboration across tertiary education**

Promote collaborative work across the tertiary education sectors in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including joint working opportunities and cross-border sharing of practice to enhance the student and learner experience.

# QAA Membership across the UK

In a rapidly changing tertiary education environment, QAA Membership enables you to establish effective ways of demonstrating excellence in quality and securing standards.

## Benefits for your whole institution

- **Horizon scanning:** equipping you with the latest intelligence on policy, regulatory, social and technological trends across the UK and globally.
- **Securing UK higher education's global reputation for excellence:** providing a collective sector voice that protects academic standards and champions academic integrity, amplified by QAA's close links with policymakers, international partners and governments.
- **Keeping sector reference points meaningful and accessible:** demonstrating your commitment to securing standards and enhancing quality, giving you a strong voice in the creation of vital sector reference points such as the UK Quality Code and Subject Benchmark Statements to ensure these reflect your needs and those of your students.
- **Being part of a vibrant membership community:** facilitating learning and shared insights across providers and other partners including professional, statutory and regulatory bodies.
- **Driving innovation:** developing innovative approaches to enhancing, evaluating and reporting on all aspects of the student journey to improve outcomes and address internal and external demands.
- **Empowering your staff:** supporting the professional development of your staff, equipping them to develop efficient and effective systems, safeguard academic standards and enhance the learning experience of your students.

## Providing support and solutions for...



Students' unions



Quality



Partnerships



Senior leadership



Strategic planners



Academic departments and leadership



Data and information



International and global development

Our Membership offer is tailored to providers of different types, missions and sizes. Staff and students across all roles can collaborate and exchange ideas with peers and sector experts through regular networks for colleges, independent and specialist providers, students, programme leaders, senior academic managers, leaders for international partnerships, and quality leads.

In addition, QAA Membership provides valuable opportunities for you to showcase your own excellent practice to UK and international audiences by contributing to a variety of events and resources.



## Helping you learn and innovate



In 2023, over 6,000 of you participated in events, networks and training programmes to share innovative approaches, discuss challenges, develop knowledge and keep up to date with the latest policy developments. You accessed a wide range of resources, providing insightful, practical approaches and templates - with over 24,000 downloads in 2023 alone.

Over **6,000** event participants

Over **24,000** resource downloads

Over **30,000** web page views



# Priority topics and activities for 2024-25

Our activities cover a wide range of topics including:



## **Trends in learning, teaching and assessment**

Competence-based education; Innovative approaches to assessment including inclusive assessment, compassionate assessment, optionality and authentic assessment; Student representation and engagement



## **Global engagement**

Country resources; International partnerships; Developing, monitoring and managing risk; Supporting and enhancing the international student experience; Ensuring UK HE has a strong voice in Europe and around the world



## **Equity and inclusion**

Understanding differential outcomes and closing awarding gaps



## **Employability, enterprise and entrepreneurship**

Apprenticeships design and delivery; Supporting students moving between work and study



## **Flexible pathways and student transitions**

Implementation of the Lifelong Learning Entitlement; Use of credit; Student transitions; Differing modes of study



## **Generative Artificial Intelligence and Academic integrity**

The opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence; Engaging staff and students in promoting academic integrity across all levels and modes of provision



## **Effective quality processes and evaluation**

Quality processes that work, support innovation and value externality; Effective evaluation; Evidencing educational gain; Using data in decision-making



## **Professional development and training**

Formal and informal training programmes and development opportunities including Step into Quality; Introduction to Quality; Quality in Practice



## **Quality and standards**

Subject Benchmarks Statements; Refreshing the UK Quality Code Advice and Guidance; Working with professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; Delivering and awarding in partnerships; Postgraduate taught and research provision



## **Collaborative Enhancement Projects**

Over 60 projects on priority topics led by members including: Generative AI; Assessment; Innovative quality processes; Partnerships; Student engagement; Future of exam boards



## Explore your membership

We love hearing your suggestions, feedback and questions. Each provider has a named QAA Contact and you can also get in touch by email.

 [Access the Membership Resources site](#)

 [Register for events](#)

 [Find out about QAA Membership](#)

 [Sign up for our Member Newsletter and QAA Northern Ireland Newsletter](#)

## Renewing your membership for 2024-25

Renewing is simple. We will email you a link to your renewal form in May. Just click on the link to submit your form and we will do the rest!

We are always available to help.  
Please contact your QAA contact or email us.

 [ARCAAdmin@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:ARCAAdmin@qaa.ac.uk)

Published - 1 May 2024

© The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education 2024

Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786

[www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)