QAA Membership for 2022-23
Membership in Scotland
Supporting quality enhancement in Scotland
QAA Membership delivers inspiring, innovative and developmental activities and resources which help you deliver your priorities for your students.

We have events and resources for all staff and students in our member institutions.

Our activities and networks enable you to:

- **shape strategy, policy and practice at sector, institutional and subject level**
- **develop and exchange ideas on the latest policy and practice**
- **extend knowledge and skills for all staff and students**
- **enhance your delivery with the right information and practical tools at your fingertips**

Being part of QAA Membership brings influence and insight. We work closely with governments and sector bodies in the UK and internationally to ensure you have a strong expert voice on quality and academic standards so, together, we achieve positive outcomes which benefit UK higher education. A recent success is our work on academic integrity, combining policy work with practical support for our members and students.
Informed by our horizon-scanning and co-created through engagement with members, the themes and topics build on learning from previous years to help you prepare for the future.

Aligned with the 2022-23 themes, we are supporting 17 Collaborative Enhancement Projects, led by members in England.

**Themes and topics**

**Future Approaches for Learning and Teaching**
- What does good look like? (building on our Hallmarks of Success playbooks)
- Impacts on diverse student groups (Made Digital project development)
- Sense of belonging in hybrid delivery and the campus experience
- Collaborative Enhancement Projects

**Reassessing Assessment**
- Hybrid and digital formats
- Skills and competencies
- Postgraduate taught and research
- Student designed assessment
- Collaborative Enhancement Projects

**Flexible Pathways and Micro-credentials**
- Creating flexible learning pathways
- Portability, stackability and coherence
- Engagement with the Micro-credentials Characteristics Statement
Quality and Standards

- Effective external examining
- Leading sector discussion on degree classification approaches
- Quality Code development
- Managing risk in UK partnerships
- Subject Benchmark Statements review
- Re-engagement with the Master’s Degree Characteristics Statement

Academic Integrity

- Considering impact of new legislation in England, for example on academic regulations
- Approaches to penalties and impact on students
- Academic integrity within postgraduate research degrees and practice-based disciplines
- Academic integrity taxonomy
- Collaborative Enhancement Projects

Evaluation and Use of Data

- Innovative and evolving quality processes
- Using data to inform decision-making
- Upskilling in collecting, analysing and reporting evidence for enhancement
- Data collection and analysis for academic integrity cases

Employability, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

- Supporting the inclusion of these skills in and out of the curriculum
- Good practice in enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Collaborative Enhancement Projects
Apprenticeships

- Reflecting and responding to the evolving apprenticeships landscape
- Supporting member engagement with the Apprenticeships Toolkit and Characteristics Statement

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Supporting members with institution and subject-level engagement in ESD
- Incorporating ESD with quality and evaluative processes
- Collaborative Enhancement Projects

Global Engagement

- Managing risk and enhancing quality in TNE
- Support for the international student experience
- Sustainability and internationalisation
- Engaging with governments and international agencies to ensure we have a strong voice in Europe and around the globe

Important cross-cutting topics will thread throughout the programme:

- Equality, diversity and inclusivity
- Professional development and training
- Student engagement and support
- Postgraduate provision
- Student transitions
- PSRB engagement
- Mental health and well-being
Ways to engage

You will have opportunities to engage with these topics in a variety of ways:

- **Webinars and workshops**
- **Toolkits**
- **Networking**
- **Guidance documents**
- **Individual quality support**
- **Policy and strategy briefings**
- **Events and conferences**
- **Training and professional development**
- **Practical resources**

**Professional development**
Building capacity across your organisation, with topic-specific training and the popular Introduction to Quality and Quality in Practice programmes.

**Practical resources**
Access to a range of engaging materials including toolkits, playbooks and advice to help you secure academic standards and deliver a consistently high-quality student experience.

**Networks**
Established networks for specific staff roles and groups of similar providers which enable you to engage with the latest thinking through debate and facilitated discussion with peers and senior QAA staff.

**Policy briefings**
Providing the information you need to inform your strategies and help shape thinking.

**Events**
Opportunities to learn, exchange ideas and develop new approaches ensuring you are equipped with the latest policy and practice.
All of your staff and students can benefit from the support and constructive challenge available through your membership.

Membership for your whole organisation

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All those working in
International Insights is an enhancement package that is included for all QAA Members in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It provides practical support for your engagement with international partners to develop transnational education (TNE) and recruit international students.

What’s coming up?

- Country reports and webinars to support your TNE development in Pakistan, Singapore and Hong Kong.
- Webinar series to help you manage risk and enhance quality in international partnership.
- Events providing opportunities to engage with agencies and influencers in key countries, for example our annual UK China Higher Education Summit.
- Bespoke strategic support with engaging with regulatory agencies overseas.
- Professional development opportunities through the introduction to partnership training.
- International Partnerships Policy and Practice Network to discuss the latest policy developments that are impacting your international partnerships.
- International Insights clinics for expert advice on your TNE and partnership operations.
- Practical information and guides to support your internationalisation strategy.
- What’s coming up?

If you have also joined the QAA QE-TNE Scheme, you get additional benefits as an international Insights Member including:

- Thematic analyses
- Toolkits and practical resources
- Training and events
- Best practice guides/workshops
As a QAA Member in Scotland, we will continue to work with you across the full range of familiar activities specific to Scotland, working collaboratively to support your commitment to enhance and enrich the learning experience of students.

We will continue to play our part in the Quality Enhancement Framework (QEF) in partnership with the Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council (SFC), Universities Scotland, National Union of Students (Scotland), Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland (sparqs), and Advance HE.

We will also work with the Scottish sector and SFC to support the development and implementation of a tertiary quality framework, which is part of a suite of development activities being taken forward by SFC following on from the recommendations in its Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability.

As you will know, the current QEF has five interrelated elements which are:

- **Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR)**
- **Student engagement**
- **Public information**
- **Enhancement Themes**
- **Institution-led Review**

* external review which QAA has responsibility for, but it is a peer review process
** institution’s internal quality review of their own academic subjects and professional services
External quality arrangements

We will continue to provide external quality arrangements that are valued and respected, providing assurance to the SFC enabling it to meet its statutory duty, as well as to governing bodies, institutional partners, staff, students, graduates and the wider public.

Our approach will remain enhancement-led and responsive to the context of each institution. It will continue to embrace regular engagement through institutional liaison, as well as periodic review by peers.

In 2021-22, we completed and evaluated the ELIR 4 cycle. In summer 2022, we will be publishing an end of cycle national report on lessons learned from ELIR 4, identifying best practices and challenges for the sector for 2022 and beyond.

The Quality Forum (TQF) continues to be a key forum for quality practitioners in Scotland. We will continue to develop this Network, in partnership with our sector chair and members, and facilitate valuable and timely discussion on quality-related matters. Some of the topics of discussion in 2021-22 included:

- approaches to quality assurance and enhancement in the nations
- approaches to quality assurance and enhancement in institutions that offer both HE and FE provision
- Institution-led Review and annual monitoring
- sharing of ELIR commendations.

TQF hosted a join meeting with the Wales Quality Network in 2021-22. QAA Scotland will continue to facilitate these cross-nation opportunities to develop and share approaches to quality assurance and enhancement. In particular, we will facilitate discussion about academic integrity.
Scotland’s flagship Enhancement Themes

Working with the Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee (SHEEC) and the Theme Leaders’ Group (TLG), we will continue to plan and manage national Enhancement Themes. 2022-23 will see the conclusion of Resilient Learning Communities, with the aims of supporting increased diversity in the student population and increased flexibility in the modes of delivery.

This Theme will close with an International Conference in 2023 that also celebrates 20 years of the Quality Enhancement Framework in Scotland. To coincide with this, we have commissioned external experts to evaluate the impact of the Enhancement Themes work in Scotland over the last 20 years - both within Scotland and internationally. This work has also included evaluation capacity building activity through online workshops. We will also be scoping, in partnership with the sector, the next Enhancement Theme.

The new Theme has already included many collaborative and sector-wide projects.

Collaborative projects

- **Decolonising the Curriculum in the Time of Pandemic**
  University of Stirling, University of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian University

- **Student Mental Wellbeing within our BAME and LGBTQ+ Learner Communities**
  Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Stirling, Scotland’s Rural College, Think Positive, sparqs

- **Personalised Approaches to Resilience and Community (PARC)**
  Abertay University, Glasgow Caledonian University, Birmingham City University, Warwick University

- **Re-imagining Resilience for Taught Postgraduate Students**
  University of Edinburgh, University of St Andrews, University of the West of Scotland, Glasgow Caledonian University

- **Exploring the Potential of Micro-credentials and Digital Badging**
  Heriot-Watt University, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, University of the West of Scotland, Glasgow Caledonian University

- **Programme Leadership: Strengthening Resilience, Supporting Learning Communities**
  Heriot-Watt University, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Edinburgh Napier University, Abertay University, University of Glasgow

- **Resilient Academic Leadership**
  Glasgow Caledonian University, Edinburgh Napier University and Advance HE
Sector-wide projects

- Addressing the Digital Divide
- Higher Education: More than a Degree
- Promoting the Equity of the Student Learning Experience (our student-led project being delivered in collaboration with student partnerships in quality Scotland (sparqs)
- Anti-Racist Curriculum
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Understanding Micro-credentials and Small Qualifications in Scotland
- Enhancement Theme Evaluation
- Scottish Sector Learning from COVID-19

The Enhancement Themes website will remain a public resource and continue to demonstrate across the globe the special commitment we have to enhancement in Scotland. The Themes and their resources will continue to promote how higher education in Scotland reflects and innovates so that it remains at the forefront of excellence.

www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk

Focus On - practical support for specific issues

Our Focus On projects have been an outstanding success, drawing on topics emerging as themes from a number of ELIR reports and endorsed as priorities by you.

We have reviewed and reorganised our bank of Focus On resources to ensure our future work builds on the accumulated learning. This ensures the resources are easy to find.

The 2021-22 Focus On project considered Professional Services Partnerships.
Supporting collaborative engagement and sector-wide discussion

As part of membership, QAA Scotland will continue to support SHEEC, leadership of the Enhancement Theme and The Quality Forum. Equally, we will continue to support the active participation of students as partners in our work and in quality enhancement in Scotland. To help support this work, we have produced two new online videos covering the work of QAA Scotland and how students play a key role in our enhancement activities.

We will be active in contributing to Universities Scotland and SFC committees, and the development and implementation of relevant government initiatives and priorities (such as the Learner Journey and Widening Access), as well as participating in working groups where our expertise is of value. We will continue to participate in SFC’s Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability as we look to work more closely with providers in the college sector.

QAA Scotland will continue to undertake thematic and analytical reporting to help the sector gain insight into what Scotland does well and where there are challenges to address, including our work on supporting academic integrity and responding to the move to a digital environment.

These reports will include annual statements of assurance, annual overview reports for SFC that identify shared challenges and strengths, and thematic reports on the outcomes from ELIR. Discussed at sector level, these help to inform decision-making and action planning where it is needed.

A development in the ELIR 4 cycle has been the creation of a Knowledge Base that brings together the content of all ELIR Technical Reports. This is built in Excel and has functions for searching and filtering. This was built to support analytical reporting on ELIR, but we have made it downloadable from the ELIR webpage as it provides a quick and convenient way of interrogating ELIR data and may be of use to members.
Renewing your membership for 2022-23

Renewing is simple. We will email you in early July with your renewal information.

If you would like a discussion before then, please contact your QAA contact or email ARCAadmin@qaa.ac.uk

Find out more

For more information on QAA Membership, visit our web pages which provide additional details on the full range of our work with, and for, our members.

www.qaa.ac.uk/membership