QAA Membership for 2022-23

Membership in Wales

Working with you to safeguard academic standards, enhance the student learning experience and secure the global reputation of UK higher education.
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.
- 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

- 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

- 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

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

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**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.
International Insights is an enhancement package that is included for all QAA Members in Wales, Scotland 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?

- Professional development opportunities through the introduction to partnership training.
- 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.

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

What's coming up?

- Country reports and webinars to support your TNE development in Pakistan, Singapore and Hong Kong.
- 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.
- Professional development opportunities through the introduction to partnership training.
- 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.
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Our work in Wales

As a QAA Member in Wales, we will continue to work with you across a full range of activities specific to Wales, working collaboratively to support your commitment to enhance and enrich the learning experience of students and share approaches across the UK nations.

Future of Quality Enhancement Review

In 2022-23, we will engage with you on the update to the external quality review based on HEFCW’s 2022 consultation. We will be working in partnership with stakeholders on the design of the revised Quality Enhancement Review method. In particular, we will be considering how:

- the focus on enhancement can be strengthened within reviews to achieve a balance between quality assurance and quality enhancement
- enhancement activity can inform reviews throughout the review cycle
- joint quality activity across Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland could be achieved.

This will come together in the early part of 2022-23 through the development of the draft method handbook. We will work with specific groups across the sector including providers, students and reviewers to ensure a partnership approach.

Responding and reporting in Wales

Our review work in Wales is commissioned under the Framework Agreement for External Quality Assurance with higher education providers, which is in its final year in 2022–23. We will report on our work through Universities Wales and individual providers to you, our members. This will cover events, liaison and other work, as well as review activity.

Through the thematic and analytical reporting of Quality Enhancement Reviews (QERs), we will seek to identify shared challenges and strengths, providing insight into best practice and the challenges facing the Welsh sector.

In 2021–22, we began publishing our QER thematic reporting for reviews that took place from 2018–21. In 2022–23 we will complete this reporting and begin thematic reporting on QERs that took place in 2022 to complete the review cycle. The reporting will continue to identify practices, challenges and opportunities for enhancement, within Wales and beyond. We will share the outcomes of the thematic reporting through our liaison, networking and events.
Enhancement activity

Building on the insight and knowledge gained from our wider involvement in Wales, we are working to design and deliver programmes of activity to support developments in practice in priority areas chosen by you, for the benefit of the wider sector.

QAA will continue to promote an enhancement approach for the benefit of the sector, following the first Collaborative Enhancement Projects reporting in 2021-22. We recognise that providers have welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on areas of interest for the benefit of students and will continue to facilitate these opportunities by providing insight on current priorities and practices.

We hope to support a number of Collaborative Enhancement Projects across Wales, providing some financial support to help get each project started. Historically these projects are led by the sector, have student interest at their heart, and will result in tangible resources, events and knowledge sharing for providers in Wales.

We will continue to develop case studies identified as part of Quality Enhancement Review and other channels to share practice and approaches.

Additionally, we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with providers and the sector on projects relating to quality enhancement and standards. For example, in 2021-22 we supported sector-wide projects from the HEFCW Higher Education Investment and Recovery Fund, including:

- reporting on the pan-Wales Review of Digital Learning
- hosting the HEFCW Higher Education Investment and Recovery Fund: QAA Sharing Practice Event
- publishing Collaborative Programmes Wales Resources on behalf of the authors - the Universities Wales Learning and Teaching Network - in consultation with the higher education sector in Wales.
Wales Quality Network

The Wales Quality Network (WQN) continues to be a key forum for quality practitioners in Wales. 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 themes for the Network in 2021-22, continuing in 2022-23, include:

- sharing of commendations from Quality Enhancement Reviews
- key quality developments such as micro-credentials, external examining and partnerships
- the relationship between quality assurance and quality enhancement
- sharing and development of quality enhancement initiatives.

2021-22 also saw involvement in the WQN from colleagues outside of the sector, including higher education providers in Scotland, and a joint meeting between the WQN and The Quality Forum (Scotland). We will continue to facilitate these cross-nation opportunities to develop and share approaches to quality assurance and quality enhancement.

The WQN will continue to run dedicated member-led discussion meetings alongside formal meetings. These informal discussion sessions allow for more in-depth conversation on quality topics that are important to you, and the opportunity to respond to new challenges with members.
Supporting collaborative engagement and sector-wide discussion

As part of membership, QAA will:

- use our expertise to contribute to the interests of higher education in Wales, and to the development and implementation of relevant government initiatives and priorities:
  - most prominently, continued engagement around the reform of the post-compulsory sector including exploring the opportunity for joint work with Estyn as we move towards the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research and engaging with sector bodies on key groundwork, including the quality framework and the Vision and Purpose for Learner Involvement and Student Partnership to inform the Learner Engagement Code

- continue to respond to relevant consultations in the best interests of our members

- continue to support the active participation of students as partners in our work and in quality enhancement in Wales, seeking further ways to deepen and strengthen student involvement, meaningful engagement and partnership. For example, by building on the development of the Student Guide for Reviews in Wales published in 2021-22 and continuing to promote student engagement at the Wales Quality Network

- actively contribute to, and work with, the Universities Wales Learning and Teaching Network on key projects

- promote the voice and interests of Wales equally with all the UK’s home nations.

QAA’s further work in Wales

Importantly, we will continue to work closely with HEFCW, Universities Wales, Estyn, Colleges Wales, Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, NUS Wales and Advance HE in Wales. We have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qualifications Wales, a tripartite MoU with HEFCW and Estyn as well as a letter of intent with Advance HE in Wales. In addition, QAA actively engages in the ‘5 nations group’. We have engaged actively in the PCET Reform agenda to influence future quality arrangements. We will also conduct Gateway Reviews and undertake Concerns Investigations when commissioned to do so.
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