

New for 2021: QAA Collaborative Enhancement Projects

Call for Expressions of Interest

We are excited to announce a new programme of funded Collaborative Enhancement Projects for 2021. Building on the pilot enhancement partnerships that ran in 2019-20, and drawing strongly from the hugely successful collaborative clusters that have been running as part of the [Scottish sector Enhancement Themes](#), we are offering funding for small groups of member institutions to work together on areas of mutual interest that will enhance the quality of their own students' learning experiences while also developing outputs that will benefit the wider QAA Membership and higher education sector.

What is a Collaborative Enhancement Project?

Led by one institution, each project will comprise a small group (at least two) of member institutions who will work together over an agreed period on an area of mutual interest. We anticipate the duration of the project could be between six and 18 months, depending on the topic and approach.

Each project should aim to deliver benefits for the participating institutions and their students, and also demonstrate the potential for the wider membership to benefit from the work once completed. Projects can involve a range of staff and disciplines, depending upon the topic, and ideally should involve students and/or student representatives.

What are the themes the projects could address?

From our recent discussion with members, we are particularly interested in projects that address:

- assessment design for digital delivery
- modular qualifications
- postgraduate provision and student experience (research and taught)
- blended learning delivery.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list - if your project covers another topic that is of current interest to the sector and meets the criteria below, we are very happy to receive your proposal.

Timeframe

Expressions of interest need to be submitted to QAA by Friday 29 January. Selection will be completed by Friday 5 February with inception meetings being held between 8-19 February.

Funding

Funding will be allocated on a project basis, depending on the scope and anticipated outputs. As a guide, it is likely that funding for each project will range between £2,000 and £10,000.

This funding will support your work and the proposed outputs, which might include:

- development of new practical resources to be published for the wider membership
- production of written material or multimedia resource for use by students and staff
- support for the evaluation of an existing initiative
- assistance with developing a good practice or quick reference guide for students and staff
- providing a small amount of funding to enable an institutional activity to be extended for the benefit of additional institutions.

Again, please note that this is not an exhaustive list - other proposed outputs will be considered.

Selection criteria

Each expression of interest will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- the number of institutions (and/or student associations) actively engaged in the project (this must be at least two)
- the potential for the wider QAA Membership to benefit from the work once completed
- impact on/benefit to the participating institutions and their students
- the extent of student engagement in the activity
- the plans for disseminating outcomes across the wider membership
- value for money.

We are keen to receive expressions of interest from all or any of our members and we will aim to support projects from a spread of our member types.

How to get involved

Please complete the [Expression of Interest Application Form](#) and email this to membership@qaa.ac.uk by 12.00pm on Friday 29 January.

We are particularly interested in:

- the specific area of work in which you are interested
- your project partners and how you will work together
- what you and your project partners hope to gain from participation in the partnership
- your proposals for the sector-wide added value outputs that the partnership could develop
- an outline delivery plan (timescales) and levels of funding required.

Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to have a chat about your project with a member of the team at QAA, please email us at membership@qaa.ac.uk

You may also be interested to learn more about the Scottish collaborative clusters - how the institutions approached these and their outcomes and outputs. Details of past and the most recent clusters are available on the [Enhancement Themes website](#).