



QAA's Mission: To safeguard standards and improve the quality of UK higher education wherever it is delivered around the world.

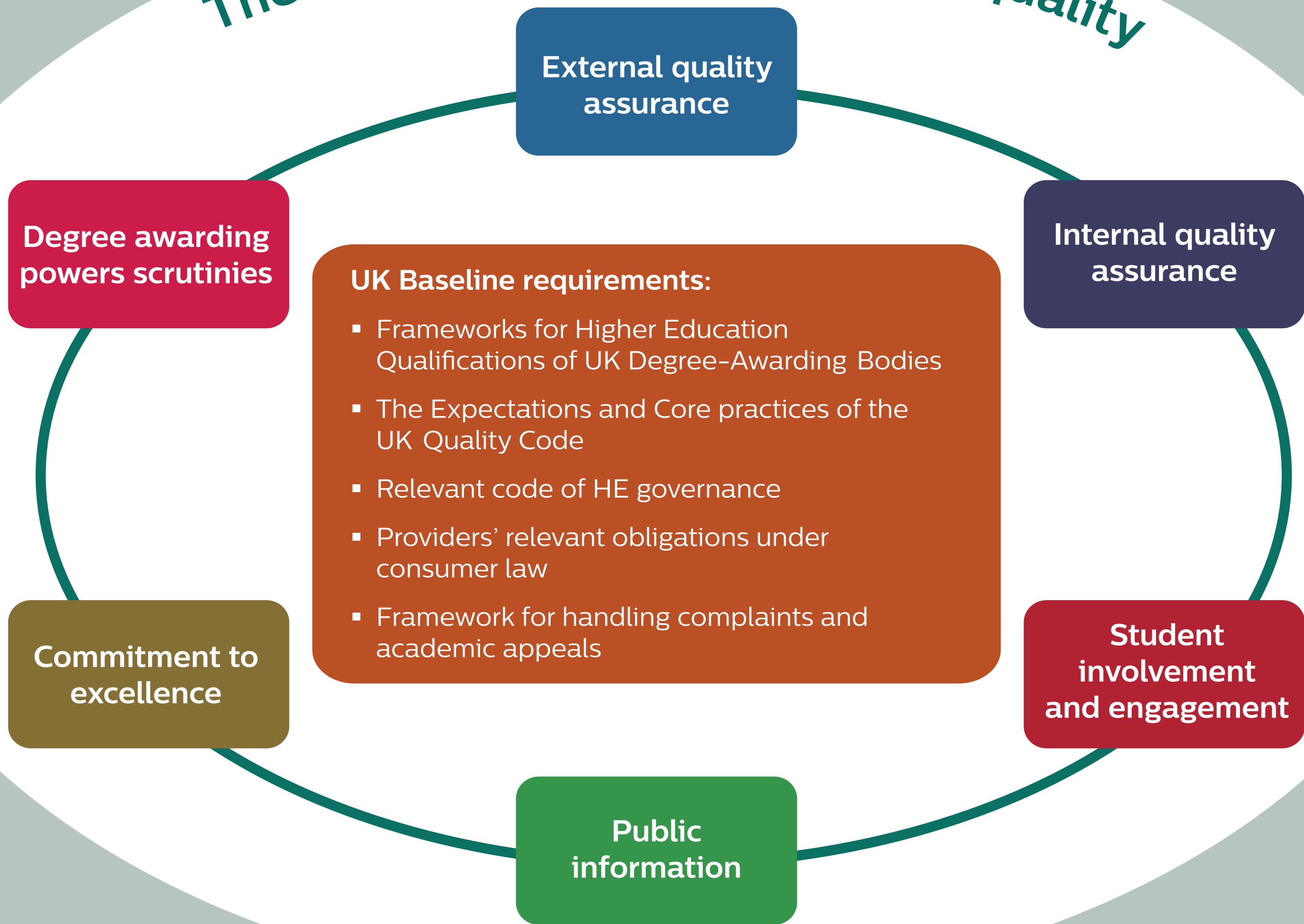
England

- Political oversight by UK Government and Parliament
- Office for Students (OfS) established in 2018 as the Regulator of HE in England. Primary focus is the student interest in its duty as a market regulator responsible for risk-based monitoring of indicators relating to the baseline quality and standards of provision, with powers of intervention and sanction. Maintains the Register of Providers in England.
- Policy summary: Market-based system. New market entry encouraged with faster access to degree awarding powers. Home student fees in 2018-19 of £9,250.
- Quality assurance: Risk-based and outcomes-focused quality assurance by OfS designed to minimise regulatory burden. Quality and Standards Review is managed by QAA for new providers that wish to join the OfS Register. QAA is the Designated Quality Body appointed by the Secretary of State for Education. QAA supports the Teaching Excellence Framework, scrutiny of applications for degree awarding powers and university title, alongside other thematic work.

Scotland

- Higher education a devolved matter. Political oversight by Scottish Government and Parliament.
- Policy summary: Tuition for home students funded by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland.
- Scottish Funding Council is a non-departmental public body and the strategic body responsible for funding teaching and learning provision and research.
- Quality assurance: The Scottish Quality Enhancement Framework (QEF) is built on partnership and collective engagement. QAA's roles include: cyclical Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR); national Enhancement Themes; Focus On projects learning from ELIR outcomes; and sector-wide and thematic reporting. The 5 points of the QEF are Enhancement Themes, ELIR, Institution-led reviews, student engagement, public information.

The inter-connected system of quality



Northern Ireland

- Higher education a devolved matter. Political oversight by the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly.
- Funds for higher education are directly provided by the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.
- Policy summary: Operating under 2016 quality arrangements with the expectation of a move to a more enhancement-led model. Fees of up to £4,160 in 2018/19 for home students.
- Quality assurance: continuing with a system involving annual provider reviews.

Wales

- Higher education a devolved matter. Political oversight by Welsh Government and Assembly.
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales is the Welsh Government Sponsored Body responsible for regulating the higher education sector.
- Policy summary: Focus on outcomes for learners, £9,000 fees for home students with a tuition fee loan provided, together with a combination of maintenance grants and loans. Reforms involving a more unified post-compulsory education and training system with a new Commission for tertiary education, innovation and research.
- Quality assurance: Overall Quality Assessment Framework for Wales with QAA undertaking Quality Enhancement Reviews of regulated HE providers every six years while Gateway Quality Reviews of HE providers test new entrants against the baseline quality regulatory requirements.