



QAA at 25 - What is Quality?

Programme

#QAA25

To mark QAA's 25th anniversary in 2022, QAA invites you to join us in a conversation about what is quality. Throughout the year there will be a series of thought-provoking articles, conversations, speeches and debates in which we will explore the many aspects of quality.

| Programme | |
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| Monday 14 March | <p>Defining Quality</p> <p>Our conversation began with an analysis of what defines quality across the UK's diverse higher education landscape by QAA's CEO Vicki Stott, which was published by on the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) website.</p> |
| Thursday 21 April | <p>Academic credit: The ticket to a high-quality, flexible learning journey</p> <p>In this podcast, an expert panel explores the role that academic credit can play in facilitating high-quality, flexible learning journeys.</p> <p>It is hosted by Professor Sue Rigby, Vice-Chancellor of Bath Spa University and QAA Board Member, who previously chaired the review of the Credit Framework for England. Sue is joined by Professor Ruth Whittaker, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students) at the University of Brighton, who is currently leading the review of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, and Professor Clare Milsom, Interim Academic Registrar and Chief Operating Officer at Liverpool John Moores University, who was a member of the Credit Framework for England Advisory Group. Also on the panel is Dr Ailsa Crum, QAA's Director of Membership, Quality Enhancement and Standards.</p> <p>You can listen to the podcast on our website.</p> |

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| <p>Tuesday 3 May</p> | <p>Reassessing assessment: Getting our approach to assessment right</p> <p>In an era of change, we recognise the urgency for higher education providers to review their assessment strategy to ensure it is supporting student success, sustainable and securing the academic standards of awards.</p> <p>In the first live debate of QAA at 25, we brought together a panel of experts to consider how the design and delivery of assessment enhances students' experience of the quality of their higher education.</p> <p>Our panel was chaired by Nic Beech, Vice-Chancellor, Middlesex University and comprised Professor Mariann Rand-Weaver, Vice-Provost for Education, Brunel University; Professor Sally Brown, Professor Emerita of HE Diversity in Teaching & Learning, Leeds Beckett University; Professor Clare Peddie, Vice-Principal Education (Proctor), University of St Andrews; and Jonny Barnes, Quality Officer, Solent University and QAA Student Strategic Advisory Committee (SSAC) Member.</p> <p>The event recording is available on our YouTube channel.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May</p> | <p>QAA Annual Conference: The Quality Continuum</p> <p>Our annual conference facilitated conversations across the quality continuum, reflecting the many different perspectives of quality and standards in higher education.</p> <p>Professor Graham Virgo, Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education at Cambridge University delivered a keynote on 'Defending Quality', which responded to some of the points made by Vicki in her original article.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 24 May</p> | <p>Students at the heart of quality</p> <p>Sean Holm, Emma Murphy and Ondrej Kucerak from QAA's Student Advisory Committee wrote a blog reflecting the role that students can play in quality.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 15 June</p> | <p>Quality is in the eye of the beholder</p> <p>In this live debate and reception at the Senate House, University of London, which was also streamed online, a panel of experts considered different perspectives of quality and the concepts that best serve students and the sector.</p> <p>The panel was chaired by Professor Simon Gaskell, QAA Board Chair and former Principal of Queen Mary, University of London. Simon was joined by Maureen McLaughlin, Registrar and Director of Student, Library and Academic Services at Northumbria University; Professor John Sawkins, Deputy</p> |

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| | <p>Principal, Pro Vice-Chancellor at Heriot Watt University; Hillary Gyebi-Ababio, NUS Vice President Higher Education; and Professor Chris Millward, Professor of Higher Education Practice at the University of Birmingham.</p> <p>The debate is available to view on our YouTube channel.</p> |
| July | <p>Embedding Education for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Rehema White, Senior Lecturer, School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews wrote a blog discussing ways to assess and strengthen Education for Sustainable Development in the UK and beyond.</p> |
| August | <p>Does size really matter for a high-quality higher education experience?</p> <p>As the summer progresses, we will explore, through a series of blogs, what's special about the quality in specialist providers in higher education and whether it is difficult for them to meet mainstream expectations.</p> |
| Wednesday 17 August | <p>Levelling up through access - how do we close the participation gap?</p> <p>This year also marks 25 years of QAA's role as regulator of the Access to HE Diploma. The Diploma transforms lives, each year giving over 24,000 students a second chance and the opportunity to enter higher education.</p> <p>In this month, which sees Access to HE students celebrate their success and progress into higher education, we brought together an expert panel to explore current perspectives on access and participation, including the future role the Access to HE Diploma will play in widening participation in higher education and the positive impact of closing the participation gap.</p> <p>The panel recording is available on our YouTube channel.</p> |
| Tuesday 27 September | <p>What is quality - perspectives from around the world</p> <p>Higher education is a global concept with international partnership and collaboration proving central to the success of UK and international higher education institutions.</p> <p>In this live online debate, we will unpack what quality means from the perspective of global higher education communities with an expert panel of speakers representing networks of quality agencies based around the world.</p> <p>Our first live conversation of the autumn term will be a roundtable discussion with speakers from around the world.</p> |

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| | <p>The discussion will be chaired by QAA's Chief Executive, Vicki Stott who will be joined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Nadia Badrawi, President, Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) • Professor Dr Jianxin Zhang, President, Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) • Cynthia Jackson-Hammond, President, Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) • Douglas Blackstock, President, European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) • Anna Prades, Treasurer and Executive Committee Member, International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) <p>Registration is now open.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 19 October</p> | <p>At the frontline of protecting academic integrity, what can be done at an institutional level?</p> <p>The recent criminalisation of essay mills in England was an important step towards protecting academic integrity in higher education. However, it is only one part of a multi-faceted solution.</p> <p>In this live debate/conversation on the International Day of Action against Contract Cheating, our panel will consider what can be done at institutional level to promote academic integrity and combat academic misconduct. Speakers will include Helen Gniel, Director, Higher Education Integrity Unit, TEQSA and Professor Michael Draper, Professor of Law, Swansea University (institutional perspective), as well as student representatives from the UK and Ireland.</p> <p>This event is jointly hosted by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and QAA reflecting our respective 10th and 25th anniversaries this year.</p> |
| <p>Thursday 17 November</p> | <p>Regulators and regulation</p> <p>Speaker: Professor Julia Black, Strategic Director of Innovation and Professor of Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science.</p> |
| <p>End November</p> | <p>Can students' grades improve too much? Is it time to reconsider reporting on student degree outcomes?</p> <p>In our final live conversation of the year, a panel will consider how we report on degree outcomes and whether it is time for a change in our approach.</p> |

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| <p>Thursday 1 December</p> | <p>Defining quality</p> <p>To mark this year of debate and conversations about quality and its many aspects, we will publish a compendium of the papers, articles, blogs and summaries of the events that have taken place throughout QAA's 25th anniversary year.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 6 December</p> | <p>International Partner Forum</p> <p>Details to be confirmed.</p> |
| <p>Thursday 8 December</p> <p>Closing article</p> | <p>Review of the year: Defining quality</p> <p>To complete the year, we will draw together some of the highlights and learning from the programme and look forward to how these conversations might shape the sector's future approaches to quality.</p> |

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