



This review method
is ESG-compliant

International Quality Review

Mid-Cycle Review

Macao Polytechnic University

Review Report

July 2025

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About this mid-cycle review

This is a report of a mid-cycle review conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) at Macao Polytechnic University. The mid-cycle review consists of a desk-based analysis of documentation and a review visit to the institution conducted by a team of two reviewers, as follows:

- Dr Dave Dowland
- Mr Alan Weale.

The full International Quality Review (IQR) in May 2022, resulted in a [published report](#). The QAA review team concluded that Macao Polytechnic University met all 10 standards set out in Part 1 of the [Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area \(ESG\)](#). The team identified two features of good practice and made seven recommendations.

This mid-cycle review evaluates progress against the key actions since the IQR and considers any significant changes that may impact on the ability of Macao Polytechnic University to continue to meet the ESG standards.

Outcome of the mid-cycle review

From the evidence provided, the review team concludes that Macao Polytechnic University is making **satisfactory progress** since the May 2022 International Quality Review and that the period of validity of the IQR be extended to May 2027.

Summary of IQR outcomes

Overview of the institution

1 The vision of Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) is “...to become a multidisciplinary university excelling in both teaching and research, contributing to Macao, the country and the world. We position ourselves as a university with a focus on selected applied subject areas, aiming to excel in teaching across all these subject areas and research in major research areas on a par with international standards”. To support this vision and positioning, MPU’s missions are to:

- provide quality higher education, striving to increase its academic influence locally and internationally; and
- cultivate high-quality graduates, making contributions to the development of Macao and the neighbouring regions in the socio-economic domain, in science and technology, in cultural and other spheres.

2 Guided by its vision and missions, MPU is devoted to providing quality-driven, student-centred education, nurturing well-equipped graduates who are able to:

- demonstrate strong academic competence in relevant disciplines
- think critically and contribute constructively in teamwork and leadership
- communicate effectively both verbally and in writing
- possess a global vision which enables them to understand issues and problems from different perspectives
- articulate effectively in a variety of contexts using knowledge, skills and expertise acquired to serve both the local and international community
- have a positive attitude towards society and environment in the development of a fair and caring society

- demonstrate a keen interest in and strong capacity for lifelong learning
- practise high standards of ethical behaviour.

3 MPU's development plan for 2021-2025 lays down three major strategic aims: (1) to join the league of leading higher education institutions in Asia-Pacific; (2) to promote market-oriented education provision; and (3) to gain more international recognition via enhanced teaching and research quality.

4 In the past two years, the higher education landscape has been changing rapidly in the region, giving rise to several major challenges that MPU is addressing. These include, regional competition, the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and evolving student needs. Taking each in turn, Macao is adjacent to Hong Kong and the Guangdong Province of the Chinese mainland. Hong Kong has a high density of globally top-tier universities. The development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has attracted an increasing number of top-tier universities to establish collaborative satellite campuses in the Guangdong province. The competition for students and faculty is intense, especially in view of the dropping birth rates in the region. MPU sees enhancing quality and reputation as crucial to sustaining attractiveness as a destination for higher education and career development.

5 The use of generative AI (GenAI) has become increasingly prevalent in different walks of life. AI literacy is growingly regarded as one of the fundamental competencies that students are to acquire. MPU sees it as essential to ensure the capacity of its graduate attributes in addressing these latest developments and is developing policies and guidance for the use of GenAI in teaching, learning and assessment.

6 Regarding evolving student needs the external environment is driving a changing portfolio of student needs. In the social and emotional domain, students face increasing challenges is an area of shared concern amongst higher education institutions in the region. MPU identifies students' social emotional wellbeing as requiring institutional attention. In the cognitive domain, students are growingly inclined to develop interdisciplinary and cross-cultural competencies for sustained post-graduation competitiveness in the rapidly evolving professional landscape. With this in mind, MPU sees a need to revisit its curricular structures as being helpful in ensuring these stated needs are sufficiently addressed.

7 Since the 2022 IQR visit, several developments have been made at MPU and include the Academic Building, which was being constructed but at the time of the IQR visit, is now in use. The campus capacity has been increased by about 30% in terms of space, enabling the enhancement of laboratories and other facilities to better support academic and student development.

8 Nine new programmes of study (seven postgraduate and two undergraduate) were launched within existing academic areas to diversify the education provision, particularly at the postgraduate level.

9 The senior management team remained the same, except the role of Secretary-General, a role similar to Vice Rector (Administration) in other universities.

Good practice identified by the 2022 International Quality Review

- The significant engagement of students in the University's research activity and dissemination (ESG Standard 1.5)
- The comprehensive package of services and facilities to support student learning, wellbeing and development (ESG Standard 1.6).

Recommendations of the 2022 International Quality Review

- Ensure a more consistent and robust approach to defining learning outcomes at programme and course level (ESG Standard 1.2)

- Develop a robust and systematic approach to assessing the achievement of learning outcomes (ESG Standard 1.3)
- Ensure a consistent implementation of the University's policy on academic integrity (ESG Standard 1.3)
- Develop appropriate mechanisms to enable the systematic monitoring and evaluation of appeals and their outcomes across the University (ESG Standard 1.3)
- Develop and implement a scheme that facilitates the development of new faculty members in learning, teaching and assessing in higher education (ESG Standard 1.5)
- Make publicly available the minutes of future Council and Council standing committees redacting, as may be appropriate, commercially sensitive and confidential business (ESG Standard 1.8)
- Revise its annual monitoring process and subsequent University oversight arrangements to ensure that student data is consistently presented and used to inform the development of the programme and that all Annual Programme Review Reports include an action plan (ESG Standard 1.9).

Changes since the last IQR review visit

10 MPU is coming to the conclusion of the current strategic cycle, with the current strategy running from 2021/25 The main aims of the strategy are to:

- (1) join the league of leading higher education institutions in Asia-Pacific;
- (2) promote market-oriented education provision; and
- (3) gain more international recognition via enhanced teaching and research quality.

11 MPU uses international university rankings as an index of development. It has received a second National Teaching Excellence Award (from the Ministry of Education) and a fourth APQN Quality Award.

12 Growth targets set by the Government, including increased student population, an increase in the number of programmes and a reduction in the proportion of government funding to the institution have been met. The review team noted the thoughtful reflections of the senior management team on how they were managing the growth targets and the implications. There had been investment in management capacity, the acquisition of new space, including a new academic building and other facilities and a coordinated approach to learning and teaching development, student support and the establishment of a quality assurance unit. Students told the review panel of their satisfaction at the quality of the learning resources available throughout the university.

13 The process of developing a new Strategy has started. This includes guidance from the Government of Macau, consultation with industrial, business, and professional partners, staff, external examiners, alumni and students and benchmarking with another institution.

Findings from the mid-cycle review analysis

Recommendation 1: Ensure a more consistent and robust approach to defining learning outcomes at programme and course level.

Recommendation 2: Develop a robust and systematic approach to assessing the achievement of learning outcomes.

14 Updated guidance and templates were published to enable the systematic formulation and review of learning outcomes at programme and module levels, with mapping of learning outcomes at both levels, and mapping between assessment activities and modular learning outcomes. There is also provision to identify learning outcomes required by Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs). Following publication of the guidance in 2022, the module outlines were updated using the new templates in 2023/24. MPU arranged mandatory workshops in November 2022 for programme coordinators. Learning outcomes are introduced to students at the beginning of each semester and made available through the Learning Management System. Students who met the review team confirmed that they had received clear and thorough information about learning and teaching arrangements, learning outcomes and assessment methods. The review team concluded that the recommendation has been addressed thoroughly.

Recommendation 3: Ensure consistent implementation of the university's policy on academic integrity.

15 MPU introduced updated guidance, in 2022, to reinforce shared understanding and practice on the identification and treatment of cases of plagiarism, recognizing differences of treatment for varying subject areas and undergraduate/ postgraduate levels regarding thresholds applied through plagiarism software. The review team conducting the previous IQR review was satisfied by the rationale for varying the treatment of cases between subject areas.

16 The guidelines were published on the MPU website and disseminated to students through the standard Student Handbook, and to staff through induction and ongoing training. The guidance is clear and accessible. Students demonstrated to the review team full understanding of the arrangements and said that they had received helpful guidance from teaching staff about academic integrity and good practice and how to avoid offences. The review team was content that the issues had been addressed soundly.

17 The review team viewed the disciplinary regulations and found no evidence that students were treated unfairly. The review team noted that the disciplinary procedures follow Macao's *Administrative Procedure Code* which mandates the necessity of impartiality, recusal in cases of potential conflicts of interest and the right of interested parties during the proceedings before a final decision is made.

Recommendation 4: Develop appropriate mechanisms to enable the systematic monitoring and evaluation of appeals and their outcomes across the University.

18 MPU introduced modified procedures in 2021/22, with the Registry providing appeal data to academic units for inclusion in academic end of year reviews and consolidated findings annually presented to the University Senate. The evidence indicates limited analysis of the findings at Senate level although would appear appropriate considering the small number of cases in question. MPU reviewed the proforma and introduced further revisions to enable yearly statistical comparison and scrutiny of any actions from the previous review cycle and the revised form was implemented in 2024/5.

Recommendation 6; make publicly available the minutes of future council and council committees, redacting, as may be appropriate, commercially sensitive and confidential business.

19 MPU responded that that the sharing of minutes is uncommon practice in Macao, but redacted council minutes are published on the MPU web site through in the form of news articles starting from December 2022. The review team concluded that MPU had responded appropriately to the recommendation.

Recommendation 7: Revise the annual monitoring process and subsequent university oversight arrangements to ensure that student data is consistently presented and used to inform the development of the programmes and that all Annual Programme Review Reports

20 Pro-forma, with enhanced guidance, was introduced in 2021/2 and the revised arrangements were introduced through workshops to support implementation. There is electronically supported institutional data analysis. Senate considers an annual, integrated analytical report from the Academic Affairs and the University Affairs Department, which has been in place since 2022/23. The support services are involved in the monitoring processes with input on resource implications for the effective operation of programmes.

21 MPU has enhanced two areas of good practice which were commended in the IQR review.

The significant engagement of students in the University's research activity and dissemination

22 Undergraduate students have opportunities to participate in academic research programmes through capstone projects to support the development of practical research skills, with outstanding students selected to co-author research papers. Postgraduate students also apply for funding to support publication through open sources. There is also a dedicated system to enhance students' research capability, now including support for those wishing to develop skills for potential academic careers. The review team viewed examples of an expansion of opportunities for students to engage in research activities and high-quality research publications, including international exchange opportunities, including the Engineering Research Centre of Applied Technology on Machine Translation and Artificial Intelligence, the Joint Centre for Ubiquitous Computing, the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sports and other university resources. The team heard from students of multiple examples of the positive effect of such activities and senior staff confirmed the high priority given to development in this area. The review team concluded that the MPU has enhanced its good practice in this area.

The comprehensive package of services and facilities to support student learning, well-being and development.

23 MPU has introduced the SHINE Whole Person Development Scheme as a means of mapping and signposting students through their personal development. There is emphasis on themes of social engagement, health and well-being, inspiration and innovation, networking and civil responsibility and empowerment, addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. The scheme won the APQN Quality Award 2024 and has been shortlisted for the QS Reimagine Education Award 2024. Students told the review team that they had appreciated SHINE as a focus for their development. MPU has introduced tailored support for students with specific needs, including international students, with, amongst other facilities, access to hostel accommodation for the duration of a programme of study. There is also special support for students with disabilities to enable their participation in the university. Students told the review team of their satisfaction at the coordinated work of the support services in partnership with the faculties, which sensitively addresses student needs.

The review team noted that MPU has added further to its good practice in this area, including emphasis on the needs of international students in line with the institutional commitment to increase international student recruitment and exchange.

Development of quality assurance and enhancement procedures

24 MPU has introduced refreshed guidance to support the development and ongoing review of learning outcomes at programme and modular levels, with a template for module outlines. The annual programme review (APR) process begins with programme coordinators drafting APR reports based on multiple data sources and in consultation with the programme group. The draft reports are reviewed by the Pedagogic Committee at the Faculty level before being signed by the Faculty Deans (Evidence 30). The Teaching and Learning Centre collects the signed reports and analyses them together with an external reviewer, preparing executive reports (see Evidence 31] for review by the Senate. The APR reports have dedicated sections charting actions arising from the current review cycle and progress of actions arising from previous review cycle, ensuring that all are covered in the review exercise at the faculty level. The executive reports developed by the Teaching and Learning Centre track these two sets of actions, ensuring a complete loop of actions at the institutional level. There is professional development for staff involved in the quality assurance of programmes.

25 The review team heard of multiple instances of MPU taking action to improve or enhance facilities and support in response to student feedback. Students mentioned to the review team that they were fully included in student representation and feedback systems.

There has been expansion of the professional development programme to support good practice in teaching, learning, student support and management. Since 2022, the Teaching and Learning Centre has introduced workshops, seminars, and other professional development opportunities. New teaching staff are briefed as part of standard induction sessions, which they are required to attend before the start of the academic session. New staff are assigned mentors. Students told the review team that they appreciated the mentoring support given to new staff to enable their professional development. There are ongoing workshops during the staff professional development week and on other occasions through the year, published on the learning management system. There are mandatory induction sessions for support staff and both teaching and support staff take advantage of access to management and leadership development sessions offered by the Government of China. Faculty deans and department heads have annual reviews with staff to check that staff development needs are addressed, and the Personnel Office carries out monitoring to ensure that staff participate in mandatory training and development. The review team viewed evidence showing high levels of take up of staff development opportunities. The Teaching and Learning Centre prepares an aggregated analysis of professional development activities for annual review by Senate.

Findings from the observations of facilities and learning resources

26 MPU is based on two campuses in Macao, one, the main campus is in the main city area of Macao and the other in Taipa. A tour of the learning facilities and resources at the main campus confirmed that they are of a high standard and of sufficient capacity for existing class sizes. There are five buildings on the main campus. The Administration Building, as the name suggests, houses the central administrative functions of the university including Personnel, IT, Finance, Campus Management and Development. The remaining four buildings consist of classroom, laboratory and research facilities as well as office accommodation for academic staff and student welfare facilities such as canteens and

recreation spaces. One of the buildings, the Multi-Sport Pavilion is a modern purpose-built building housing sport facilities as well as being the location of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sports, including laboratories for Exercise Physiology, Sports Medicine and Sports Biochemistry.

27 The classroom facilities are all equipped to a high standard providing academic staff with a facility that provides for a wider range of learning and teaching approaches. All laboratories included posters displaying health and safety information, first aid kits and fire extinguishers.

28 The Taipa campus has a Research and Development Building and the Pearl Jubilee Building both containing a range of teaching, research and laboratory facilities pertinent to the work of the Faculty of Arts and Design.

29 Overall, MPU has put in place a high-quality infrastructure that is well designed and maintained and which is fit for the purpose intended and wholly appropriate to the university's intended mission and strategic plan.

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