

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Number | CL 09/15 |
| Subject | Consultation on three revised Subject Benchmark Statements |
| Publication date | 25 June 2015 |
| Respond by | 21 August 2015 |
| Recipients | UK higher education providers; professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; academic subject associations; employer representative organisations; the Higher Education Academy; organisations representing higher education's interests and providing academic support; higher education funding councils; Sector Skills Councils; awarding organisations; the National Union of Students |
| Of interest to | Staff involved in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes; academic support staff; staff involved in education and accreditation activities of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; employer organisations and their members; students and their representatives |
| Further information | Dr Tim Burton (Head of Standards, Quality and Enhancement), QAA: t.burton@qaa.ac.uk |
| Related documents | Subject Benchmark Statements: Biomedical Sciences: Draft for consultation Biosciences: Draft for consultation Computing: Draft for consultation |

Dear colleague,

I am writing to provide your organisation with an opportunity to comment on the draft revised Subject Benchmark Statements for the following subjects:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Biosciences
- Computing.

Subject Benchmark Statements set out what graduates in particular subjects are expected to know, do and understand at the end of their programme of study. They describe the nature of study and the academic standards expected of graduates in specific subject areas and in respect of particular qualifications.

Subject Benchmark Statements sit within Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. They are used as reference points in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes. They do not represent a national curriculum in a subject or prescribe set approaches to teaching, learning or

assessment. Instead, they allow for flexibility and innovation in programme design within a framework agreed by the subject community.

In order to ensure the continuing currency of Subject Benchmark Statements, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) initiates regular reviews of their content. This consultation is taking place as part of a review of all Subject Benchmark Statements which is currently underway. Further details about the review can be found at www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements.

Each Statement is reviewed by a group drawn from and acting on behalf of the subject community, in a process facilitated by QAA. Membership of the group includes higher education providers; professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; and employers, as appropriate to the subject area. Feedback is also collected from students. Where the group decides that revisions to the statement are required, the draft revised statement is subject to consultation, so that the views of the wider subject community and others with an interest in higher education may be sought. All feedback received will be considered before the final version is published on QAA's website.

We welcome contributions to this consultation from anyone with an interest in higher education in the UK, including representatives from all four countries; prospective, current and past students; staff from the full range of higher education providers, including academic staff and staff with responsibilities for quality assurance; and from employers, who depend upon the abilities, skills and knowledge of graduates. We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to your colleagues as appropriate, including heads of relevant academic schools/departments at higher education providers and those responsible for the recruitment of graduates.

Please submit feedback via our consultation survey **by 21 August 2015**:

- [Computing; Biomedical Sciences, and Biosciences](#)

If you would like further information relating to the Subject Benchmark Statements or the review process, please contact Dr Tim Burton (Head of Standards, Quality and Enhancement) on t.burton@qaa.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely



Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive



The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 3344784.
Registered office Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB. Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786