

Number	<b>CL 11/12</b>
Subject	<b>Consultation on two new subject benchmark statements: counselling and psychotherapy, and forensic science</b>
Publication date	Monday 9 July 2012
Respond by	<b>Friday 28 September 2012</b>
Recipients	United Kingdom higher education providers; professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; academic subject associations; the Higher Education Academy; organisations representing higher education's interests and providing academic support; higher education funding councils; Sector Skills Councils; 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; students and their representatives
Further information	Dr Laura Bellingham (01452 557015)
Respond to	<a href="mailto:benchmarking@qaa.ac.uk">benchmarking@qaa.ac.uk</a>
Related documents	New subject benchmark statements for counselling and psychotherapy, and forensic Science  Available at: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-counselling-and-psychotherapy.aspx">www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-counselling-and-psychotherapy.aspx</a>  <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-forensic-science.aspx">www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-forensic-science.aspx</a>

Dear colleague,

I am writing to provide your institution/organisation **with an opportunity to comment on draft new subject benchmark statements for:**

- bachelor's degrees with honours and master's degrees in counselling and psychotherapy
- bachelor's degrees with honours and master's degrees in forensic science.

Each of the new subject benchmark statements has been prepared by a benchmarking group drawn from and acting on behalf of the subject community, in a process facilitated by QAA.

Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the UK's academic community to describe the nature of study and the academic standards expected of graduates, in specific

subject areas and in respect of particular qualifications. They provide a picture of what a graduate in a particular discipline might reasonably be expected to know, do and understand at the end of their programme of study.

Subject benchmark statements are intended to act as reference points for those involved in the design, delivery and review of academic programmes. They are not intended to represent a national curriculum in a subject or to prescribe set approaches to teaching, learning or assessment. Instead, they allow for both flexibility and innovation in programme design within a conceptual framework agreed by the subject community. For some disciplines, there may be additional reference points that institutions need to consider, such as the requirements set out by professional, statutory or regulatory bodies, while for others these requirements are reflected in the benchmark statement itself.

We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to heads of relevant academic schools/departments and those responsible for academic standards in your institution or organisation. The documents are available on QAA's website at [www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-counselling-and-psychotherapy.aspx](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-counselling-and-psychotherapy.aspx) and [www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-forensic-science.aspx](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/informationandguidance/pages/SBS-forensic-science.aspx).

If you would like further information relating to the subject benchmark statements or the process followed in their development, please contact Dr Laura Bellingham on 01452 557015.

All subject benchmark statements form part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education published by QAA.

Yours sincerely



Anthony McClaran  
**Chief Executive**



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