

Number	CL 21/13
Subject	<b>Publication of <i>Strengthening the quality assurance of UK transnational education: Consultation</i></b>
Publication date	16 December 2013
Recipients	UK higher education providers: heads of institution, heads of quality and heads of international; international partners; NUS; PSRBs; UK funding councils or government departments.
Of interest to	UK higher education sector: institutions, students and individuals; also other organisations or individuals with an interest in transnational education, including government departments or quality assurance agencies outside the UK.
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Related documents	<a href="#"><u><i>Strengthening the quality assurance of UK transnational education: Consultation</i></u></a>

Dear colleague,

Following consideration by the higher education sector representative bodies on what is needed to strengthen the quality assurance of UK transnational education (TNE), the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the UK Higher Education International Unit (the IU) are issuing a consultation on the subject.

The Government strategy, *International Education: Global Growth and Prosperity* (July 2013) identified three key drivers for reviewing TNE quality assurance:

'The growth in demand for TNE has made it even more important that the UK is able to maintain and demonstrate the quality of its education exports.'

'The global growth in UK TNE provision, particularly different models of in-country delivery and the need to comply with local regulatory frameworks, presents increasing assurance complexity and risk.'

'Whilst [assurance of the quality of TNE] is the responsibility of each individual institution, failure to do so has the potential to impact negatively on every institution.'

Although this is a strategy for England, the economic opportunities it identifies for TNE and the drivers for strengthening quality assurance apply equally to all nations of the UK. Students engaged in TNE attach value to the UK educational brand and a British educational experience.

Preparation of the consultation document was undertaken by a working group and overseen by a steering group. Each group comprised representatives from QAA, the IU, GuildHE, the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (in the capacity of observer). Ahead of publication, the document was circulated in draft to the relevant government department or higher education funding body for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and to the National Union of Students.

The consultation document is designed to provoke discussion and generate a wide response from the UK higher education sector: from institutions, students, and individuals. Responses are also welcome from other organisations or individuals with an interest in the quality assurance of UK TNE, including government departments or quality assurance agencies outside the UK.

QAA is using an online survey to gather responses, which can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/tne\\_consultation](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tne_consultation). The consultation opens on 16 December 2013 and will remain open for 12 weeks, closing on 10 March 2014. Briefing events about the consultation are arranged in London (4 February 2014), Cardiff (17 February 2014) and Glasgow (21 February 2014).

Following analysis of the consultation responses, QAA will publish an overview of the planned process for the quality assurance of UK TNE by 31 May 2014. This will be followed by a prospective review programme, commencing from 2014-15.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the process, please contact Jane Holt (at QAA) [j.holt@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:j.holt@qaa.ac.uk) or Raegan Hiles (at the IU) [raegan.hiles@international.ac.uk](mailto:raegan.hiles@international.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely



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