

Number	CL 09/14
Subject	<b>Consultation on draft new subject benchmark statement for veterinary nursing</b>
Publication date	9 June 2014
Respond by	1 August 2014
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	<a href="mailto:benchmarking@qaa.ac.uk">benchmarking@qaa.ac.uk</a>
Related documents	<i>Subject benchmark statement: Veterinary nursing - draft for consultation</i> , available at: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/SBS-Veterinary-nursing.aspx">www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/SBS-Veterinary-nursing.aspx</a>

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Dear colleague,

I am writing to provide your organisation with an opportunity to comment on the draft new subject benchmark statement for Veterinary Nursing.

Subject benchmark statements set out what a graduate in a particular subject is 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 are an integral element of *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.

This subject benchmark statement has been developed under the terms of the *Recognition Scheme for subject benchmark statements*, available from [www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Recognition-scheme-for-subject-benchmark-statements.aspx](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Recognition-scheme-for-subject-benchmark-statements.aspx). The Scheme sets out how QAA evaluates the case for new statements and the process followed to develop them.

Each statement is developed 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. A draft statement is subject to a period of 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 of statement 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 through the online survey, available at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/NewSubjectBenchmarkStatementVeterinaryNursingJune2014](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NewSubjectBenchmarkStatementVeterinaryNursingJune2014). The consultation will be open until 1 August 2014.

If you would like further information relating to the subject benchmark statement or the process followed in its development, please contact [benchmarking@qaa.ac.uk](mailto:benchmarking@qaa.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely



Anthony McClaran  
**Chief Executive**



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